



ADDINGTON NEWSLETTER



April 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

It would have been impossible to predict that since writing my last newsletter, life as we know it, has completely turned upside down. All those things we took for granted have been curtailed. The routines our children and young people thrive in have changed beyond recognition and all of us - staff, pupils and families - are trying to create a new normal. It is our job here at Addington to support our families to create that new normal and there are details throughout this newsletter to help you do this.

Our Home Learning pages on our website and Earwig are our ways of keeping in close contact with you and I hope that all the resources and videos have been useful in some way to every pupil, even if it is just to see a familiar face!

The school remains open over Easter for the children of keyworkers and our most vulnerable children and the provision will be run by the Thumbs Up charity working alongside school staff. At the time of writing, it will be open all through the holiday including Bank Holidays and I would like to thank all the staff involved that have made this possible.

Over the Easter holidays, the Senior Leadership Team will be available via our helpline – helpline@addington.wokingham.sch.uk. Home Learning pages will not be updated as much by teachers until Monday 20th April but I encourage all families to use Earwig to record any activities over the Easter period if they wish to and to look at the vast array of resources uploaded already.

Our Creative Arts team have created a Community Music Blog where Rhona and Sean sing many songs for our pupils to join in with and the PE team have also been busy providing exercise videos for the whole family to work out to at home.

Finally, I would like to say how wonderful it has been to see the whole of the Addington community coming together to support each other in this time of crisis; from the lovely emails from parents, to the determination of staff to keep the school open to support our keyworkers, to staff creating amazing videos, to parents attempting home learning and to pupils engaging in home learning as much as they can. Hopefully, over the next 2 months the crisis will pass and we can look forward to all coming back together again in one place.

As you know there is no guidance from the government yet as to when schools will re-open and social distancing rules will be relaxed, but we will keep you updated as much as possible in the hope that this happens sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the pages of this newsletter featuring activities prior to the lockdown and I wish everyone a safe, happy Easter.

Take care

Sara Attra
Headteacher



Parent Support

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is an unbelievable time for us all, bewildering and scary in equal parts. Please be assured that we, along with all the staff at Addington school, will do our best to provide as much support and information as we can. We are still very much working hard to do everything we can to keep the Addington family happy, healthy and safe.

Lucy and Ellie will be working from home and from school, so Parent Support is still here, if in a slightly different way!

Please adhere to all the advice being provided by the Government, the local authority and our national health agencies.

Below are a number of links that may provide some support in discussing the pandemic with your young persons, as well as information on mindfulness techniques for youngsters and adults. Anxiety and stress can make difficult situations harder to manage, and we would encourage you all to be kind to yourselves, and take a moment of peace when you can. There is lots of information regarding how to speak to young people about the virus, games and indoor activities to play, keep fit tutorials, (not just Joe Wicks!), and more on line, so use this resource if you are able to on your computer, tablet or phone.

Do not forget that you can contact school using helpline@addington.wokingham.sch.uk. As many staff are now working from home, this is the best way to ensure that your communication with us is picked up as soon as possible.

Links to information;

A fantastic book written by an NHS nurse, explaining coronavirus

<https://nursedottybooks.com/dave-the-dog-is-worried-about-coronavirus-2/>

Information from the National Autistic Society

<https://www.autism.org.uk/services/nas-schools/anderson/news/2020/march/coronavirus%20resources%20for%20parents.aspx>

Information from the Downs Syndrome Association

<https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Information from Young Minds about talking to children about Coronavirus

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

Mindfulness Information

<http://blog.stageslearning.com/blog/six-simple-mindfulness-practices-for-kids-with-autism>

<https://www.everyday-mindfulness.org/3-quick-mindfulness-practices-to-overcome-worry-anxiety-and-panic/>

Please stay safe and well; we can't wait to see you all at a celebratory coffee morning once this crisis is over ☺

Best Wishes,

Lucy & Ellie – Parent Support Advisers

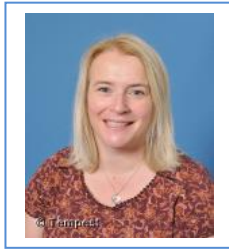
Safeguarding

The impact of changes to routine and usual levels of support cannot be underestimated to families who have a child with a disability. Teachers are emailing about home learning but they are also emailing to maintain contact with you. Please check your emails regularly if you can and respond. Some parents/carers will be receiving phone calls to give further support or ask about whether their child needs to come into school from our Parent Support Advisers or members of SLT. It is part of our safeguarding duty to maintain this contact. We are manning our reception during normal school hours and we are regularly checking our helpline@addington.wokingham.sch.uk.

Our Senior Leadership Team



Sara Attra
Headteacher



Lynda Wood
Deputy Head



David Maycock
Deputy Head



Eirfron Watkinson
Assistant Headteacher



Emer Moore
Assistant Headteacher



Sue Tod
School Business Manager

Home Learning @Addington

Home learning for pupils at Addington needs to be approached in a personalised way, taking into account the students, their family situation and the situation the class teacher finds themselves in. Due to these reasons I will lay out below the various different ways we are delivering Home Learning. Some of your children will only be accessing one of these ways, others may be able to access several. As this situation develops after Easter we will monitor home learning and make changes and updates where necessary. As teachers, parents and your children get more used to home learning, new techniques and strategies may be tried. For some children the best home learning activities are those related to developing their independent living skills around the home.

