



# ADDINGTON NEWSLETTER



December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we have made it to the end of an extremely busy term. The opening of our new Early Years Centre at Farley Hill on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and the early break up for Christmas holidays has made it all a bit of a whirlwind! It has been fantastic to see our 16 newest and youngest pupils settle in over the last 6 weeks at the new centre, with their new staff team. Our newsletter is jam packed full of fantastic photos and will give you a flavour of what has been going on here recently.

The visit by the reindeers was an absolute joy for many of our children and young people. The pupils from our new Early Years Centre had their first trip to the main site to visit them. Many thanks to the Addington Association for supporting us by jointly funding this extra special sensory experience. It really does seem to be the start of Christmas when they arrive.

Classes have put on their own Christmas events and Christmas celebration trips depending on the needs of individuals. School funds have supported this, at this special time of year, to make everything memorable and fun. At the same time, we are mindful that the excitement of Christmas can be a little too much for some and we make sure we do not take away all the normal routines that are relied on. For those who enjoy it, end of term assemblies and the rock concert were very lively. Some of our young people also went offsite, carol singing to a variety of locations including the Birches (sheltered housing), Woodley centre and Shute End (Wokingham council offices).

It was great to see many familiar faces at the annual carol concert on Monday. We are eternally grateful to Woodley Concert Band for allowing us to be a repeat booking. They tell us that we are one of their favourite venues which is no surprise with our enthusiastic carol singers.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**.

Yours faithfully

**Sara Attra**  
Executive Headteacher

**Lynda Wood and David Maycock**  
Acting Co-Headteachers



## **Season's Greetings from the Family Support team here at Addington**

It's been another busy half term for the team. We have been supporting families with completing complicated forms, applying for benefits and signposting to other organisations as well as being a listening ear.

We have been supporting Joey and the team at the Addington Early Years Centre while they get familiar with the setting and what we have to offer. Joey has started supporting families at the Early Years Centre who are coming to the end of their first half term. Parents have been in to "stay and play" with their children and tour the new site when we opened, and have since been in to learn all about our curriculum.

Toni and Ellie have attended several appointments this half term with families, from hospital appointments, CAMHS appointments, college tours as well as home visits. Our role at such appointments is for reassurance, translating jargon if needed, to help take notes and to ask questions that you may feel embarrassed about asking.

A few weeks ago, we sent out a form to gather interest on the things that families might feel they need additional advice around - the results of this have helped us to create a schedule of events for the rest of this academic year.

We hope to get some more social events arranged as we understand how isolating it can feel at times trying to manage and juggle everything that comes with being a parent to a child with SEND.

Please have a look at the upcoming events section of our page:

<https://www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk/parents/parent-support-adviser>

We have updated the information on this page so feel free to have a read, there is some useful advice and information about activities.

With the Christmas period fast approaching, please remember to be kind to yourself, take some of the pressure off and have some time for you. We understand that there are demands on your time, demands from friends and family members as well as you having to try to meet the needs of your children with and without SEND. We recommend listening to your body and doing what you know you can manage.

Our working hours will be limited over the holidays, however, you can always email one of us - even if it is just to vent, and we will get back to you on our return.

Happy Holidays!

Ellie, Toni and Joey

[Ellier@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:Ellier@addington.wokingham.sch.uk)

[Tonic@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:Tonic@addington.wokingham.sch.uk)

[Joeyp@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:Joeyp@addington.wokingham.sch.uk)

# Our Senior Leadership Team



Sara Attra  
Executive  
Headteacher



Lynda Wood  
Acting Co-  
Headteacher



© Tempest  
David Maycock  
Acting Co-  
Headteacher



© Tempest  
Emer Moore  
Acting Deputy  
Headteacher



Eirfron  
Watkinson  
Assistant Head  
teacher



Kimberley Legg  
Associate  
Assistant Head



© Tempest  
Rhona Millar  
Associate  
Assistant Head



Lydia Colios  
Associate  
Assistant Head



© Tempest  
Sue Tod  
School  
Business  
Manager

## School Dinners

This is to inform you that all school lunches must now be paid for online. The school will no longer be able to collect cash on a daily basis.

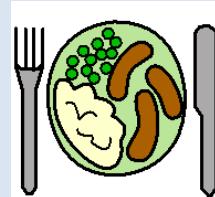
***If your child has school dinners, and there is a balance outstanding on your account, we would be grateful if you would kindly clear this balance as soon as possible.***

***If you have any query or difficulty with payment of this amount, please let us know and we will endeavour to help.***

You will need to register online if you have not done so before. **A letter with your personal log on details has been sent home with your child.** If you have previously logged on to the Tucasi system but have forgotten your password, please follow the instructions on the login screen.

As a reminder:

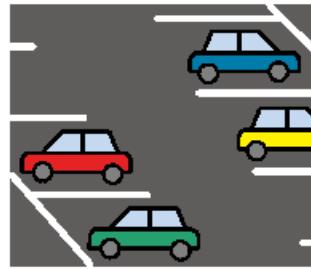
Primary lunch is £2.53  
Secondary lunch is £2.63



Please remember that money for school dinners should be paid **in advance**.  
If you have any problems, please contact Admin on [office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk).

# CAR PARKING REMINDER

Thank you to all parents who drop off and/or pick up their child from school for continuing to work with us to make our car park run as smoothly as possible. I have been actively monitoring the car park regularly over the last month and in general it is running smoothly. Below are reminders of key points to help maintain this.



To ensure the continued smooth and safe operation of the busy Addington car park we need all parents who drive their child to school to park in the Bulmershe Leisure Centre car park and walk across the zebra crossing, during drop off/pick up times. We have an agreement in place with Bulmershe Leisure Centre to allow this our parents to park in their car park for 30 minutes during pick up and drop off times. The car park will be monitored by a leisure centre employed car parking attendant. We will work with the leisure centre to try and foster an empathetic and supportive approach to managing the car park to try and avoid any unnecessary distress for our parents.

We do recognise that for a small minority of pupils crossing the road will not be possible. Therefore, a limited number of parent passes, allowing access to our car park, are distributed based on an individual's agreed needs; physical, emotional or behavioural.

If you feel you need a car park pass please let your class teacher know, including the reason for needing one. A member of SLT will then allocate a pass or contact you for further discussion/information.

We only have a small number of spaces for parents in our car park, so we will not always be able to give out passes to all parents who would like one.

## Parents with Passes using the Addington School Car Park

- Parents with passes must only park in the allocated bays near the main entrance and not in the main body of the car park where staff park, unless specific arrangements have been made with a member of the leadership team. This is especially important in the morning as some staff start at 9 and sometimes cannot find a parking space.
- Car park passes must be displayed clearly in the windscreen. The two disabled bays near the school are for priority wheelchair users and larger vehicles with tail lifts. Permitted drivers must use the one-way system marked out and only park in marked parent or disabled spaces.
- Unfortunately at busy times we do not have enough parking spaces onsite for all parents with passes. **Please work with our staff** as they manage these situations as efficiently as possible, this is likely to involve being asked to complete one or more circuits of the car park to ensure the car park flow is not disrupted.
- Parents can move the cones on the parent parking and disabled bays in the area near the main entrance, however if there is a cone with a sign on it, only move this if it has been allocated to you. Cones with signs on are to reserve spaces for a particular pupil with a specific need.

## General instructions

- All pedestrians must use the zebra crossings and the pavement when walking around the school car park or to and from the site. **DO NOT WALK** on the road as a short cut. This is very dangerous and could result in an accident.
- Parents or carers must not park in the old entrance to Addington (near Bulmershe Leisure Centre) or on the double yellow lines near our old entrance, to drop off or pick up.
- **Please leave parking spaces promptly** - To support the process at the start and end of day to run smoothly, **please can I ask that all parents and carers vacate parking spaces in either of the car parks as soon as possible** to allow other parents access to the space. If you need to have a discussion with the teacher, please arrange a time to meet in person or have a telephone conversation to free up a parking space as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support  
David

## Parent Contact Information

Our communications with parents are mainly via emails, our school mobile app, texts and our school website [www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk).

In order to do this, we need to be kept up to date with your latest email address and mobile numbers. If you have not been receiving emails from us, please let us know.

If you need to update us please email: [office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk)

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### School Mobile App

Our School Mobile App can be downloaded from the links below.

[iTunes](#)

[Play Store](#)

Once you have downloaded the School Jotter app **you will need to select “Addington School” from within the app.**

The school mobile App is **FREE to download** and enables you to receive news updates and alerts on your phone or other mobile device. You can also view our newsletters and see photos of the students.

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## Addington Youth Club

Managed and staffed by  
Wokingham Promise Inclusion

Wednesday evening 7pm to 9pm  
Fun for all youngsters from Year 9 up

Look out for the activities planned for the current term -  
come along and try a session.

Contact Annah on 07551 159073 for more information.

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# Headteacher's Award Winners



*Congratulations to the following students:*

## **Early Years**

Alisa Khan  
Eklavya Singh  
Felix Slone  
Jackson-Rey Parnell  
Louie Cox  
Molly-Mae Cush-Mason

## **Key Stage 2**

Alexia Velo  
Harry Long  
Owen Lewis

## **Key Stage 3**

Eden Chafer  
Gordon Reid  
Riley Farmbrough  
Teigan Ransby-Craigs

## **Key Stage 4**

Ege Cetin  
Jake Hitchman  
Leo Goodwin  
Sophia Gould-Seymour

## **Key Stage 5**

Grace Gessey

## **Complex / Sensory & Access Needs**

Cloey Spenceley  
Grace Casey  
Jay Singh  
Joshi Austin  
Lewie Cheeseman  
Malachi Bilankulu  
Saifan Shohon  
Viraj Sharma



# SPORTS PAGE



## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2023-24



This half term the Bronze DofE students have been learning about cooking outdoors in preparation for the expeditions in June. They have found out how to use portable stoves to make hot drinks and the wonderfully tasty 'one pot pasta'.

