



# ADDINGTON NEWSLETTER



December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

What an interesting term it has been! Despite the continuation of the pandemic and the impact it has had, I hope you will be heartened by all the activities and learning that has taken place this term, illustrated in the following pages of our Newsletter.

Our older pupils have once again been able to get off site and back into the community where the learning of functional skills is so important. Our new subject teaching of Art and Drama in the secondary school has got off to a great start with a production seen by parents in KS3 and much more art work from our pupils visible across the school.

Sporting and musical activities have also been in full swing and it has been a delight to see pupils once more engaged in activities that were not as available over the last 18 months of Covid. I accompanied some 6<sup>th</sup> formers to see Jools Holland at the Hexagon in November, where many of them experienced live music for the first time in a long time and all were buzzing at the end of a fantastic performance.

All of our new pupils are now settled into life at Addington School and you will see many of the varied activities in our Early Years Department at the beginning of the newsletter – usually messy, but with high engagement from our young people!

Finally, I would urge you to read the Covid Update on the next page and I would like to reiterate what I have said in it. Thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported decisions we have been forced to make to limit the spread of Covid at Addington, it is much appreciated.

I hope that everyone has a safe, healthy, fun time across the festive season and I look forward to welcoming all pupils back on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**.

Merry Christmas!

Yours faithfully

**Sara Attra**



# COVID UPDATE.....COVID UPDATE.....COVID UPDATE.....COVID UPDATE.....

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, during the last 3 weeks of term, when we have seen the highest number of cases of Covid we have had since the pandemic, I would like to say how grateful I am to parents who have adhered to the advice we have given without complaint. Despite the inconvenience, there has been an incredible effort from parents to get their children tested as soon as they have been able, and it has contributed hugely to keeping all our children and young people as safe as possible and limiting the spread of Covid across the school. Thank you very much for all your support, it is truly appreciated.

Secondly, this term we have seen unprecedented levels of staff absence due to Covid, isolation, other school closures affecting staff availability to work and higher than normal staff sickness. So far, we have been able to staff classes safely and have not closed classes for operational reasons. I sincerely hope that this will continue in January, but please be aware a switch to remote learning may be a possibility for certain classes, if staffing levels worsen.

Thirdly, as you will have heard in the news, the Omicron variant of COVID is spreading rapidly across the country and every day we are receiving new guidance from the government. As always, there is a need to interpret this advice for our pupils, families and staff at Addington in order to take into account the specific needs of our pupils. On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of Covid 19 was introduced.

For us, this means:

## During the Christmas Holidays

- From the DFE guidance :*All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – **should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.** Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19. Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.*
- You can get test kits free from your local pharmacy. The nasal only kits are easier for our children. If you are unable to source any, please contact your class teacher.
- Continue to complete twice weekly LFD tests for any secondary aged pupils that are able
- Remember to test your family if you are going to a large event over Christmas
- Please book a PCR test for any family member that shows COVID symptoms

## On Return on Tuesday January 4<sup>th</sup>

- If at all possible, for all children over 5, **test your child** in the evening of Monday January 3<sup>rd</sup> or morning of January 4<sup>th</sup> **BEFORE** they come back to school, in time for the result to come through before they leave for school
- We will **NOT** be testing our secondary pupils on site for all the reasons we have stated before and there will be no staggered start at the beginning of term.

## Continuing during the Spring term

- To keep pupils in school, if we tell you your child is a close contact of a positive COVID case, you will need to test your child with a LFD test every day for 7 days. If they test negative they can remain in school.
- twice weekly, at-home testing for all students of secondary age and above, where able.

Please be aware that advice and guidance may change over the Christmas period so we will update you when we return.

Finally, thank you once again for your support with the above measures to keep everyone safe and in school.

Dear Parents/ Carers

## **Merry Christmas from the Family Support team**

It is hard to believe that we are a third of the way through the school year already!

It was really lovely to see so many of you at the EYFS Coffee Morning for our parents and carers of children in the Early Years from reception age to Year 3. This informative event was run by Yvonne Wilson and Kaylea Arnold. We had a talk from the lovely Pip Catnach at the Bracknell Sensory Toy Library. Please have a look at their website for details about hiring some specialist sensory resources without charge. [www.bracknellsensorytoylibrary.com](http://www.bracknellsensorytoylibrary.com)

Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold our usual Christmas coffee morning due to the current restrictions – however, we are still here for extra help and support.

Don't forget to check the [Family Support page on the Addington website](#); it has information that may be helpful over the Christmas period, both for the good times and the more challenging ones. There is information there about the upcoming seminars in January on Wills, Trusts and Deputyships.