Home Learning

- Unless unwell or called into school, Class teachers will be keeping in touch via email every Monday morning with potential learning activities and opportunities for the week. This will include relevant online links. They will also be in contact with you throughout the week. You can contact Class teachers on the emails below. As we develop the use of Earwig class teacher may begin to use this as their main communication system.
 - Our teachers will inform you of the current curriculum themes and key aspects of learning appropriate for your child. Class teachers will make suggestions as to activities you can do with your child related to these aspects of learning.
- Our website will be updated regularly, including information regarding reputable educational websites or resources platforms that are offering free access for parents. An example of this is Education City: There is now a link from our Home Learning page to the login details for this site. We expect class teachers to signpost you to these new resources if relevant. Please look at our website regularly as we are continually updating it with new and exciting resources.
 - We have been granted full access for parents to Espresso, an online learning resource suitable for many pupils across our school. It is often used in school for daily news articles aimed at primary students, but also suitable for some of our older learners.
 - Log in at: www.discoveryeducation.co.uk
Username: student4687 Password: addington
 - We have a number of other online learning platforms that are suitable for small groups of our learners. These include DoodleMaths, Education City and Purple Mash. Class teachers will let you know the details if they are relevant/appropriate for your child. To make you aware as a parent there are several online resource website offering free trials and access. These include Twinkl, this is an online resource of activities and resources that is currently used by our teachers. <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>
- Below you will see a list of dedicated emails set up for you to contact school curriculum leaders if you have any questions around learning for your child.
- Our subject specialists, especially our Creative Arts and PE teams are creating a great bank of videos to help engage your children. These videos will be shared with you via Earwig, emails from class teachers or via our Home Learning Page on our website <https://addington.schooljotter2.com/pupil-pages/online-learning>. I hope everyone has now seen our fantastic 'I'll be there for you' video <https://youtu.be/slBrrJgxQ-A> created by the Creative Arts team and the PE teams fitness and yoga videos (links on the right of this page) <https://addington.schooljotter2.com/pupil-pages/online-learning/home-learning-pephysical-development>
 - The creative arts team have also created a community blog here: <https://addingtonmusiccommunity.blogspot.com/>

It is worth being aware that due to safeguarding concerns we will not be delivering any live teaching via any technology platforms.

Earwig

The most powerful home learning information tool that we have just introduced is Earwig, an online evidence gathering and sharing platform. This will enable the teacher and parents to share pictures and videos between home and school. We launched this on Monday 30th March. By the time you receive this newsletter you should have received a login email from Earwig Academic. If you haven't please email helpline@addington.wokingham.sch.uk.

It has been great to see some of the fantastic photos and videos that our trail blazing teachers and parents have been posting. It has been great to see some of the fantastic activities your children have been getting up to whilst unable to come into school. Thank you to those teachers and parents that have embraced this new technology so quickly.

Your child's teacher will communicate with you by email as to whether they are going to use Earwig or email as their main communication method. Teachers will begin using Earwig when they are confident in its use. We hope most teachers will start using this after Easter.

Keeping in Touch and Home Learning Updates

In these very difficult times, we will do our utmost to ensure we have open lines of communication with you. We will do this in several ways explained below. First and foremost, we will keep our website up to date with our latest responses to the coronavirus crisis and we will also email all parents these updates.

If you need to contact us for support or advice, we have a helpline@addington.wokingham.sch.uk *This is being monitored by a senior leader Monday to Friday and we will endeavour to get you the support you need or signpost you to it.* We also have a Parent Support email and technical support email if needed

Class teachers

Department	Emails
Early Years	daisyclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk sunflowerclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk tulip@addington.wokingham.sch.uk lilyclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk daffodil@addington.wokingham.sch.uk
Complex and Sensory Needs	poppyclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk limeclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk hollyclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk appleclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk cherryclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk
Middle School Key Stage 2	birchclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk pineclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk willowclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk rowanclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk
Middle School – Key Stage 3	beech@addington.wokingham.sch.uk chestnutclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk mapleclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk sycamoreclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk
Upper School – Key Stage 4	kiteclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk swanclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk
Upper School – Key Stage 5/ FE	owlclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk eagleclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk kestrelclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk robinclass@addington.wokingham.sch.uk

Curriculum Leaders/ Support Services

Subject Area	Subject Area	Scope
English and Communication	E-and-C@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about writing or communication
Reading	reading@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about reading
Maths and Cognition	maths@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about maths
Science	science@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about science
ICT	ictteacher@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about ICT curriculum or activities
Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (Including Relationships and Sex education)	pshe@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about PSHE curriculum or activities
Physical Education	physical@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about PE
Creative Arts	m-ca@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about music, art , drama
Complex and Sensory Learners Needs	c-and-s@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about sensory learning activities/suggestions
Hearing and Visual Impairment Support	HIVI@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about Hearing Impaired or visual Impaired
Autism Support Service	ASD@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions and support needs for your child with Autism
Parent Support Advisors	psa@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	If you want to get in contact with our PSAs – Lucy and Ellie
Behaviour Support Service	behaviour@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	Any questions about your child's behaviour if you are experiencing difficulties
Technical Support	TechSupport@addington.wokingham.sch.uk	If you need support with anything technical to do with access IT based learning or Earwig

Parent Contact Information

Please stay in touch with us. If your email address or phone number has changed please email us

at: helpline@addington.wokingham.sch.uk

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. Please note that there is currently no need to login to the school mobile app as all information on there is public to view.

New Building Update!

This is the progress on site so far:



Headteacher's Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who achieved awards for the second half of the Term:



Key Stage 2

Daniel Kral

Isaac Sheikh

Key Stage 3

Summer Tingley

Key Stage 4

Charlie Manning



SPORTS PAGE



COMMUNITY TRUST

Care • Develop • Educate



Primary Football Tournament at Madejski Stadium

On Friday 6th March Addington sent a team of primary pupils to play in the first ever primary football tournament run by Reading FC. We played against three other local SEN schools in the indoor training dome at the Madejski Stadium. All the boys tried really hard and enjoyed themselves, each receiving a medal at the end of the tournament.