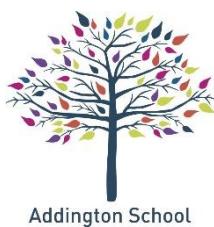
We also went on our first training walk around Highwood and Southlake to practice following directions, working as a team and what to wear on an expedition.



Dates for Bronze expeditions:  
Practice Expedition  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
Qualifying Expedition - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024



## Football Match at Addington 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023



V



On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, Oaktree School in Winnersh came to Addington to play an afternoon of football at Addington. We had a three-way competition with Oaktree and 2 Addington teams on the green MUGA. We had a great afternoon, after an initial shower, the sun shone and fun was had by all.





## Football Match at Addington 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023



V



On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, Oaktree School in Winnersh came to Addington again with some different players to play an afternoon of football. We had a three-way competition as we did the previous week with Oaktree and Addington pupils who didn't play before. Another great afternoon, good competition and fun was had by all.



# FOOTBALL INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, KS4 & 6<sup>th</sup> form students participated in the Football inter-house competition held in the large hall. The students were amazing and demonstrated excellent skill, sportsmanship and enthusiasm.



The final results were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - **Red Eagles (9 points)**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - **Yellow Tigers (6 points)**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Blue Sharks & Green Crocodiles (4 points)**

Thanks to all the staff that made this event such a success. The team managers selected their most improved players (MVP's). Here is the list:

**Blue Sharks - Bradley Johnson** **Red Eagles – Finn Bedford**  
**Yellow Tigers – Rowan Nyamaradzo** **Green Crocodiles – Alyan Kayani**



# VOLLEYBALL INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

On the same day as the inter-house football, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, KS4 & 6<sup>th</sup> form students participated in the Volleyball inter-house competition which was held in the 6<sup>th</sup> form hall. Fun and enthusiasm was shown by all.



The final results were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - **Green Crocodiles (9 points)**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - **Red Eagles (7 points)**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Blue Sharks (5 points)**
- 4<sup>th</sup> - **Yellow Tigers (3 points)**

Thanks to all the staff that made this event such a success. The team managers selected their most improved players (MVP's). Here is the list:

**Blue Sharks – Ethan Roberts & Malik Goodchild**  
**Red Eagles – Grace Gessey & Aaliyah Argrave**  
**Yellow Tigers – Jake Williams & Mitchell Makenzie**  
**Green Crocodiles – Fergus West & Aarib Hussain**



# London Irish Inclusion Festival



On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December Chestnut Class took part in the London Irish Multi-skills Inclusion Festival at Braywick Leisure Centre in Maidenhead. Various SEN schools and groups from the area attended and played 10 different activities around the sports hall. These included passing/kicking the rugby ball at inflatable targets, throwing balls at a sticky target, bean bag throw, skittles, walking rugby, boccia, hoop throwing, kurling and walking football. Each participant received a t-shirt and a medal. The pupils were keen to have their photo taken with 'Digger' the mascot. Well done Chestnut Class.



## Lunchtime dance club

Following the success of the dance festival last June, Danielle is running a lunchtime dance club each Monday. The pupils are practicing their dance skills before starting to learn the dance for the 2024 festival. At the moment they are using the sensory theatre to practice.



## Secondary Panathlon Multi-skills Competition



After school on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Addington sent 2 teams to the Panathlon Multi skills competition at the Holt School in Wokingham. The teams were made up from the students who attend After-School Sports Club. The teams went around to various skills based activity stations, testing their throwing, catching, rolling and teamwork capabilities. Points were awarded at each station and an aggregate score amassed. Addington B team came first and Addington A team third. Both teams were awarded medals and certificates. Well done to all the competitors.



## Panathlon Ten-Pin Bowling

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Owl Class represented Addington School at the Panathlon Ten-Pin Bowling competition At Wokingham Superbowl. They competed against other schools from the area and received medals and certificates for their efforts. It was a great day and the staff and students had fun and represented the school well.



## Early Years

### Update from Addington Early Years Centre at Farley Hill

We were thrilled to open Phase One of our new Early Years Centre to its first cohort of pupils at the start of this term. Following handover of the building on 16<sup>th</sup> October, staff worked extremely hard to ensure that the furniture, equipment and resources were set up, and the spaces ready for pupils. It was lovely to have parents join their child for a stay and play session and tour as part of our welcome event on the first day. Since then it has been wonderful to see the children in Hedgehog and Squirrel classes engaging so positively with staff and their new surroundings. The pupils are very much active participants in exploring their new school and testing out the new spaces and equipment! In the last few weeks, we have welcomed local dignitaries, including the mayor of Wokingham, and local press to the Early Years Centre for an opening event. We are also enjoying shared Christmas celebrations with the wider Addington community by visiting the reindeer at the main school site, and inviting the choir to sing carols for us at Farley Hill. A huge 'well done' to all of our new pupils at the Early Years Centre, who have nearly completed their first half term at school! We very much look forward to sharing your next steps with you.

Ellie Webb (Assistant Head)



## Hedgehog Class

This term Hedgehog class has settled well into their new classroom. We have been busy getting to know our new school and exploring in our classroom and around the school. Everyone has made brilliant progress at transitioning around the school, and enjoy going to the library and pre-sensory circuits. Our topic this half term is brilliant bodies and we have been doing lot of exploring using our bodies. In sensology we have been using all of our senses to explore new smells, sounds, tastes and textures. In music this term we have been moving our bodies to the music and getting to try out some new instruments. The last few weeks we have been getting into the Christmas spirit with gingerbread making, Christmas tree decorating and a visit from Father Christmas.



# Squirrel Class



Squirrel class have settled really quickly into our school setting. They have really enjoyed exploring their new surroundings, outside, sensory room, library and pre-sensory circuits. The spinners and swing have been a big hit with Squirrel class. We have had fun exploring our topic 'Brilliant Bodies' through physical movements like wake up shake up, stepping stones, circuits, Diwali dancing and action songs. We have enjoyed Sensiology, learning about our five senses, using our sense of taste, sight, touch, hearing, exploring objects and tasting new flavours.

All students are doing well transitioning to different areas in the school and starting to use communication systems. They are all developing their confidence and skills communicating their wants and needs.

We have enjoyed the sensory stories 'Happy to be me!' and 'Head to toe!'

The highlight of the term was the start of the Christmas activities with our visit to the reindeer on the main Addington site and our first trip on the school mini bus which we loved!

Squirrel Class Team: Shannon, Yvonne, Freya, Alii, Chelsea, Marie and Tanya



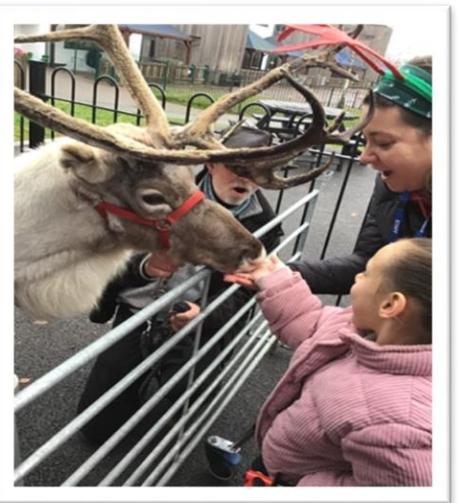
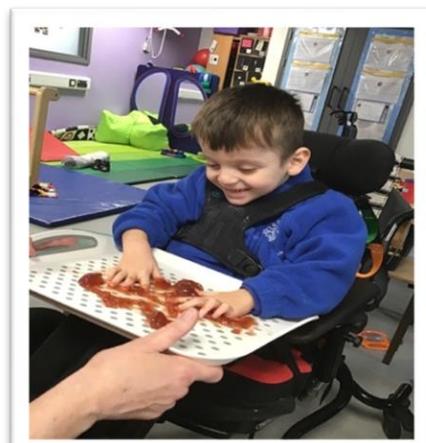
## Bluebell Class

Another term done! We have really enjoyed this term here in Bluebell Class. We have had 7 Birthdays to celebrate along with Eid and Christmas! Our topic this term has been Brilliant Bodies. In Communication, Language and Literacy we have been looking at 'From Head to Toe' by Eric Carle and 'Spot's First Christmas'. The children have really enjoyed joining in with the actions from the story. In cooking, we have been practising decorating biscuits - drawing faces, snowmen and fireworks. We also really enjoyed making and decorating gingerbread men for the Inter-house competition. In Maths we have enjoyed exploring number and shape, space and measure through Bucket - the children are working towards Stage 4!! The children have really enjoyed choosing what Math song to listen to at the end of our Maths lesson, with some of the children being able to verbalise what song they would like. The children have been working really hard on their 'use of tools' skills in Waldon. We have really enjoyed our swimming lessons and are loving that we go every Tuesday, our favourite part of the lesson is 'horsey-horsey' where the children jump around in the pool on pool noodles. The children continue to enjoy Music and Dance here in Bluebell and have been really enjoying Drama with Carla on Monday afternoons! We are all so proud of the children and look forward to welcoming them back in in the New Year.