If you need to contact us, and are unable to reach us by phone, please use the FSW mailbox to contact us by email. Our email address is: [fsw@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:fsw@addington.wokingham.sch.uk).

We hope you have a wonderful time over the festive period making memories with loved ones. Take care and best wishes,

**Ellie, Toni and Aga**  
**Family Support Workers**

## Our Senior Leadership Team



**Sara Attra**  
**Head teacher**



**Lynda Wood**  
**Deputy Head**



**David Maycock**  
**Deputy Head**



**Eirfron**  
**Watkinson**  
**Assistant Head**  
**teacher**



**Emer Moore**  
**Assistant Head**  
**teacher**



**Sue Tod**  
**School**  
**Business**  
**Manager**

## 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 Bracknell & Districts Mencap

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 Wokingham Mencap on 0300 777 8539 for more information.

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## 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.***

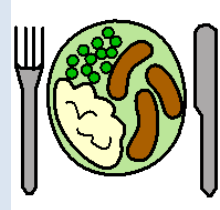
***If you have any query or difficulty with payment of this amount, please let us know and we will endeavour to help.***

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 £2.15

Secondary lunch is £2.35

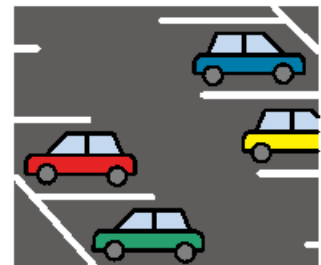


Please remember that money for school dinners should be paid **in advance**.

If you have any problems, please contact Admin on [office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk).

## CAR PARKING REMINDER

1. All drivers **must** use the one-way system marked out by the cones and road markings
2. **Only** park in marked spaces and not on the end of rows
3. All pedestrians **must** use the zebra crossing and the pavement when walking children to and from the site. **DO NOT WALK** on the road by the side of the gates where there is **no pavement** as a short cut. This is very dangerous and could result in an accident





# Headteacher's Award Winners



*Congratulations to the following students:*

## HEADTEACHER AWARD – AUTUMN TERM AWARD

### **Winner:**

Grace Gessey

### **Runners Up:**

Dylan Bourne  
Finlay Bennett  
Grayson du Plessis  
Harry Long  
Joshua Heys  
Lauren Simmonds  
Melek Cebi  
Reinhardt Taute  
Ria Lakhanpal  
Ryan Waller  
Tony Su

## HEADTEACHER AWARD WINNERS – Autumn 2021 (November – December)

### **Early Years**

Ali Mehdi  
Aiden Shinoy  
Amelia Nobes  
Arjun Kamenini  
Azaan Ali  
Cecil Oduro Koranteng  
Firdevs Kilic  
Jack Hawkins  
Oscar Howard  
Tommy Martin  
Vibha Bajamahal  
Zayn Hamza

### **Key Stage 2**

Angelo Fappiano  
Aaron Sondhi  
Dylan Bourne  
Ethan Rozycki  
Evie Cooper  
Fabio Mazzarella  
Gabriella Joyce

### **Key Stage 3**

Alex Henwood  
Chestnut Class as a group:  
- Anya Crawshaw  
- Billy Sawyer  
- Cody Tyler

- Grace Casey
- Kayla Joyce
- Leo Van Cao
- Melek Cebi
- Sofia Baig
- Sophia Gould-Seymour

Grace Gessey  
Jenna Geary  
Mishika Kachhwaha  
Sophia Gould-Seymour

### **Key Stage 4**

Grace Gessey  
Jack Cannon  
Kris Dziaduch  
Presley Shearer

### **Key Stage 5**

Aliza Imran  
Carys Westgate

### **Complex / Sensory & Therapeutic Needs**

Bobby Sawyer  
Cloey Spenceley  
Favor Onoriode  
Finlay Bennett  
Inaya Akram  
Jashvin Kavuri



# SPORTS PAGE



## After school sports club

This half-term we have been lucky enough to have a coach from Reading Football Club come in to school to deliver multi-skills sessions to our KS4 and KS5 bubble after school sports club pupils. All of the pupils love Craig, who makes it such fun for them. Thank you to Reading Football Club.



## London Irish Rugby Festival



On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, London Irish Rugby Club gave our pupils an opportunity to take part in a rugby festival at an indoor dome at Brunel University in Uxbridge. They took part in multi skills games and met 'Digger' the London Irish mascot. After the festival, pupils, staff and parents were taken by bus to the Brentford Community Stadium to watch the Premiership rugby match between London Irish and Newcastle Falcons. The pupils formed a guard of honour for the players as they came onto the pitch at the start of the game and at half-time. It was a brilliant day, enjoyed by all.





## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2021-2022



Our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze pupils have been having fun learning and practising new skills. We have learned about first aid and practised emergency scenarios; talked about food on expedition and made trail-mix; gone to investigate what is on offer at an outdoor retailer and been on practice walks.

Dates for expeditions: Practice Expedition Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Qualifying Expedition Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July.



## Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2021-2022



The students working towards their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award have continued working on their expedition skills this half term. We have done more fire-lighting and BBQ practice (in the rain!), learned to cook a 'one pot pasta' indoors and outside, enjoyed some orienteering at Dinton Pastures and talked about possible 1<sup>st</sup> aid emergency scenarios and how to stay safe on expedition.





# Addington School

## Gingerbread Inter-house Competition

### Dec 2021



We hosted our third annual Gingerbread Inter-house competition recently. Over 200 students participated in the competition. It was lovely to see all the finished biscuits and all the different designs and amazing Gingerbread houses. Everyone enjoyed the baking, decorating and eating. Each bubble participated and judging was done in Bubbles.

The results were as follows:

- 1st Place - **Yellow Tigers** - 408 House Points
- 2nd Place - **Green Crocodiles** - 383 House Points
- 3rd Place - **Blue Sharks** - 258 House Points
- 4th Place - **Red Eagles** - 233 House Points

A huge thank you goes to **Amanda** for all her **hard work** in making this a success yet again, all the heads of key stages, staff and students.





## Early Years

### Daisy Class

This term, the children in Daisy class have explored colour, focusing on different colours each week, in a multi-sensory way. We have squeezed and squished green spaghetti, rubbed our hands in yellow grainy cornmeal and smothered ourselves in slippery orange baked beans! In our circle times, the children used their fingers to investigate colour mixing and we have been busy planting bulbs using earthy smelling, soft black compost. We have developed our gross and fine motor skills whilst tearing brown, bumpy cardboard and sorting coloured 3D wooden blocks. After all that busy-ness, we have thoroughly enjoyed chilling in our yoga sessions with Yoga Claire. We have also been as busy as Santa's elves making special things for our grown-ups for Christmas but that's a big surprise we know you will love!





## Sunflower Class

This term we have enjoyed celebrating and learning about a range of special events including Bonfire Night, Diwali and of course Christmas, with a range of Art activities, sensory play activities and experiences. The class have especially enjoyed decorating our class Christmas tree, hanging some baubles and tinsel on it and have been enjoying listening to and singing Christmas songs. The children have also been working really hard on their communication skills this term, using symbols, PECS, communication boards and Makaton to learn new vocabulary and communicate their wants and needs. We have also continued to visit a wide range of rooms around school and the children are now able to do this more independently as they have learnt where different rooms are.





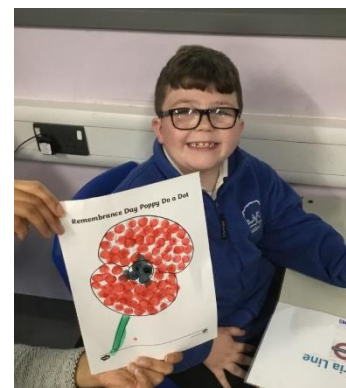
## Daffodil Class

This term Daffodil Class have learnt about autumn, Remembrance Day and more recently Christmas. We have completed lots of fine motor and sensory activities linked to these themes.

We have focussed on shapes in maths, learning about the different shapes and their properties and we have used these to make our own shape pictures. We also practised our weighing skills when making gingerbread biscuits as part of the whole school 'Annual Addington Gingerbread Competition!' The winning entry in Early Years was from a member of our class!

We have really enjoyed our fortnightly swimming sessions in the hydro pool – it is what we really look forward to! Claire has continued to teach us weekly Yoga sessions which helps us to be calm and is great for our wellbeing. We have worked hard this term with Danny in our weekly PE lessons, completing circuits and improving our trampolining skills.

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas!





## Lily Class

Lily Class have enjoyed the 'Colours and Christmas' topic this term! We have learnt about Diwali, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, autumn, and Children in Need's 'One Kind Word'. We have completed lots of different activities based around these themes which we have thoroughly enjoyed!



Decorating our class Christmas tree as part of an Attention Autism activity, making paperchains, snowmen, party hats and gingerbread biscuits have all been highlights in our class! We've even written our own letters to Father Christmas! We hope they reach him in time and he puts us on the 'nice' list!