Secondary Interhouse Polybat

On the last day of the first half of the Spring Term, Secondary and FE had their interhouse polybat competition. 71 students took part. The standard of play was amazing with some really long rallies. Everyone really enjoyed the event. Thank you to the House Captains: Jack Healey, Saahil Ali, Chloe Weavers, Ryan Skevington, Alex Green, David Russell, Nathan Hunter, Ollie McGrath for their help in setting up and taking down the tables.

- 1st place— **Red Eagles** (40 points)
- 2nd place - **Green Crocodiles** (30 points)
- 3rd place - **Blue Sharks** (28 points)
- 4th place - **Yellow Tigers** (22 points)



Thank you to all the staff that made this event such a success. I asked the managers and scorers to choose their **most improved players** (MVP's). Here is the list:

Green Crocodiles: Benji Winter
Joseph Kenneh

Red Eagles: Saahil Ali
Angelina White

Yellow Tigers: Rowan Nyamaradzo
Anya Crawshaw

Blue Sharks: Ben Walker
Pierce MacMahon



Interhouse Pancake Races

On Wednesday 26th February (the day after Shrove Tuesday!), we held the Addington Interhouse Pancake Races. Pupils ran and tossed their pancakes to gain points for their house. Those who took part outside on the MUGAs found it rather tricky as it was blowing a gale! There was also a staff competition to see who could toss their pancake the highest.

Results:

1st **Red Eagles 32 points**
2nd **Green Crocodiles 30 points**
3rd **Blue Sharks 28 points**
4th **Yellow Tigers 24 points**

A Staff final took place on Monday 2nd March and Hannah Thorne from Daffodil Class was the winner.





Girls' Football Tournament at Madejski Stadium

On Thursday 5th March we took a girls' team to play in a football tournament against other local SEN schools at Reading FC's indoor training centre at Madejski Stadium. It was a very challenging morning for our girls as the other teams were much bigger and stronger than them. However, they kept battling with smiles on their faces and even scored a goal! Well done girls.

Avenue Swimming Gala

On Thursday 27th February we took a team of 4 primary pupils to The Meadway Sports Centre for a swimming gala hosted by The Avenue School. They took part in length and width races with and without floats, a relay race and a treasure hunt. All the children enjoyed the competition and Addington received medals and certificates for finishing 3rd.



Swimming Gala – 7.3.20

One of our students (L) participated in a swimming Gala held at the 'Guildford Spectrum' on the 7th March. He loves competing in swimming as that's his favourite sport! He swam 5 races and won 2 medals: bronze in 25m medley and gold for 25m breaststroke. Well done L!

L swims for the Club Starfish in Maidenhead and Reading Signets, Electric Eels, Sussex Squids, Leatherhead Swans, Woking Dolphins and the Basingstoke Bluefins were the other teams that participated. This Gala was preparation for a Mencap National competition in the summer.



GOLF: Sand Martins award scholarship to Addington Student

By [Richard Ashton](#)



Sand Martins

T and his father are pictured with Symon O'Keefe (left) and Alan Leason (right).

An Addington Student T is the latest recipient to receive a scholarship as part of the Sand Martins Golf Club Feel Inspired Academy Satellite Club for Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The 14-year-old with Downs Syndrome is a pupil at Addington School in Woodley, where he lives.

At the Wokingham club's academy, he has grown in stature and confidence by learning to play golf under the guidance of Sand Martins professional Symon O'Keefe, Academy Satellite Club manager Alan Leason and other coaches.

It was Symon and Alan who recommended T for the scholarship, which was approved by the club's general manager, Matt Short.

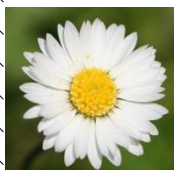
T attends the academy each week with his parents.

At Addington, he takes part in several other sporting activities, including tag rugby, swimming, football and orienteering.

A keen supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, he has represented his school in the national panathlon games, swimming at the Olympic swimming pool in London.

Early Years

All Early Years classes have really enjoyed exploring our theme Traditional Tales and Puppets.



Daisy Class - We have really enjoyed sharing some well-loved stories such as 'Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'the Gingerbread Man' and most recently 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We have explored themed sensory trays, stimulating all our senses through re-enacting stories and experienced rhythm and repetition through call and response versions of stories. We have enjoyed exploring different festivals through tasting and cooking. We have also explored different cultural customs through stories and play, for festivals like Chinese New Year and Pancake Day. World Book Day was enjoyed by all with some wonderful outfits and fun stories shared.



Sunflower Class - Sunflower Class have enjoyed exploring 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears' and 'The Enormous Turnip'. We enjoyed acting them out using props and costumes. Many of the pupils also made character masks and enjoyed dressing up as characters. The children have been developing their listening and attention skills during our sensory story sessions. Many of the children have developed an increased interest in our Call and Response chants too.

This term we started our first Forest School Sessions with a pilot group of students from across Early Years. The students have really enjoyed exploring new environments and taking part in activities in the local woods in their all weather gear.





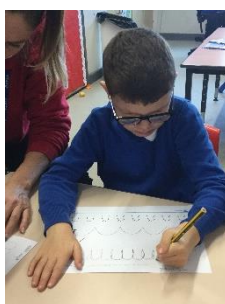
Tulip Class - Tulip class have enjoyed the stories of the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'the Gingerbread Man' through Call and Response activities and sensory stories. We also loved exploring the story of the 'Enormous Turnip' during an Early Years Assembly, enjoying pretending to be different characters and helping to try and pull the turnip out of the ground! To celebrate Pancake Day we made pancakes during our cooking lesson and took part in the Inter-House Pancake race which was lots of fun! We have also made gingerbread men in our cooking lessons this term, working on using different tools such as rolling pins and cutters, and have even been cracking some eggs! The best part was then decorating them with icing and eating them of course!