## Daisy Class

This term has been full of celebrations with lots of lights, colours, smiles, laughter, glitter and Christmas fun! Daisy class have explored Halloween with dressing up, Diwali with making our own divas, Bonfire night with making our own 3D rockets and biscuit making at Christmas time. What a treat it was to visit 'Jet' and 'Tornado' the real reindeers. It has also been really exciting for us to explore the new sensory tunnel in the early years' playground with lots of colours and textures to feel. The outside Connect 4 has been great to help with our colour, numbers and repeating patterns. Fabulous mark marking has been happening too especially in jam and on the iPad! We have loved coming together as a group in our Music with Martin sessions and Soundabout with Camille especially feeling the vibrations on the resonance board. Well done Daisies, it's been a super creative learning journey with you all this term.



## Primrose Class

This term in Primrose class we have continued learning about 'Brilliant Bodies' as well as Christmas! Primrose class have enjoyed exploring and reading a wide variety of books and stories during library time and whilst in the classroom.

We have also been looking at our bodies as babies and how we have changed over the years. In Maths we have continued our number learning and have also been focussing on learning about position, such as 'on' and 'in'.

We have been very excited about Christmas and have enjoyed visiting the reindeer, making gingerbread men, decorating the classroom and Christmas bucket time!



## Daffodil Class

This term Daffodil Class have been learning about different festivals and key events, such as Diwali and Bonfire Night. Daffodil Class have been exploring the use of different colours and textures through their learning of these events, including making Diya lamps for Diwali which they took home to share and enjoy with their families.

This half term, Daffodil enjoyed a trip to TVAP! This was a really enjoyable day where we encouraged pupils to choose their own activities and develop their physical skills through the use of different equipment. We were very lucky with the weather and are looking forward to our next trip next term! With the run up to Christmas, Daffodil Class have been reading 'The Snowman' and have enjoyed 'The Snowman' sensory story to support their understanding of different describing words, which we have been using in our Literacy work through Colourful Semantics. Daffodil Class are now looking forward to upcoming festive activities including the Reindeer visit, Father Christmas and Christmas jumper day!



## Tulip Class

This half term in Tulip class we have continued to learn about our 'Brilliant Bodies' as well as learning about Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas. In our 'Understanding the World' topic, we looked at baby and toddler photos of ourselves which we really enjoyed.

We loved seeing the reindeers earlier in the week.

We had our first trip of the year to Taplow and we had a great time!

It has been a great first term in Tulip class and we hope you all enjoy your Christmas break!





## Sunflower Class

This term we have enjoyed our first offsite trips, going to Sol Joel park and to TVAP. For some of us it was our first time going offsite and on the minibus. Everyone managed it really well and had such a good time, exploring new environments and equipment. We've enjoyed celebrating lots of special events this term including bonfire night, Diwali and Christmas. The children have loved seeing some visiting reindeer, joining in with themed crafts and sensory play activities, and were very excited about a visit from Father Christmas. Everyone has continued to work on their communication, independence and play skills across the term and we're so proud of how well everyone is doing. We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing the students back in January!



# Lily Class

We have had another great term in Lily Class! We started the term off with our first trip of the year to Thames Valley Adventure Park. The pupils had a fantastic time exploring the park with their new peer group. We particularly enjoyed soft play and exploring all of the different toys. Our topic this term has been 'Brilliant Bodies' and we have continued to engage in a range of fun activities to support our learning within this topic. In literacy, we have enjoyed reading the story 'My Body is Me', and explored our different interests through role play. We have also been working hard with our phonics and mark making. In maths we have been using Numicon to represent numbers to 5, practicing Waldon activities and exploring number sensory trays. We have also enjoyed a range of activities to support our understanding of weight and positional language.

Before we knew it, it was time to get into the spirit of Christmas! Lily class have joined in with lots of exciting festive activities this term, including a visit from the reindeers, a Christmas Pantomime, making gingerbread men for our inter-house gingerbread competition, a visit from Santa and a Christmas rock party! Our favourite activities were definitely the reindeers and pantomime. We also enjoyed welcoming our parents and carers into our class for a Christmas 'Stay and Play' session. A lovely way to round up the year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everybody in Lily Class!

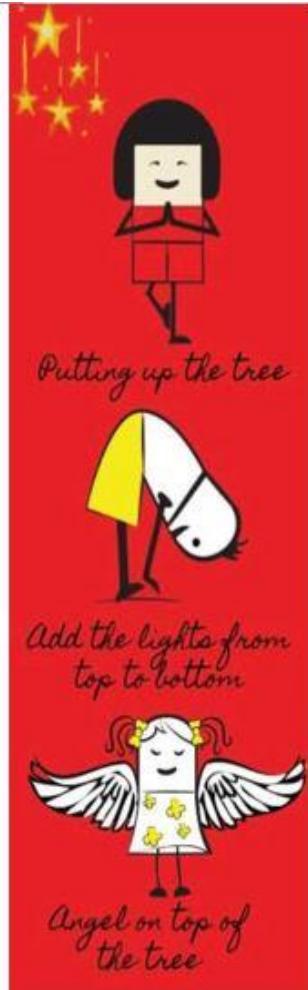


# Early Years Yoga with Rainbow Claire

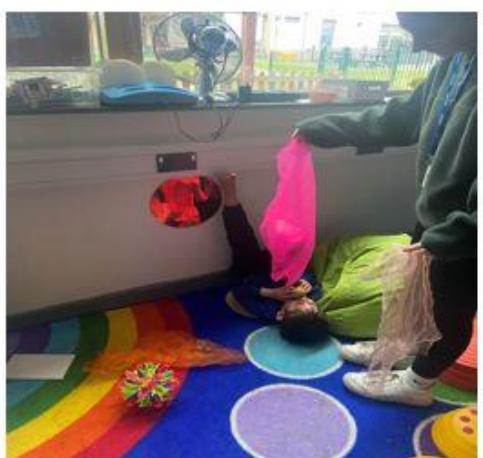
This term we have had lots of creative fun with our bodies and minds in our colourful celebrations. We enjoyed yoga flows to celebrate Diwali, Firework Night, Poppy Day and Hanukkah.

Our favourite breathing technique this term has been '**smell the flower, blow the candle out**'.

We have enjoyed moving our bodies into a Christmas flow to decorate a tree and lots of relaxing music to our favourite Christmas songs too.



**Every BODY is a  
Yoga BODY!**™



## Key Stage 2

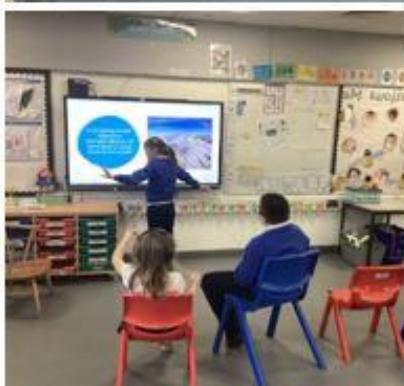
### Pine Class

Pine class have had a very busy term with lots of creativity and sensory play. Our Topic this term, was called 'Mountains and Snow' and the children enjoyed exploring mountains through yoga sessions and construction activities. In Literacy, we focused on the stories 'We're Going up a Mountain', which we explored through call and response, and 'One Snowy Night' which we explored through our senses. We also explored the story 'Stick Man' to help us get into the Christmas spirit! The children enjoyed making stick and leaf people. The children have been learning new signs through daily singing and signing sessions. In Maths, we explored Shape and Position; the children enjoyed learning Position through 'Cha Cha Slide'. In Cooking we have been making 'Brrrrr Smoothies' and the children have practiced chopping fruit and using a blender! In PSHE this term, we have focused on brushing teeth and washing hands through songs and role-play. Pine class have been very busy this term with a Diwali carousel, Explore Times and many Assemblies. We have been getting very excited for Christmas, enjoying lots of Christmas festivities such as a lovely visit from the reindeers, 'Jet' and 'Flash', a Snow White Panto and a last trip to Taplow! This term we have also celebrated Children in Need and participated in a Santa Dash, both raising money for fantastic charities. Pine class made a fantastic effort dressing up for Christmas Jumper Day! We have really enjoyed getting into the festive spirit with lots of Christmas activities, singing and visiting Woodley Precinct for some carol singing. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2024 ☺



## Willow Class

We have been having lots of fun learning with our new topic, "Mountains and Snow" and we've had the right weather for it with our recent frosty mornings! There has been lots to celebrate this autumn with Fireworks night, Diwali and the upcoming Christmas festivities. We've participated in creative Children in Need activities and a Diwali carousel, making delicious edible treats and diva lamps out of clay. We even had Mehndi patterns drawn on our hands. The children really enjoyed learning about Diwali with a sensory approach. The children have explored 3D art with Angie this term and created some magnificent pieces. Everyone loves cooking in Willow class but the eating is the most enjoyable part (hence why you haven't seen much of it come home!) We have made peppermint creams and decorated biscuits. We were excited to bake for the gingerbread interhouse competition and we made snowmen! Our maths focus has been on using a numberline to recognise numbers in order and using it to count on and back for addition and subtraction. The children were taught to jump like a frog forward and back and found this analogy very helpful. The children were really inspired by our stories this term and have practised the skill of signing and acting out stories as they become more familiar. We are very proud of their storytelling. With the change in temperature we often see a rise in bugs so we have made our PSHE focus about washing our hands correctly and using a tissue to "catch it, bin it, kill it." The children enjoyed seeing how quickly germs (glitter) are transferred and how hard they are to wash off! We look forward to welcoming you into school for our Parents Stay and Play session where you will see a lot of creations on the walls.



## Oak Class

Oak Class are feeling very festive and excited for Christmas next week. We hope you enjoy the Christmas cards and crafts the children bring home. Lots of our learning has been through our topic 'Snow and Mountains' where we enjoyed stories such as 'We're Going up a Mountain', 'One Snowy Night' and 'Sneezy the Snowman' and have been developing our phonics skills and also verbalising and writing sentences. We loved having lots of fun exploring snow themed bucket activities and particularly enjoyed learning about animals that live in cold places. We also enjoyed trips to Thames Valley Adventure Playground and our forest school site in the woods near school.

We have taken part in many fun activities in the lead up to Christmas with the children particularly enjoying inviting their parents into class for our festive 'stay and play'. We hope you enjoyed it too. We also met two visiting reindeer 'Blizzard and Flash' and enjoyed stroking and feeding them as well as holding their antlers. We had a huge amount of fun watching a visiting theatre company who put on a pantomime of 'Snow White'.

Each week we have been practising our cooking and independence skills and we recently got to put this into practise in the inter house team Gingerbread Competition. We perfected our ginger biscuits by adding a sweet to the middle which melted when cooked and created a stained glass effect. We really enjoyed decorating gingerbread people in our cooking lessons too.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



## Rowan Class

Rowan have had a very busy term, which has absolutely flown by! We loved meeting the reindeers and the children learnt about what they eat, what colour their coat goes, and how their antlers regrow. They also put on an amazing show at the Twyford Age Concern carol concert, they put so much heart and soul into their singing it was a joy to see. The residents really enjoyed seeing the children and joined in with all of our songs. We have enjoyed learning about different mountains for their topic, their names and even how they are made. They did some lovely paintings of mountains and labelled all the different features. We have written some fantastic sentences linked to our class book about 'Winnie in Winter', and talked about what sorts of magic spells they would cast if they had a magic wand. Through talking about winter we also played a great game of who could dress for winter the quickest and get the gloves, hats and scarves on first. Some of the children even tried to see how many scarves and hats they could wear!! In maths we have been playing lots of games in order to make sure we know all the different coins, and challenging each other to find the right coin first, in head to head competitions. The gingerbread competition was great fun and the class were incredibly proud of the house we made, and really enjoyed eating it afterwards. We have really enjoyed getting into the festive spirit this term with lots of Christmas activities, singing and visiting Woodley Precinct for some carol singing. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year! See you in 2024 ☺



## Complex and Sensory Needs Department

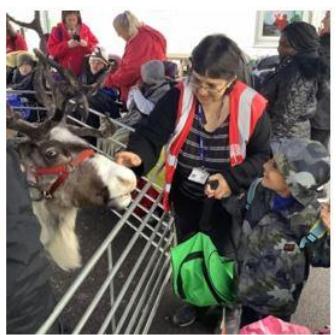
### POPPY CLASS

This half term in Poppy class we have finished our Community theme. We have looked at the different shops and used the resonance board to tap out a story visiting different people and places. Everyone has worked really hard on their targets and we have seen lots of amazing progress over the weeks.

We have really enjoyed exploring winter through our Sensology session. We all liked the smell of Candy Canes and feeling the spiky pine branches plus everyone laughed or smiled at the sound of sleigh bells!

We have been getting very festive with the reindeer visit, seeing the panto 'Snow White' and making gingerbread for the house competition. We got very sticky with our apple sauce and cinnamon decorations and a little bit messy painting with baubles!

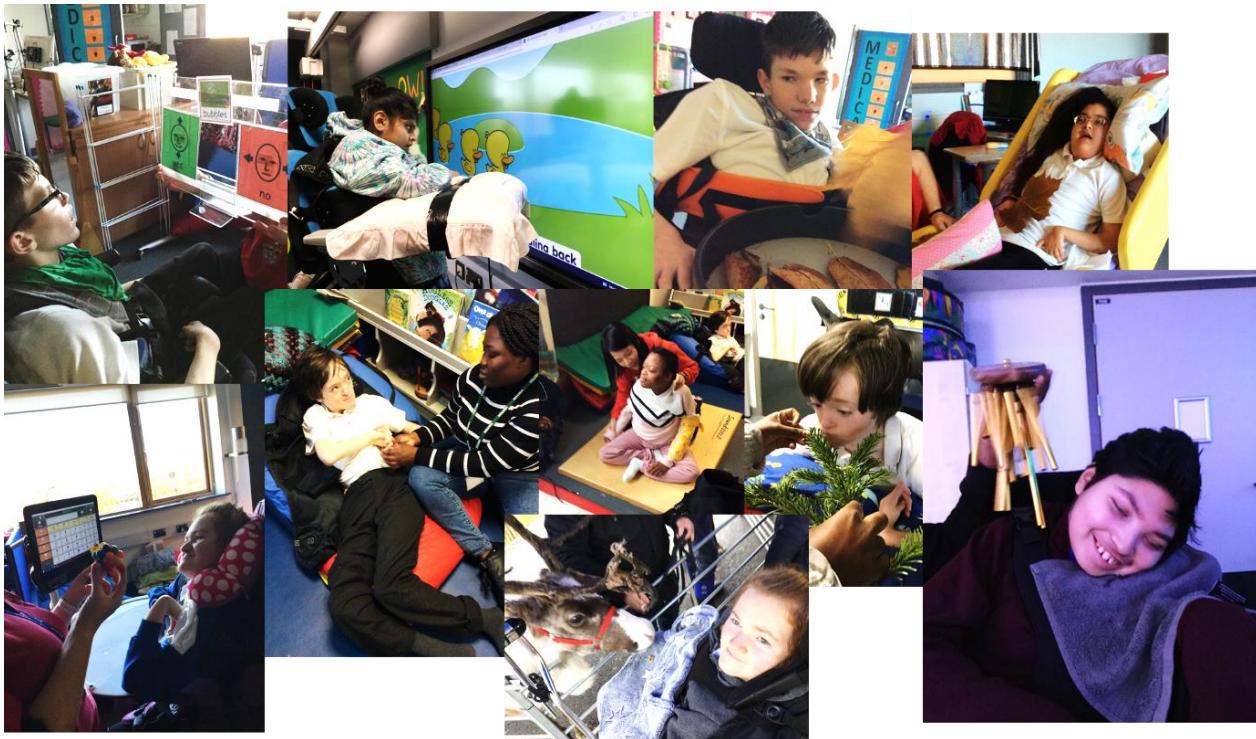
Have an amazing Christmas and a Happy New Year!



### CHERRY CLASS

This half term we have finished off our community theme. We have enjoyed looking at the different ways the people around us help us and what do for each other. We have loved our touch talk about the different things that we do that make us amazing individuals. We have all really loved our Soundabout sessions. We were all engaged and loved how all of our contributions were highlighted and celebrated! We all particularly liked the leaves and throwing them all around the room. Cherry class have all been working hard on their individual targets and we have seen wonderful progress from everyone this term.

We have enjoyed exploring the changing of autumn to winter with our new sensory story and have started to get festive with a range of Christmas craft activities and a visit from the reindeer. Have an amazing Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## APPLE CLASS

This term Apple Class have enjoyed multi-sensory stories, Tac Pac and Sensology sessions as part of our "Me and my Community" topic. They also enjoyed bubbles, ball games, dancing, drumming and food / messy play activities before going home.

We have been practising our counting up to 5 using multisensory props and counting songs. We have been learning and recapping the sounds of animals and musical instruments during multisensory phonics twice weekly.

At the end of the term, the students were getting very festive with the reindeer visit, participating in the Gingerbread Bake off school competition and also making sensory decorations using apple sauce, cinnamon, pine cones and different seasonal spices.

Apple Class wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



## Key Stage 3

### Aspen Class

We have continued the topic 'Magic and Mystery'. We are learning all about making potions and spells hexes to battle with dragons, unicorns and fairies. In maths, we have been learning about number, shape and measure. We have been using our shape skills to identify the shapes in and around the classroom! In maths, we are also focussing on measure and capacity to revisit our prior learning from last term. In literacy we are looking at three different books: 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets', 'The Magic Porridge Po't and the Nativity Story. We have been brewing potions made from nature, flying on broomsticks to find lost wands and writing our own letters to send with owls! In RHSE we are learning about relationships and families, and in science we are also looking at space and dinosaurs. For PE we have been practising our dance skills. We have been walking to the Co Op to practice our communication, maths and safety skills. Also, we have been going to Camp Mohawk to make nature art!

Check out the pictures below!