Lily Class - Lily Class have been focusing on the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. We have explored and acted out the story using masks and puppets, made collage pictures and built houses. We have also been using story maps to develop our story telling skills - these have really supported us in remembering the order of the story and repetitive lines.

We enjoyed World Book Day by dressing up - we had the 'Tiger who came to Tea', 'Paddington Bear', 'Little Bo Peep' and many other book characters. Lynda (Deputy Head) also came to Lily class to share the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' with us! She used a story map to retell the story and encouraged the children to join in with the repeated refrain "who's that trip trapping over my bridge?"

The children have improved their counting and number skills by counting characters and things from the story. We have also been working hard on phonics and reading this term, focusing on the sounds s, a, t, p, i, n, g, o and using symbol reading books.





Daffodil Class - Daffodil Class enjoyed exploring 'The Gingerbread Man'. We practised our fine motor and instruction following skills whilst making gingerbread men in the kitchen. We have played lots of ring games and had fun dressed up as the characters chasing each other, reciting the repeated refrains: "Run run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

This was followed by the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' where we explored lots of sensory, small world story trays, and call and response to help retell the main events of the story. We seemed to have lots of grumpy trolls in our classroom shouting "who's that trip trapping over my bridge?"

Finally, we read the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. The Big Bad Wolf made an appearance in our Bucket sessions, splatting the pigs, blowing the house materials away and knocking down buildings. We used story maps to help us retell the story with picture prompts and acted out the story in the role play 'Building Site' and knocking blocks down in Soft Play.



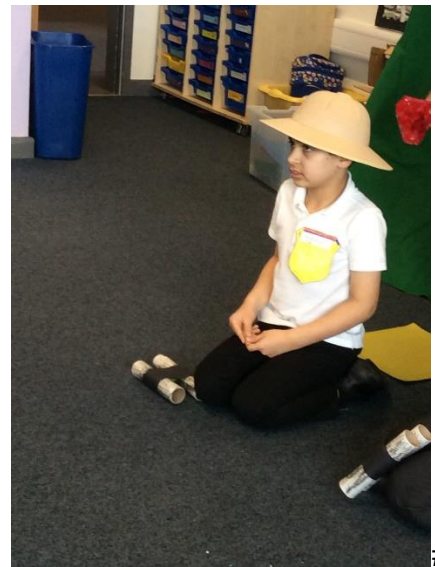
The Early Years Team

Middle School News

Well what a different world we occupy since the last Newsletter. I hope all of you who are at home with your children are managing to stay calm and well. Hopefully you are finding the videos and resources provided on the website Home Learning and Class pages and blogs useful in keeping your children happy and usefully occupied.

This half term **Rowan class** have been working with great enthusiasm on the Earth Crown story, taking part in Drama lessons and making a wide range of explorer props, such as binoculars and jewels, as well as using green screen to film scenes. They also used junk modelling materials to create colourful animals.

They've also been looking at the importance of personal space, which soon became a focus in the news! We've enjoyed exploring the features of fiction and nonfiction texts, using terms such as 'made up/story' and 'real life/information' and finding examples of 3D solid shapes in everyday objects.



Willow class have also been very creative and have loved their weekly drama lessons with Chris preparing for our KS2 production of The Earth Crown, which will now sadly be put on hold. However, they also love to cook and taste recipes from different cultures. They made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and spring rolls for Chinese New Year. For our Indian Adventure topic we made Aloo Chat, a delicious potato salad recipe from India. I'm sure they will enjoy practising their skills helping you prepare meals at home.



This term **Cherry class** have been looking at gardens. In horticulture they have grown lots of different plants, fruits and veggies.

Our story has been Princess Esme, about a princess who is taught to enjoy life through gardening and picking strawberries rather than jewels and dresses.



Birch class started off the term working very hard with our new topic: Indian Adventures. We explored different parts of India such as: Temples, Jungle and the Mountains through sensory stories and art activities. We all worked really hard at developing our communication skills through making fruit kebabs, and in our exploratory play sessions. We particularly enjoyed exploring Ice with spices and making Salt Dough Divas. All of Birch class team look forward to seeing what you get up to whilst at home, and continue your hard work!





Pine Class news



This term we have really enjoyed using the trampoline in PE.

Some of us have participated in a football tournament.



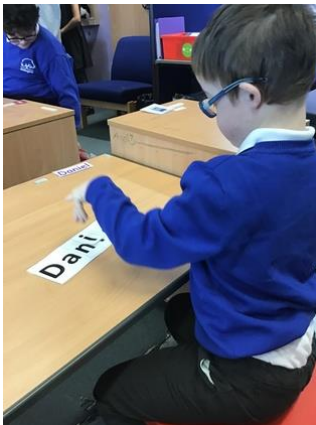
We have enjoyed learning about the characters in The Jungle book for our Indian Adventure theme

We have practiced phonics daily.

We have completed workstations daily



We have enjoyed bike races now the weather is beginning to warm up



Chestnut Class News

Chestnut Class have had a busy few weeks.

Our topic this term is Urban Pioneers and we have been learning all about where we live and our local area.

In Chestnut class we love the story of 'Stick Man', so we have used this book to develop our own story telling skills. We have been making our own Stick Man characters and taking them on a journey to the places we know in our area. Unfortunately, our story ideas have got cut short with the closing of school, but if you'd like to continue developing your ideas – please do!