## Cedar Class

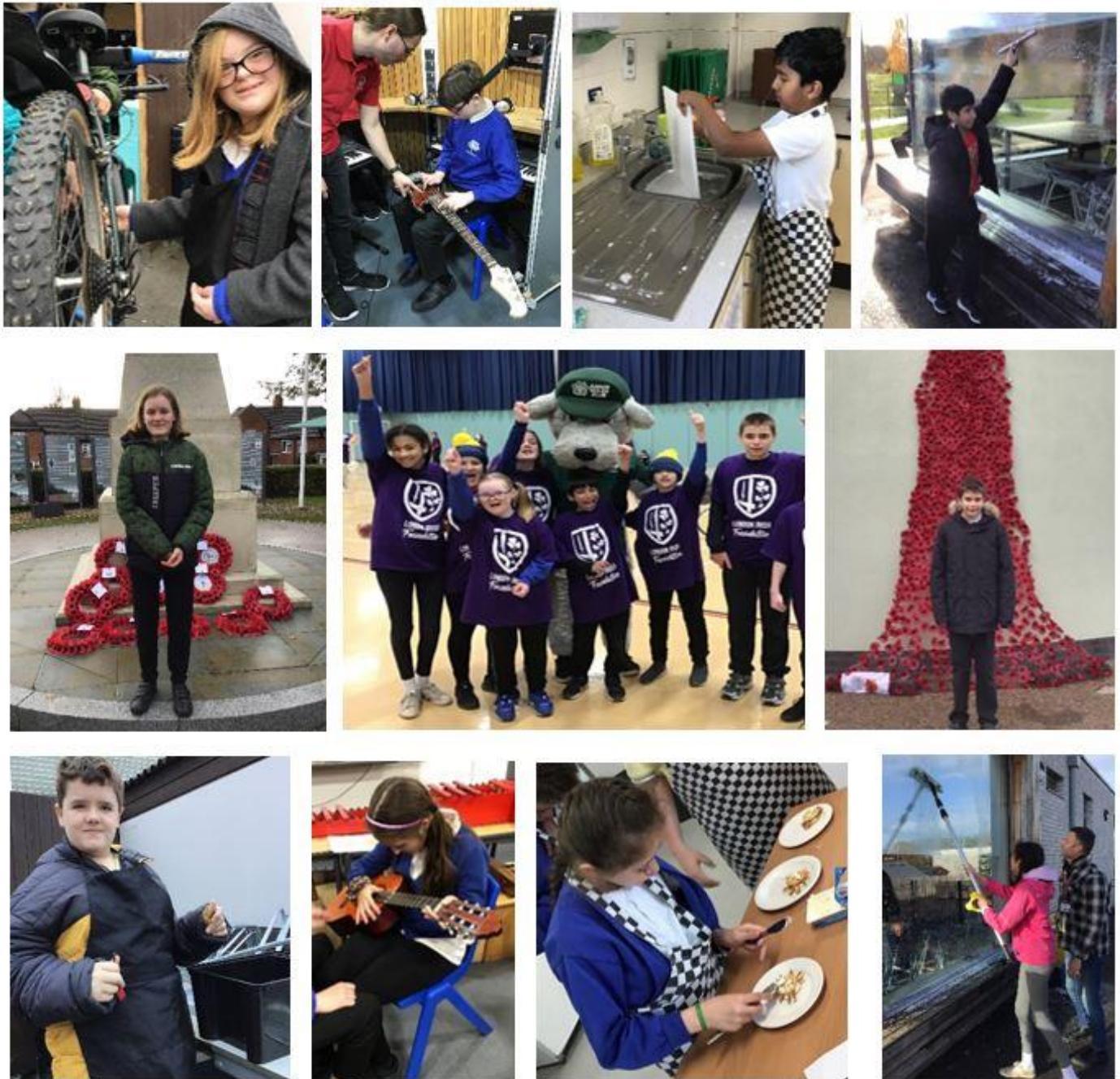
In Cedar Class we have had a lovely half term! We continued working on our topic about 'Magic and Mystery' and one of our favourite stories was Harry Potter! We loved exploring the story in a multisensory way and getting dressed up as some of the characters. We also continued working on our independence skills like brushing our teeth and making our own snacks. This half term we had the opportunity to participate in extra drama lessons with the 'Make sense' theatre and we really enjoyed taking part in the various sensory activities. One of our favourite things is when we visit Camp Mohawk and we had a lot of fun exploring the outdoor area. Towards the end of the term, we engaged in a range of festive experiences such as meeting the reindeer, decorating our tree and baking gingerbread biscuits.



## Chestnut Class

Chestnut class have enjoyed lots of opportunities to learn outside of the classroom (as well as in the classroom too!) this term. We have been busy learning how to care for bikes in our weekly bike maintenance sessions with Gary, learning to play the guitar in music with Martin, learning to clean windows with a real window cleaner and improving our life skills by preparing simple meals/snacks AND cleaning up afterwards!

We have also taken pride in representing Addington School in a couple of events this term – taking our Poppy Wreath to the Remembrance Service and taking part in a Sports Festival. We also visited Shinfield View care home and Woodley Precinct to sing Christmas Carols.



## Maple Class

Maple class have continued their learning this term with 'Magic and Mystery'. We started by looking at the book 'The Magic Porridge Pot' and made oat flapjacks before moving onto exploring items from Harry Potter such as owls, spiders and castles. In maths we focused on position (in, under, behind etc.) and shape (2D and 3D and their properties) and finally measuring length and height.

In cooking we have focused on pizzas! We have explored using alternative bases for our pizzas such as muffins, bagels and wraps. In PSHE we have explored keeping ourselves clean and in RSE we have looked at friendships. We have had extra visitors in the form of 'Make Sense Theatre' who have engaged us in drama.

We have also enjoyed our swimming lessons at Bulmershe Leisure Centre where we have participated in weekly lessons, each week getting quicker at changing and improving our techniques. We have had several sessions at Camp Mohawk too and have used the inside and outside spaces.



## Elm class

Aisla: I have enjoyed all my lessons, especially Science because we have been learning about planets. I love Art Therapy with Rachel too!

Ruby: I love my Cello lessons and spending time with my friends!

Ryan: I have enjoyed doing Rock Band with my friends!

Dylan: I liked making my PowerPoint presentation about my favourite things in Computing.

Tom: I love being part of Addington Band! I really liked our Try a Train day too!

Milena: I loved Horticulture and swimming this term! I liked doing PE because we were doing parkour.

Fabio: I've enjoyed chilling at playtime, and doing Art club and Dance club too.

Angelo: I have loved Science – especially ‘Rock of the Week!’

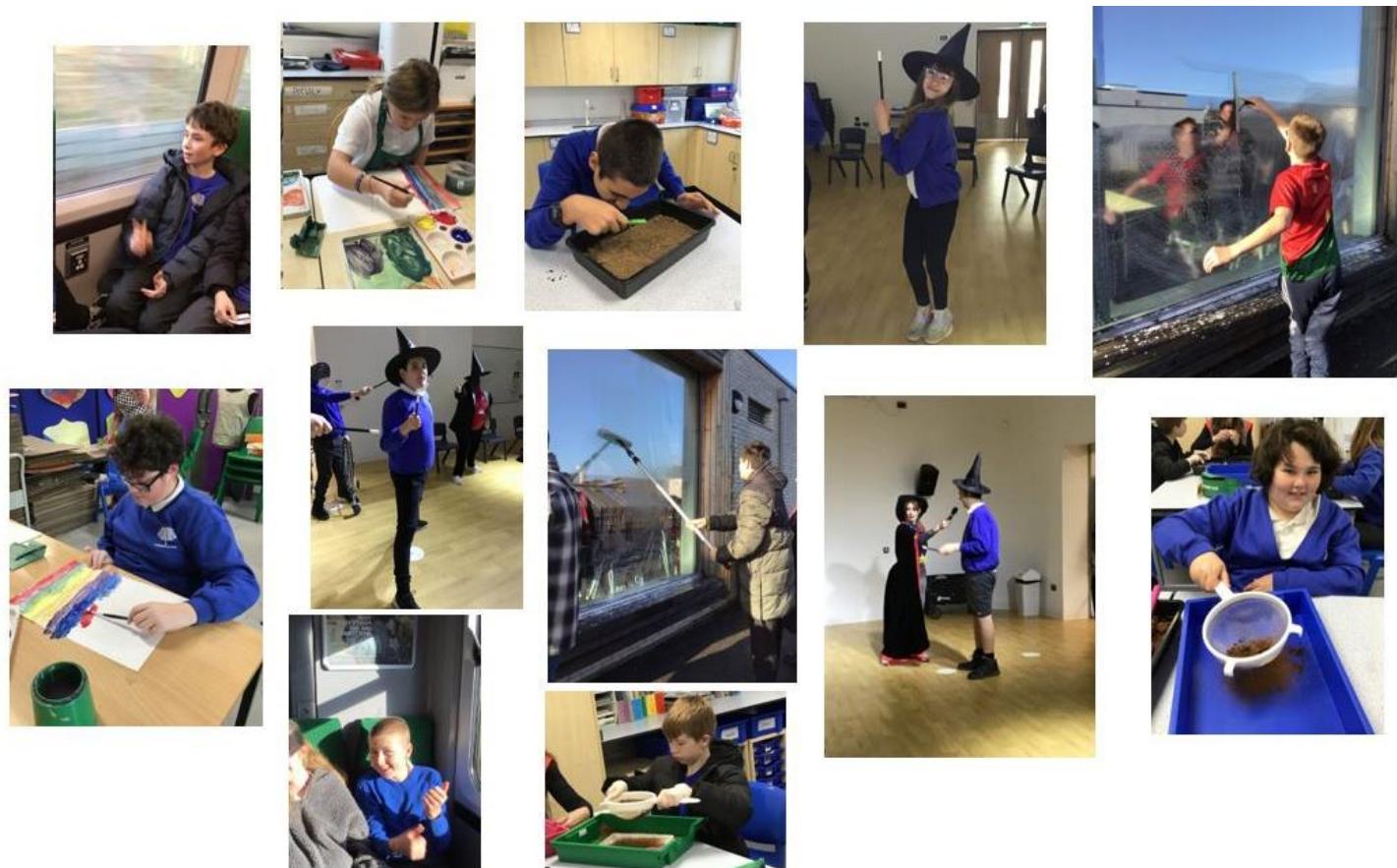
Tommy: I like telling silly stories and doing Aroma Touch with Jane.

Daisy: I loved swimming this term at Bulmershe, and Drama club too!

Austin: I have enjoyed having fun this term with my friends and I liked it when we learnt about Harry Potter in Literacy!

Reid: I enjoyed doing Polo in my Leisure time and I liked playing with my friends.

Jay: I enjoyed playing football with my friends at playtime



# **Access Department (Formerly known as the Therapeutic Department)**

## **Holly Class**

Holly class have had another busy term. The pupils have been working hard with their cognition activities linked to our theme as well as working towards their personal targets. Pupils are accepting regulation strategies and some have begun to initiate some strategies themselves too which is great. The class have enjoyed our cooking sessions. This is one of the sessions where we come together as a group and the pupils engage at their own level according to their REC and learning profiles. This term we have re-introduced the class to TAC PAC based on our theme. They are taking to this well and have had moments of relaxation and calm. We also had a visit from the Reindeers which the pupils enjoyed. The class have continued to enjoy our resonance board sessions, some of them are now copying the actions and the words.

We hope you have a great holiday and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



## **Beech class**

It has been a super busy term, with some definite cold snaps!

We continue to follow our class timetable, with regular literacy and maths sessions. We have been studying the Wizard of Oz, and have been reading the text as well as watching clips from the original film. We linked to our PSHE curriculum by looking at the emotions of the various characters, to build on this we played Headbandz, where a student wore the band with the character's name on and had to ask the rest of the student's questions to work out who they were! I hope I have managed to instil a love of reading in the students, as they will often ask to sit on the class sofa and read a book either by themselves or by reading to an adult or the rest of the class.

In maths we have been working on number, specifically counting in 2's, 5's and 10's, to complement our money lessons. We have learnt the songs from scratchpad which has helped the students enormously with remembering the sequence. Next term in maths we are going to be looking at value and budgeting in money.

We have been enjoying weekly games sessions, these cover a range of skills including learning to lose, waiting, taking turns and social communication cues. Snakes and ladders is particularly popular, and builds on their maths skills.

We also celebrated Diwali in class, dressing up, making our own tea light holders and trying some different foods, the staff enjoyed this as much as the pupils!

Christmas craft has been lovely. We decorated our class Christmas tree, have made a gingerbread house for the whole school competition, and made some gifts for the students to bring home. Some of the students walked to the Birches to sing to the residents, and were beautifully behaved and in fine singing voice.

We ended this term with a trip to Beale Park. The students love it here after our trip there in the summer and although cold, we were wrapped up and loved seeing the animals, doing the Christmas trail and having a trip on the train.

All of Beech class wish you a very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year, enjoy the break and we will see you all on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

Clare and the Beech class Team.





## Birch Class

It has been a super second half term for Birch class, with lots of enthusiasm and exciting activities! We have been enjoying taking part in *Room on the Broom* themed TAC PAC sessions and Sensory Stories, as well as creating the different animals from the story during art sessions. The class have been putting tremendous effort into Literacy based tasks such as phonics, Colourful Semantics and working on personalised targets and have been developing their Numeracy skills during individual target sessions, including Waldon. We fully embraced the festivities during the last couple of weeks, with surprises including a visit from some reindeer and a Christmas themed drama workshop and plenty of seasonal arts and crafts. Everyone has most certainly earned a lovely Christmas break!



## Lime Class

In Lime class this term, we enjoyed working on our money and cooking skills. Tuck shop seemed to be the children's favourite activity! They were engaged and they found it interesting to exchange money for their favourite snacks. During cooking, our class made toast. The students were picking the spread that they wanted and working on their spreading skills while exploring different food and textures.



## Key Stage 4

### Falcon Class

We have enjoyed getting out and about this term travel training with Nikki.

We have also enjoyed lifelong leisure sessions playing football, volleyball, badminton and table tennis.

Some students have also been enjoying outdoor sessions at JAC. They have had great opportunities to use tools and experience toasting marshmallows on an open fire.

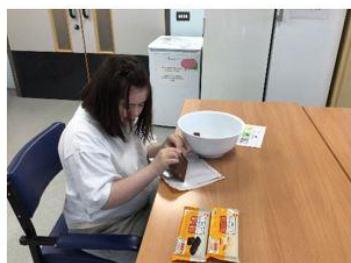
We look forward to more learning opportunities next half term . . .



### Kite Class

We continued our 'Right Here, Right Now' theme after half term by thinking about Remembrance. Our classroom learning helped us to understand what, and who, we are remembering, and why we wear poppies for remembrance. As part of 'Accessing the Community' we took part in a poppy hunt around Woodley, set up by the local council, and we were awarded 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for this! Wow! We are putting the money we won from the competition towards a class lunch out in Woodley, in January.

We spent time learning about bullying during Anti-Bullying Week, where we focused a lot on what to do/who to tell if someone is being unkind. In early November, we learnt about Diwali and Fireworks Night. We then marked Road Safety Week by focusing on being safe around roads and traffic. Finally, for the last three weeks of term we have been preparing for and participating in the huge number of Christmas events that happen at Addington. We have enjoyed pantomimes, made many items to sell at the KS4/5 Christmas Fayre, held parties and helped to prepare Christmas lunch, among many other things! Well done Kite Class, have an enjoyable holiday and a well-deserved rest.



## Swan Class

**Project Right here right now.** During autumn term 2, Students have continued to focus on the 'Right here, right now project'. We have been learning about Remembrance Day. Students created their own research project on Remembrance Day and then presented what they have found out about the occasion to their peers. Students attended the Woodley Schools Remembrance day celebration.

Students wrote a Remembrance Day poem which was entered into the Woodley Schools poetry competition. One of the students came runner up in the competition and read her poem out at the Woodley Remembrance Ceremony in front of a large number of people.

Students went to Peach Place in Wokingham to sing Christmas Carols with Kennel Lane School. Students have been busy preparing hot chocolate cones and Chocolate Sleighs to sell at the Fayre.



Students asked to host their own Fancy Dress Halloween Party on the first day back of school, as part of our project. They took part in a host of Halloween activities including bobbing apples, pinning the witches' nose on, making edible ghosts and spiders and the finale was to make the most realistic mummies!



As part of the inter-film festival students went to see Trolls band together at the showcase cinema in November. Students had to plan their journey using public transport from school to Winnersh and return for lunch. Following the film students completed a review of the film which goes towards their Bronze Art Award.

As always at this time of year, we had a visit from the Reindeer from Riverways Farm. All the students enjoyed finding out a bit about reindeer from their handlers and then feeding and petting them. They completed research independently back in class to find out where reindeers came from and how they lived.



## Sixth Form News

### Eagle class

*It's behind you; oh no it isn't. Oh yes it is; this term and the year is behind us. And what a term it's been.*

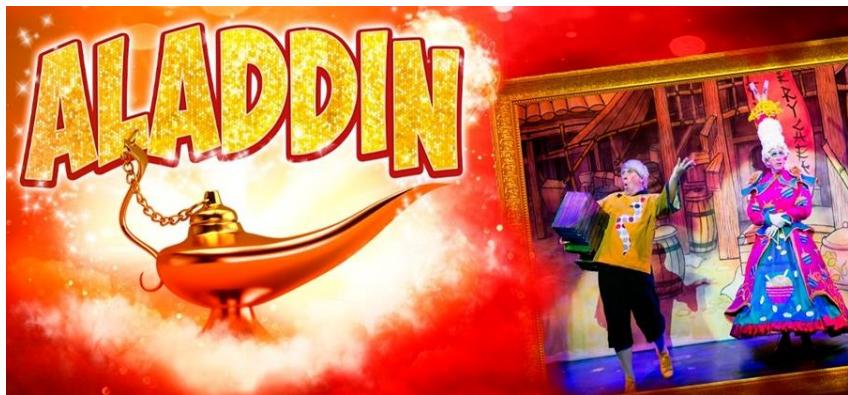
It has been another busy activity filled time. Over the term, our young people have enjoyed a number of activities in the wider community to develop social, leisure, independence and life skills in readiness for adult life after Addington. Students have been given opportunities to attend college links courses at Bracknell & Wokingham and Reading College, and to undertake travel training, using public buses as well as practising road safety. While in the community our young people have practised their money skills in shops and cafes, gaining an understanding of budgeting.

A number of students, mainly our leavers, have been given the opportunity to understand the world of work and develop a work ethic by doing external work experience.

Some have enjoyed weekly sessions in therapeutic horticulture at the Ridgeline Trust.

The highlights of this term, gauging from the responses and reactions of our young people, was yet again the trip to Windsor to enjoy the pantomime 'Aladdin'. For years the Berkshire Freemasons have generously donated tickets for our students to attend the pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Windsor. The event is very inclusive as the Freemasons cater to students not only with moderate needs, but also to those with severe and complex needs. A special thank you must be extended to Neil Murphy and every member of the Berkshire Freemasons for their thoughtfulness.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Form Christmas lunch, cooked by staff and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Christmas Fayre are also eagerly looked forward to and enjoyed by all.





## Kestrel Class

Some students have been to the driving range as part of Life Long Leisure. They have shown off their skills hitting the golf ball a considerable distance. They have supported each other to improve on their technique.



We have spent time in the community where students have been working on shopping for a list of items and using self-service checkouts.



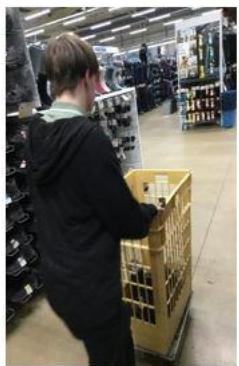
While accessing the community, students have been embedding their road safety awareness both locally and in Reading town centre.



Students have been continuing their cooking lessons on a Tuesday. They have been creating some simple, healthy dishes that could be recreated at home.



Some students have been taking part in work experience this term. They've been working hard learning new skills and practising their communication skills.



## Owl class

Merry Christmas from Owl Class!

Owl class has continued to enjoy regular off-site trips to Woodley precinct, Ridgeline and Highwood nature reserve. We've been to some new places too, getting the bus into Reading town centre to visit different shops and cafes. On these trips, we've practiced road safety skills, made transactions in shops and used different communication methods to choose favourite snacks in cafes. A highlight of the term was having the opportunity to represent Addington at a bowling competition with other local schools. We had lots of fun and loved receiving medals at the end. Another highlight, linked to our 'Right Here, Right Now' topic, was visiting the local aviation museum.