So far, our Stick men have accompanied us on our community visits to Woodley, and they have also travelled around the school!

During our visits around our area, we have been looking at the local amenities, looking at information signs, and we have posted letters home to you – hopefully you have received these by now?



We have also made our own model town!



We have also been finding out lots of facts about Douglas Bader. We have made a lovely display in our classroom of all our written work and drawings.

We have also been working hard in our daily Maths and Phonics sessions, so please look out for information on how you can all keep up the good work at home.



Good Luck everybody and looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Angie & Ness

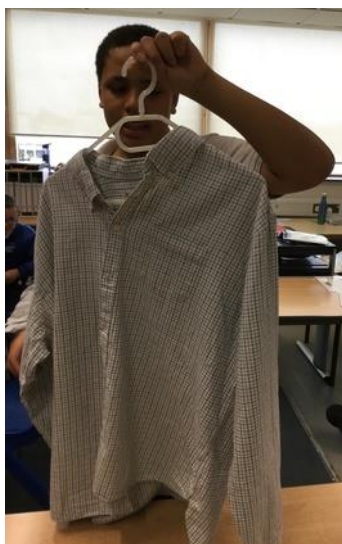
Sycamore Class

Sycamore class have had a fun half term continuing to work on the 'Urban Pioneers' topic. In literacy, they looked at old photos of Reading and then designed their own towns. They enjoyed deciding the buildings, nature, population size and any special features they wanted in their town. The class also learnt about the graffiti artist Keith Haring and created a class mural, using his style, on the panels surrounding the new building.



We enjoyed celebrating World Book Day by dressing up as a book character and writing a book review. We were also read a story called 'Tiddalik the Frog' by the KS3 lead, Lydia.

During 'Life Skills' sessions with Gail, the class practised ironing, polishing and hanging up socks on a drying rack. The class' competitive side was brought out by taking part in weekly sock hanging competitions! It was a race to see who could hang up the most pairs of socks and we practised counting in 2's to see who the winner was. They also worked on hanging shirts, jumpers, and coats on a coat hanger. We worked on life skills in cooking too. The class learnt to make beans on toast as a hot snack this half term. It would be great if Sycamore class could keep practising these skills at home!



Some other things Sycamore class have done include: using Google Maps to find landmarks around the world and more locally, making a wormery and planting potatoes in gardening, and learning about time and weight in maths.

Sending positive wishes to all! Stay safe! - Kathryn

Maple Class at Loddon School



We had a lovely day at Loddon School, organised by Rhona, participating in an art session with a visiting artist, alongside some students from Brookfields School.

The artist had made a wooden version of the initial of their name and the session itself gave the students access to a huge amount of small plastic objects and toys! The students now have a lovely wall hanging which they were able to take home. We then had

some play time to explore the grounds and the smallholding where there are goats, pigs, Shetland ponies and donkeys!



Beech Class News



Beech Class have continued to enjoy our trips to Camp Mohawk and when the weather has been good we've loved exploring the beautiful outside area and all the fun equipment to play on. We have started our snack café every snack time and pupils have enjoyed coming to choose and pay for their snacks. We have been practising our life skills with regular trips to the shops, cooking and PSHE sessions. We have made our names in graffiti style and have enjoyed learning more about our topic through bucket sessions. We enjoyed making Mother's day cards and thinking about all the ways in which our mums are special.



Holly Class News

Holly class have been enjoying group Art and Music therapy this half term. They have enjoyed taking part with the songs. Karen playing her clarinet had a huge calming effect on the class. At points we have had the whole class sitting in circle and engaging which is huge progress. They have also enjoyed creating a range of pictures with Cecilia using different materials and paints.



Poppy Class

This term the students in Poppy class have been working on activities surrounding the theme "what grows in your garden?". The children have participated in a sensory story with Gerry the scarecrow where they have helped plant beans and collected lavender. The students have also created bird feeders and Mother's Day Elvis Parsley gifts in gardening and have made a variety of vegetables and flowers in Art to display on the classroom theme board. The pupils have also participated in weekly activities including their physio routine, working on their communication skills and taking part in Sensology with the aroma touch therapist.



Apple Class had fun doing the Disgusting Sandwich story.



Finally, I hope you all stay well and happy over the holiday period. Don't forget time just to relax and unwind at this difficult time is just as important as reaching targets. If you are lucky enough to have a garden make the most of the better weather for outdoor learning opportunities - or as we used to call it 'playing outside' ☺. Mel has put some great ideas on the home learning page. Best Wishes and Happy Easter to you all.

Yvonne Edwards and Lydia Colios
Head of Middle School Key Stage 3 Lead

UPPER SCHOOL

Swan Class News

It has been a busy half-term despite the interruptions and change of learning location, but our students have managed marvellously and we have been impressed at how they have adapted to home learning. See what we have been up to!

Business Enterprise Skills and Work Experience

Our topic for the term has been Fast Fashion and Swan Class worked hard to build their own pop up Recycled Fashion Shop. This involved many home and business Skills. Students brought in or obtained second hand clothing that was then sorted, and laundered where appropriate and categorised ready for sale. Initially the pop up shop was going to be run as a market stall and true pop up shop, in Woodley Town Centre on the 18th March as part of a much larger Artisan Market. Although this event was cancelled at the last minute our entrepreneurial students rapidly built a pop up shop in Swan Classroom for 2 days. They re-marketed the shop with new advertising, and practised their cashier skills before going 'live' on the 17th and 18th March. The pop up shop made £97 profit and was a hit with all the students and staff that came for their bargain purchases.