We've been getting ready for Christmas, working hard by making lots of arts and crafts for the Christmas fayre. We enjoyed a visit from the reindeer and decorated the Christmas tree in the 6<sup>th</sup> form common room with peers from other classes. Other festive activities include a trip to the pantomime in Windsor and visiting a local care home to sing Christmas carols. We've been doing lots of festive cooking too, using adapted chopping boards to chop vegetables for a warming soup, and baking gingerbread for Addington's annual school gingerbread making competition!



We wish you all a very happy 2024!



## Robin Class

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Robin class have been getting into the Christmas spirit with tree decorating and a festive trip to Windsor to see the Pantomime! Oh yes we did! Everyone had a great time and were fantastic ambassadors for Addington School. We have been Christmas browsing in Reading and Woodley and have been busy making things to sell at the Upper School Christmas Fayre!





## Horticulture

This half term the students have been preparing for spring and getting the bulbs in the ground before the frost set in, they did a great job and we can't wait to see what they will look like then they come out in spring with all the different colours.

We have also been working on Christmas, making decorations and visiting the garden centres to look for ideas of decorations to make next year, we enjoyed a lovely hot chocolate which is well deserved after their hard work this half term.

Merry Christmas everyone from the horticulture department and a happy new year!



# Hospitality

This half term in Hospitality the students have been keeping busy in the kitchen preparing lots of bakes for our weekly cafe. The students have been researching Christmas themed recipes to recreate in the kitchen and baking them ready to sell at our 6<sup>th</sup> form fayre this week. The City & Guilds Hospitality students also gave up their Saturday to run a very busy Christmas fayre café which they made all of the treats for, raising money for the Addington Association.



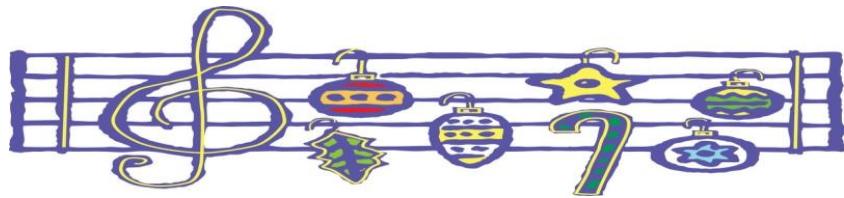
## News from the Workshop

What another busy term!!

We have been beavering away just like Santa and his workshop with all of his hardworking elves. The students have risen to the occasion and enjoyed making all sorts of new products that will be on sale at the Christmas Fayre and also completing lots of ground work to a few new projects that will be launching in the New Year.

They have been making baking themed decorations including whisks, rolling pins and cookie cutters transforming them into stunning tree decorations. We have also been making some amazing scrunchies and Christmas cards.





## The Creative Arts Page

This half term, specialist subjects lessons have continued across the department and many of our students have been attending offsite events, especially during the festive period.

### Music

#### EY

Early Years have continued with Weather songs, focussing on Thunder and Snow. They have explored simple rhythms and song structures using a big bass drum and cymbal, making different sounds using the resonance board and exploring glockenspiel playing.

#### Sensory

This half term in sensory music we have been continuing our journey across North America, this time with a focus on the music of the American Frontier. We started our session with a welcome song based on the iconic melody from 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly', with pupils responding through vocalisation, movement, or exploring various instruments in keeping with the theme of the piece. We then explored tempo change through the 'William Tell Overture', using words associated with horse riding to change our tempo e.g. trotting, galloping. The pupils cued tempo changes and joined in exploring drums. We explored further vocalisation and interaction with theme song from the classic TV show 'Rawhide', before settling down by the campfire and exploring various wooden instruments to 'The Campfire Song'. When December arrived, we pivoted into our Christmas lessons, going on a journey to the North Pole.



## **KS2**

This half-term in KS2 music, we have continued to learn about music through the topic of 'Way out West'. For most KS2 classes, our focus has been on composition. We used a storyboard to help us compose a soundscape focusing on emotion and feelings, deciding whether our music should sound happy/sad, loud/quiet, fast/slow to match the story. We rehearsed our compositions and performed them to the group. We then pivoted to focus on Christmas carol singing, rehearsing our carols for various off-site and on-site concerts.



## **KS3**

This half-term in KS3 music, we have continued to learn about music through the topic of 'Way out West'. Our focus has been on exploring various instruments found in a pop/rock band, learning to play bass guitar, guitar, keyboard and drum kit parts from 'Sweet Home Alabama', before putting together a class performance of the song. We then pivoted to focus on Christmas carol singing, rehearsing our carols for various off-site and on-site concerts.

## **KS4**

Kite class have been working towards a skill share which is a part of their Bronze Arts Award. They learnt 'Ho Hey' by 'The Lumineers' on ukulele, drums and xylophone before picking which instrument part they wanted to teach to someone else. They had to plan what equipment was needed and develop social skills to show somebody what to do. First, they taught some teachers, then shared their skills with 3 classes in KS3. They all did a fantastic job and reflected upon the project too.

## **KS5**

Kestrel class have been participating in a leadership project as part of their Silver Arts Award. The project was about creating films which showcased local arts centres. The students planned their project collaboratively and were designated different leadership roles within the group for each film. They went to venues like Reading Museum and Everyman Theatre in Wokingham to film the venues and interview staff who worked there. The films have started to be edited by Kestrel class too.

# Art

## Key Stage 2

Willow and Rowan class have been exploring Art through the topic of 'Snow and Mountains'. We have experimented with a range of materials, creating a variety of 2D and 3D landscapes. We have modelled 3D figures using pipe cleaners, made clay snowmen and penguins and used paint to print and paint different landscapes.



## Key Stage 3

Aspen and Beech class used the Hogwarts of Coats of Arms to create their own shield designs. They have chosen their own colours, patterns and creatures to represent their personalities.



Elm and Chestnut class have continued to create artwork based on figurative shapes, this term they have incorporated lots of colour theory. We have referenced the work of Keith Haring to create paintings using Primary, Secondary and Complimentary colours. They have also made 3D wire figure sculptures.



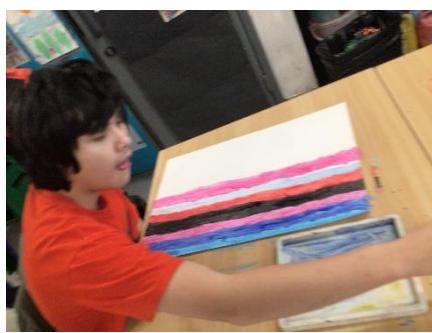
### Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4 have continued work on their Bronze Arts Award. This term they have concentrated on sharing a skill. They have been exploring different ways of making hanging decorations using clay. They then chose their favourite design and showed Chestnut class how to make one too! We have a lovely morning working together, creating beautiful decorations.



### 6<sup>th</sup> Form

Eagle Class have been exploring lots of different materials and techniques over this term, experimenting with clay, wire, painting and print.



# Drama

## Early Years

*Theme: Christmas*

Daffodil, Lily and Bluebell have had a visit from the Christmas Elf. Classes have enjoyed engaging with the cheeky elf and looking at what is in her Christmas sack. We have played with the parachute catching snowballs and watched our teachers becomes cheeky Elves and fall on the song when singing our 5 Little Elves Song.

## KS3 Drama

*Theme: Magic*

Students have been developing performance skills whilst at Magic School. They have transported to the land of magic and been learning and practising how to become a wizard or witch. Students showcased a short magic show.



## KS4

*Theme: Storytelling*

*Falcon class have been on the drama rotation this half term.*

Falcon class discussed topical news stories and create a still image showing the event. We then explored how we could bring the still image to life using key drama conventions-narration, thought tracking and physical theatre.

Falcon class used the stimulus of the gaming world to create a short individual performance based around the real world and being an avatar character in their chosen game. Students worked on developing control with performance skills. They also showcase their work to Swan class and did a skill share, showing their game control commands and movements.



## **KS5**

*Theme: Storytelling- focusing on KS5 project theme ‘Right here, right now’*

Robin class enjoyed taking part in drama social games developing eye contact, voice and social interactions. Robin class participated in some sensory drama evoking all of the 8 senses. Our first experience was visiting the local park where we met some interesting characters. A duck who was hungry, a dog that kept doing poos and an old man who lost his wallet.

We also looked at local stories and visited Huntley and Palmers Biscuit Factory and explored different rooms in the factory before receiving a final treat of a tasty biscuit!



## **Immersive Theatre**

*Theme: The Circus*

This term we have been at the Circus. Students have been developing sensory awareness through experiencing a wide range of sensory props, storytelling, music and sound. We explore the 8 senses through our sessions.