On a Wednesday afternoon Gail has been running Business Enterprise Lessons, whereby our students have been busy making Cards, Easter and Mothers Days gifts and designing and printing their own T-shirts. The students have learned a whole range of new skills in small scale manufacturing and production, including quality control.



A number of students this term have been involved in Work Experience either at Loddon School or the Farm, where they learnt how to look after a variety of different animals as well as horticulture. Some students have been visiting Birches Café, where they help set up and serve lunches to the residents. Thank you to Stacey for setting up these work experiences.

Fast Fashion

As well as our pop up shop, students have taken part in a host of different activities and experiences as part of our Fast Fashion topic. We have looked at the impact of the fashion industry on the environment as well as designing our own wonderful outfits using recycled products such as crisp packets and old DVD's with Angie and Jules in the Art department.

Using some recycled clothing the students also dressed up in a range of very different outfits and using the Mr Ben Shop idea we went in to the shop in our school clothes and came out 'as by magic' in our new outfit and were whisked off to a suitable setting with camera wizardry provided by Martin to locations such as New York, Disneyland, a Rock Concert and Gotham City!



Life Skills

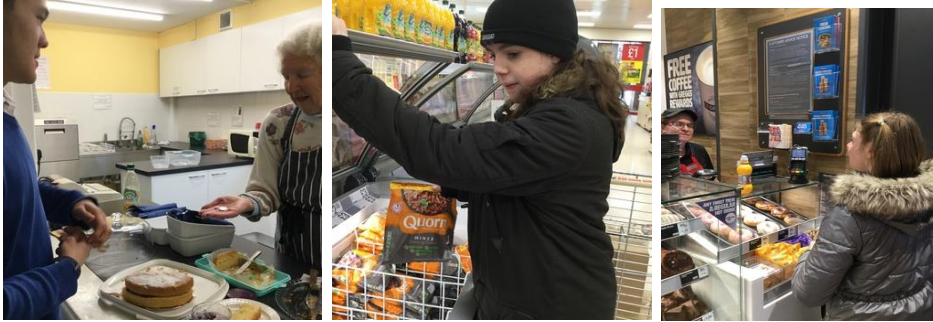
Cooking on Tuesday has produced some lovely lunches that the students work in a team to make and serve to the whole class. Some of the popular dishes they have been making this term have included Toad in the Hole, Spicy Vegetarian Sausage Pasta Bake, Millies' Cookies, Healthy Homemade Burgers and Veggie Burgers and Oreo Cheesecake. The students' cooking assessment for the term was to independently cook a healthy lunch themselves. They choose from either beans, cheese or scrambled eggs on toast.



We are incredibly proud of the many students (and parents!) who have taken up the challenge of cooking at home for their families, transferring their skills and recipes from school into their homes. There is nothing more satisfying than being able to cook even the simplest dishes or drinks for your family. Thank you to all the parents that have supported their children in cooking at home.

Life skills in the community continues with our weekly shopping trips to the supermarket to purchase ingredients for cookery; this includes budgeting and money skills as well as communication and team working. We have also continued with our trips to the the Rainbow Café and for Monday life Skills Group to Bosco Lounge, Costa Coffee and Coffee#1 in Woodley.

These are not only important social events but also helps develop money, life skills and independence. During all our trips into the local community we continually develop Social Sight Words with the focus this term on being supermarket, café, warning, recycling and pedestrian signs.



PE

During our weekly offsite PE lessons, we have been enjoying swimming on a Friday afternoon at the Carnival Pool. These are always very popular sessions with the students, and on a Wednesday morning PE the students have been doing table tennis.

A bizarre but rather popular event was our first School Pancake Race, where Swan class helped and supported other classes in running some of their own pancake races. Great fun for all, and we hope to replicate this every year – most of the pancakes for the races were made by our students!

Home Learning

For the last 2 weeks students have taken up the challenge of moving their learning environments into their homes. It has been lovely not only to hear so much positive news from the parents on how everyone has adapted to this new way of learning, but also to see the photos. Here are some of the things our students have been up to. Keep up the excellent work, and this really could not happen without the support and enthusiasm of our amazing parents – well done.



Owl Class News

Owl Class have been busy on the sensory topic of colours and weather, joining in with the “We’re Going on a Rainbow Hunt” sensory story, going through an adventure of different weather until they find the rainbow. This incorporates joining in repetitive refrains accompanied by actions and over the weeks focusing on our senses: sight, touch, hearing, movement, smell and taste. We have enjoyed the adventure on a rainbow hunt, acting out the story, joining in playing instruments and using the props for the sensory story and props made in sensory craft sessions. We used symbols to choose where we were going to go on the journey.

We have made a variety of sensory craft items linked to our sensory theme of weather: windmills for wind, foggy sensory art for fog, raincloud, using marbling technique and cotton wool for rain, a big sensory sunshine for sun and a beautiful sensory rainbow out of coloured fabrics for the rainbow. For the colours topic, we made tie dye art, coloured rice art, marbling art and then weaving rainbows with coloured fabrics.

Our Work Skills Project this term has been running Owl Café, which has involved the students following prompt strips to make icing, decorate biscuits with icing and icing pens, make drinks, wash up and clean tables, serve the food and pour drinks for the students from another class and then join in the eating and drinking too, while socialising with the students from another class. A different class each week has come to our café.



We have continued to go to The Birches Café, to practise what to do in a cafe more independently – remembering how and where to queue, using their communication supports to order their food and drink with decreasing support.

We have been enjoying going to The Ridgeline on Fridays for horticultural therapy. We have been looking for signs of spring in the garden, doing scavenger hunts, learning about birds through games and crafts, cutting dogwood with secateurs for compost and planting bulbs.



Our Upper School Fast Fashion topic has involved the students designing T-shirts by choosing two emojis and then we practiced ironing the creases out of our T-shirt with an adult (or watched an adult). We then helped an adult iron our name and emojis onto the T-shirt. Some of our students went to Peacocks in Woodley to follow their given symbol to find a shirt, T-shirt and trousers. We felt



different fabrics. We liked the fluffy fabric. Some also went to Clarks shoe shop for feet measuring, finding out which shoe size they are.

In PSHE we have been learning where our private body parts are and consent to touch and saying no (using NSPCC guidance).

In Cooking, we have made some lovely lunches including chicken/quorn pie (one of each) and fish risotto. Some of our students have been working on their chopping skills with a small knife and some of our students have been helping to make cakes and

biscuits by pressing a switch to turn on the food mixer.



This term has involved some of our students doing external work experience work placements too. These have included Loddon School, Piazza Café and Sue Ryder. Well done to all of our students doing their internal work experience (Owl Café) and external work experience also at The Ridgeline every Friday.



Kite News

We really enjoyed our Friday afternoon fitness sessions with Claire this half term, and using the trampoline in PE.





Cello concert

The class loved supporting their peers whilst they played during a cello concert. Well done to all those who participated

Jeallot's Hill Community Landshare

Students follow instructions from an employer to undertake various gardening activities. Here our students are dead heading, planting and watering, sowing seeds and mixing compost. Everyone works hard and we enjoy interacting with the amazing staff at the Landshare.



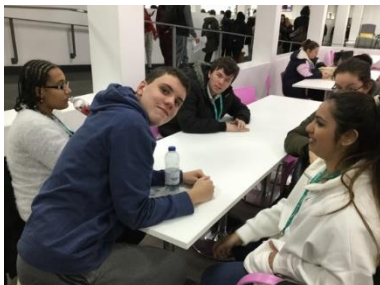
Kestrel Class News



Students who are hoping to have work experiences in cafes and restaurants have been working on health and hygiene skills during Hospitality...they have also been making delicious recipes and showcasing their skills.

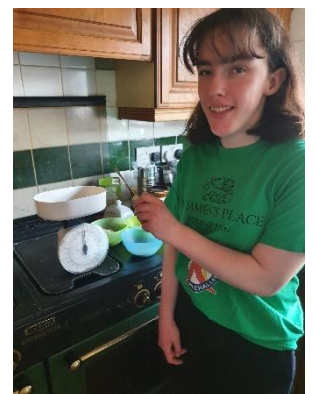


Through the Fast Fashion project, everyone has been working on presentation skills and how to dress for different occasions, such as job interviews. Students enjoyed creating this preppy 'college-look.'



At college, students have been travelling more independently. They go to and from college using Reading buses, and phone apps to track time-tables and journeys. Everyone is enjoying their course sampling.

Kestrel students have been brilliant at sending in pictures of everything they have been doing on home-learning projects. Some are using project ideas taken from the Upper School webpage. Well done everyone!



Eagle Class News

Where does one begin? It has been one of those almost indescribable half terms. It started with things running normally, with everyone following a daily routine, but with an ear to the ground, listening to the news from around the world about the distant virus. And then it was here. The F.E. residential trip to Calshot in Southampton had to be called off, due to the spreading pandemic. Until then however, Eagle class went about its usual daily routine as enthusiastically as always.



During the four weeks while at school, some of us continued our offsite P.E. sessions of swimming each Tuesday at the Loddon Valley Leisure Centre, while others were engaged in work experience and horticulture.



Our young people were also engaged each week in cooking lunch. To develop their money skills, they were given the opportunity to shop for ingredients, looking for bargains by comparing prices. They were encouraged to follow simple recipes, with little supervision, to prepare a meal. Developing Life skills being an important part of our curriculum, students have been given the opportunity to practise these everyday skills in using the dishwasher, washing machine and the vacuum cleaner.



Some of the class attended the Links courses at Reading College where they did cooking and Ceramics, while others went to BCA where they did land-based activities (caring for the environment) and were given an insight into animal care, where they helped feed goats, sheep, pigs and chickens.

As is evident and always the case for our young people, it has been another busy half term filled with practical activities, but sadly cut short due to the pandemic. Having made contact with all our parents, it is heartening to note that the familiar upbeat and positive morale and humour still prevails,

We wish that everyone stays safe and we can before too long be together as a class again.





Robin Class News



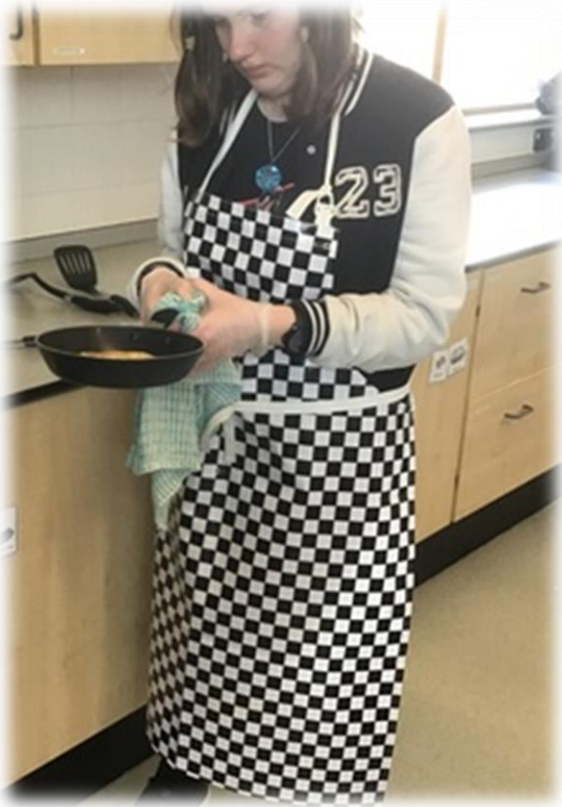
As part of our fast fashion project we had started to learn to sew buttons onto fabric and had begun knitting a class scarf!