**Vision-** we have watched a Tightrope walker shadow screen.

**Hearing -** music from the 1920's- Ragtime

**Smell -** smelling the hay bales (cedar wood oil) sweets (candy cane sweet oil)

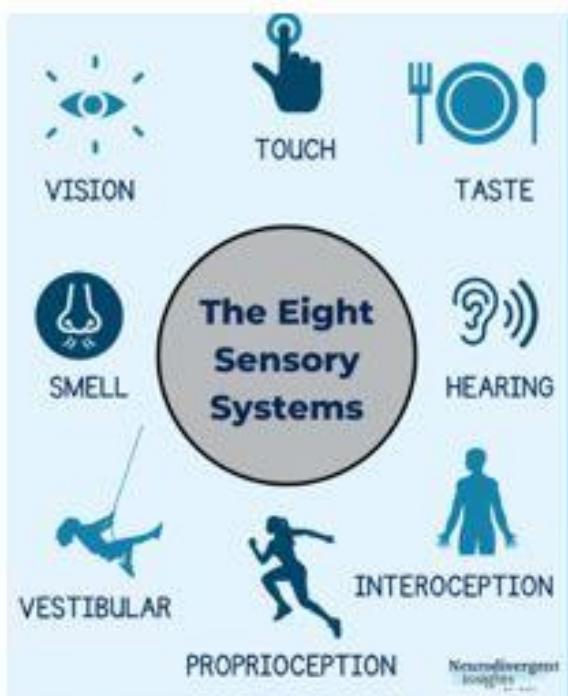
**Taste -** eating candyfloss

**Touch -** touching pom poms, weighted beanbags, candyfloss, the clown's suitcase.

**Vestibular –** throwing beanbags into a target

**Proprioception -** experiencing being on a ride- vibration and spinning

**Interoception -** notice and acknowledge students reactions how they might be feeling.

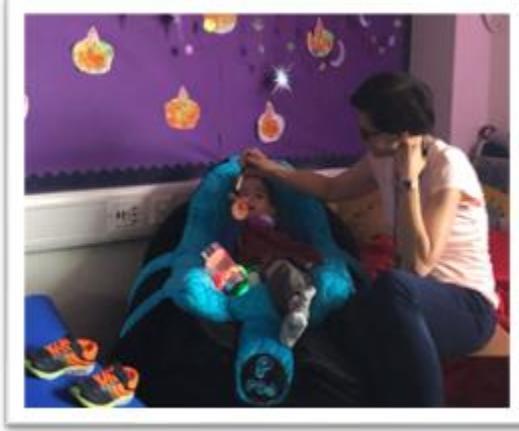


## Clubs

This half term Addington Band started to work towards the Addington Association Christmas Carol Concert. They have been learning 3 pieces and had to make a tough decision to leave one out. Carla has been running a drama club who have been playing lots of Christmas themed drama games and Martin has been hosting the Xylophone and Percussion Club who have been learning 'Winter Wonderland'



## The Magic of Music and Yoga with Claire and Karen



Our magic of music and yoga sessions run by Claire, (yoga teacher) and Karen, (music therapist) have been going well for Poppy and Cherry classes. We start by singing hello to each student in turn, then have time for experiencing different textures of scarves whilst singing our favourite rainbow song. Following this is yogic breathing and ohms led by Claire, and we've experienced that along with sound bowls, Hoberman spheres and special lights for our Diwali celebrations. Next we each choose an instrument and improvise using these and vocal sounds whilst Karen sings or plays the clarinet, and we play along to some

favourite songs too. The sessions then slow with a calm, reflective time as we use soft brushes on our hands, feet and faces whilst listening to some relaxing music, before it's time for the goodbye song. Each student has time for themselves whilst also being aware of the others in the group.



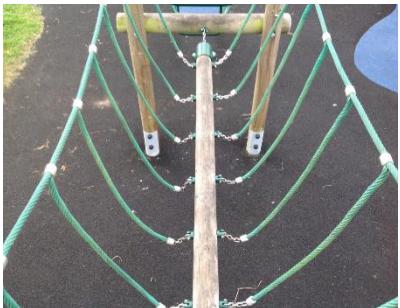
# Photography Project

This term Jules has been working with students from Year 9 on their iPad Photography Project. Students have really enjoyed using the iPads to practise their photography skills. They have been mindful of perspective – looking up, down, through and between, and turning the iPad for landscape or portrait shots.

Students explore three themes – ‘The World about us’, ‘Still Life’ and ‘Portraits’.

**‘The World about us’ –**

colours, shapes, patterns and lines.



going outside and looking at



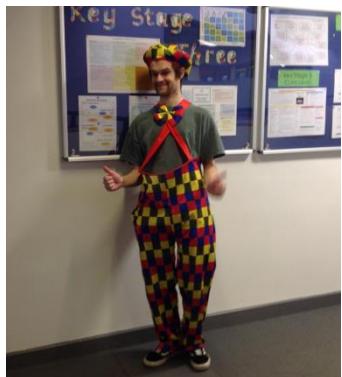
Photographs by Daisy  
**‘Still Life’** – taking photographs of fruit, flowers and other objects in the Art room. Taking close-up shots.



Photographs by Beau

**‘Portraits’** – taking interesting photographs of people. Which is best for this shot - landscape or portrait mode?

Photographs by Leon



## **Reading Junior Music Festival**

In November, 6 of our KS2 students performed in the Reading Junior Music Festival at The Hexagon which involved primary schools from the Reading and Wokingham area. Our fabulous choir have been rehearsing since September and have attended mass rehearsals at Alfred Sutton School and at The Hexagon. They were brilliant, singing and signing and were the stars of the show. They did themselves, their families and the school very proud.



## **Carol Singing**

It has been so fantastic to get back out in the community this year to sing carols. We have had 8 trips out with nearly all of our secondary students to Shinfield View, Peach Place, The Birches, Shute End Council Offices, Twyford Age Concern, National Grid, the new Addington Early Years Centre and Woodley Precinct. The students have been amazing and thoroughly enjoyed their festive singing.



### **Upcoming Events**

Here are key dates for your diary in 2024:

- Proms Week – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

You can find regular updates on our music page on the school website

<https://www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk/pupil-pages/music>

Here you will also find resources and videos for the pupils to engage with at home.

From the Creative Arts Team, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Creative Arts Team

## Attendance Update

To date, 07/12/2023, our average whole school attendance for this term is 91.96% - which is fantastic and above average in comparison to other Special Schools.

While our aim, for most pupils and those without complex medical needs, is 95% or above, we understand that our pupils face challenges and have additional barriers in their way when it comes to attendance – this is where I can try to help.

My role is to help families overcome these barriers, where possible, whether it is school refusal, transport issues or something else in the way. I work with staff and the local Education Welfare Officer to come up with strategies and plans to get our children attending school as much as they can.

I have recently added a [page to the school's website for attendance](#) including a section on “Is my child too ill for school?” Please have a read.

Please remember if your child is going to be off or late for any reason, contact the school on each day of their absence either via calling and leaving a message or sending an email. Not hearing why a child hasn't attended will be followed up by phone calls and/or a home visit to check everyone is ok.

If you have any further questions around attendance, please get in touch.

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Toni

Attendance Officer  
Tonic@addington.wokingham.sch.uk



## News from the Association

Email: [AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com)

It's been a busy few weeks for the Addington Association, with our annual Christmas Fayre (on Saturday 2nd December) and Carol concert (on Monday 11th December). These events raised over £1000 that will contribute to enriching the school experience for our children. Thanks to all the parents, carers and staff members who put in so much time and effort to make these happen - and a particular thank you to Nicola Perkins and Dawn Adams for taking the lead in organising these events.

Looking ahead to next year, the Addington Association are picking up with the school about some specific things to fundraise for - the current topics of discussion include a new minibus and potentially some sensory room equipment. If there is sufficient interest, we're looking at an Easter Fayre (more details coming soon!) and we're always keen to hear ideas from parents/carers/staff that would be fun to do and could help raise funds. As ever, if you have an idea or just want to help out at one of our events, please email [addingtonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:addingtonassociation@gmail.com); and please check out our Facebook page: [facebook.com/AddingtonAssociation](https://facebook.com/AddingtonAssociation)

Nicola Perkins and Chris Bothwell  
Co-Chairs, Addington Association

# ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023 - 2024



Addington School

## AUTUMN TERM 2023

Inset Days – (closed to pupils)	Friday 1 September & Monday 4 September 2023
Term Starts	Tuesday 5 September 2023
Inset Day – (Closed to pupils)	Friday 20 October 2023
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2023 inclusive
Inset Day (closed to pupils)	Monday 30 October 2023
Term Restarts	Tuesday 31 October 2023
Term Ends	Friday 15 December 2023

## SPRING TERM 2024

Term Starts	Tuesday 2 January 2024
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February 2024 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 19 February 2024
Term Ends	Thursday 28 March 2024

## SUMMER TERM 2024

Term Starts	Monday 15 April 2024
Inset Day – (closed to pupils)	Friday 24 May 2024
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2024 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 3 June 2024
Term Ends	Tuesday 23 July 2024

**Inset Days – School closed to pupils**  
Friday 1 September 2023  
Monday 4 September 2023  
Friday 20 October 2023  
Monday 30 October 2023  
Friday 24 May 2024

# ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024 - 2025



## AUTUMN TERM 2024

Inset Days – (closed to pupils)	Tuesday 3 September & Wednesday 4 September 2024
Term Starts	<a href="#">Thursday 5 September 2024</a>
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024 inclusive
Inset Days (closed to pupils)	Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 November 2024
Term Restarts	<a href="#">Wednesday 6 November 2024</a>
Term Ends	<a href="#">Friday 20 December 2024</a>

## SPRING TERM 2025

Term Starts	<a href="#">Monday 6 January 2025</a>
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025 inclusive
Term Restarts	<a href="#">Monday 24 February 2025</a>
Term Ends	<a href="#">Friday 4 April 2025</a>

## SUMMER TERM 2025

Term Starts	<a href="#">Tuesday 22 April 2025</a>
Bank Holiday – School Closed	<a href="#">Monday 5 May 2025</a>
Inset Day – (closed to pupils)	<a href="#">Friday 23 May 2025</a>
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025 inclusive
Term Restarts	<a href="#">Monday 2 June 2025</a>
Term Ends	<a href="#">Wednesday 23 July 2025</a>

**Inset Days – School closed to pupils**

Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 September 2024  
Monday 4 & Tuesday 5 November 2024  
Friday 23 May 2025