We experimented with dying fabric with food!



We learnt about using vouchers to pay for books using our world book day tokens!



We enjoyed making and eating pancakes! And joined in with an inter house pancake race!





Creative Arts



Although our half term at school was shorter than we expected, lots of creative arts took place!

Music Lessons

Students having lessons in the music room have continued to explore music based upon Fast Fashion. Some classes have been using the loop station to create a piece for the cat walk, and others have been playing 'Hip to be square.' Complex and sensory needs classes have been exploring the story of The Earth Crown through interactive songs. Our younger students have continued their musical adventure around the British Isles with new songs and activities.

Art

Some of our Upper School classes have been enjoying art sessions with Angie, exploring Fashion design. They have used recycled items to create amazing outfits and hats!

Maple class also enjoyed taking part in an art workshop at Loddon School where they created a collage using recycled material.

Key Stage 2 Production

Our Key Stage 2 students were working towards their production of a story called The Earth Crown. Some classes had been working with Chris to act out scenes, while others worked as a class to tell the story using sensory props and filmed sections ready for a performance. Sadly it is unlikely that the show will be performed but we are really pleased with the skills that everyone learned during the preparations and we look forward to our next production later in the year.



Addington Concert Series

Throughout the year we give opportunities for students who are having instrumental lessons to share some of their work with their friends. This half term we enjoyed concerts from our cello students.

Their performances have been very impressive, showing great progress so far this year.

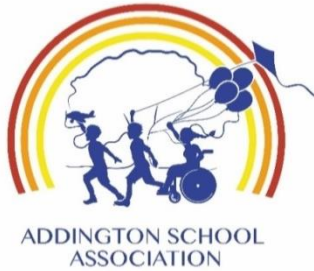
Moving forward

Although we are working in a different way at the moment we are still looking forward to lots of exciting projects and getting as many of our students involved as possible. We have set up an Addington Music Community blog which will be regularly updated with new songs and music activities. We are hoping to involve as many students as possible in our regular shows so look out for details of how to send things into us so we can include you! We look forward to hearing all about your creative work!

Have a lovely Easter!

Rhona, Sean, Jules and Martin





News from the Association

Email: AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com

April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you are all keeping well in these strange times! Keeping in touch is so important right now, but I must admit I don't have a huge amount to update you on for once.

We had by now hoped to have held our first **Family Quiz Night**. However, this was clearly not to be and we had to postpone. I really hope this is something we can hold later this school year as it was shaping up to be a lot of fun. However, we will clearly play this by ear and wait and see when it can take place. I'm pretty sure we'll enjoy the shared experience even more given the lack of social contact we're all experiencing right now.

Thinking about later in the year, would anyone like to take on a sponsored event on behalf of the Association? If you are interested in taking on a challenge and would like support setting up a JustGiving page or advertising for sponsorship please let us know and we'll be happy to help!

Finally, one way that we can raise much-needed funds is to sign up online to Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile. As many people are only able to buy online at the moment, right now is a great time to join us knowing that a percentage of the purchase will be donated to the Association. Please use the links below: Neither require any time commitment nor require you to spend money that you wouldn't be spending already!

EasyFundraising - use the link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/addingtonschoolassociation/>

Amazon Smile - use the link <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1088765-0>

Finally, on behalf of the Association, we would like to wish you all a happy Easter.

Dawn Adams
Chair – Addington School Association

You can contact us either via

School on 01189669073
Email AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com
Our Facebook page

You can donate to the Sensory Garden project via our JustGiving page.

ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019 - 2020



Addington School

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Staff Training Days – (closed to pupils)	Tuesday 3 September & Wednesday 4 September 2019
Term Starts	Thursday 5 September 2019
Staff Training Day (closed to pupils)	Friday 25 October 2019
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 28 October to Monday 4 November 2019 inclusive
Term Restarts	Tuesday 5 November 2019
Term Ends	Friday 20 December 2019

SPRING TERM 2020

Term Starts	Monday 6 January 2020
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2020 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 24 February 2020
Term Ends	Friday 3 April 2020

SUMMER TERM 2020

Term Starts	Monday 20 April 2020
May Day Holiday (closed to pupils)	Friday 8 May 2020
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Friday 22 May to Friday 29 May 2020 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 1 June 2020
Term Ends	Friday 17 July 2020

ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2020 - 2021



AUTUMN TERM 2020

Staff Training Days – All Staff (closed to pupils)	Tuesday 1 September & Wednesday 2 September 2020
Term Starts	Thursday 3 September 2020
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 26 October to Monday 2 November 2020 inclusive
Term Restarts	Tuesday 3 November 2020
Term Ends	Friday 18 December 2020

SPRING TERM 2021

Term Starts	Monday 4 January 2021
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2021 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 22 February 2021
Term Ends	Thursday 1 April 2021

SUMMER TERM 2021

Staff Training Days – Teachers Only (closed to pupils)	Monday 19 April 2021
Term Starts	Tuesday 20 April 2021
Half Term – (closed to pupils)	Friday 28 May to Friday 4 June 2021 inclusive
Term Restarts	Monday 7 June 2021
Term Ends	Wednesday 21 July 2021