Lily Class have been very fortunate to visit Thames Valley Adventure Playground this term – we have all had fun on the bikes, in soft play, in the sensory room, on the outdoor equipment and in the role play areas. We are looking forward to hopefully going again in the future!





## Primrose Class

This term we have enjoyed celebrating, learning and exploring colours and Christmas! We have covered a wide range of Art activities, sensory play activities and experiences. The class have especially enjoyed decorating their own Christmas decorations, unwrapping familiar objects in the classroom and playing with snow! We have enjoyed listening and singing along to Christmas songs and exploring Christmas in a sensory environment.

The children have also been working really hard on their communication skills this term, using symbols, PECS and Makaton to learn new vocabulary and communicate their wants and needs. We have also continued to visit a wide range of rooms around school, often completing familiar tasks such as circle time in these rooms.



## Tulip Class

This term's topic has been 'Colours and Christmas' and Tulip class have been enjoying exploring colours through play. We have been using literacy and communication sessions to develop our use of colour language through PECS and communication boards.

We have been able to learn about Diwali and Bonfire Night and done lots of colouring and painting to represent lights and fireworks.

December has meant lots of opportunities for dressing up, decorating the classroom and doing some Christmas cooking. When transitioning to other areas of the school we have been working on independence and understanding of routines. We have enjoyed music and yoga with Claire, especially our Christmas yoga poses. We are looking forward to all the festive fun of the last week of term with lots of music and singing and of course Christmas dinner!



## Early Years Yoga and Music with Rainbow ☺ Claire

In Yoga with Claire this term, we have enjoyed celebrating and learning about a range of different breathing techniques including the breathing ball and mindful bubbles. We have had lots of fun enjoying yoga outside in the new sensory garden and taking our special yoga cards with us. We have enjoyed exploring our mindful yoga toys, being creative in our mindful art and relaxing with the mermaid blankets.



We have also felt the benefits of having hand massages during relaxation too. We are enjoying our new yoga space by having our own rainbow yoga mat to enjoy sitting on or making our physical poses on.



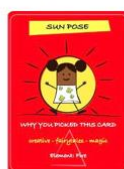


### Christmas 🎄 🧑🏻‍🧘 🎉 Yoga Fun 🥰 At Addington

Gingerbread Man



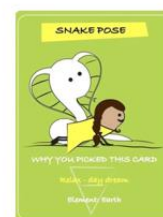
= Sun ☀️ Pose



Chocolate Log



= Snake pose

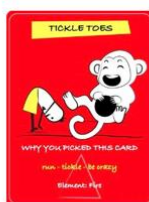


To end the term, we have explored the following Christmas yoga flow. Give the poses a go at home too and see how the poses make your body and mind feel.

Candy Cane



= Tickle Toes Pose



Christmas pudding



= Pig Pose



Chocolate Log

= Snake pose

In Music with Claire this term we have enjoyed exploring the glockenspiels, bells and maracas, learning new songs and enjoying our Makaton signing with the 'Singing Hands' Ladies. We have particularly enjoyed the Reindeer Hokey Cokey and the Gingerbread Cookie movement dances. Primrose class have enjoyed their musical time in Immersive theatre every Thursday with Sean, Jane and Tyrese.

All Six Early Years classes have enjoyed our Dough Disco sessions especially with our different coloured scented play dough: peppermint green and orange cinnamon have been our favourite so far!







## Key Stage 2

### Pine Class

Pine class have had a busy term. Our topic this term was called 'Magic and Mystery' and the children have had fun making potions and dressing up as witches and wizards. In Maths, one of our focuses was 'Money' and the children liked buying their favourite toys from the class shop.



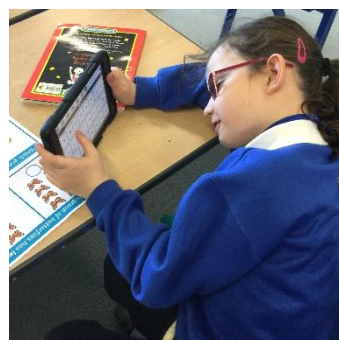
In Literacy, the children thoroughly enjoyed our stories 'Room on a Broom' and 'Potion Commotion'. This term we celebrated Children in Need day, we went to Taplow, enjoyed swimming and had lots of opportunities for outdoor learning in the sensory garden. Towards the end of term, we have been getting into the festive spirit with lots of Christmas activities, singing and dancing. Well done Pine Class for a fantastic term!



### Willow Class

Willow Class are feeling very festive and excited for Christmas next week. We hope you enjoy the Christmas cards and crafts they bring home.

This half term has seen a big change as we moved to a downstairs classroom. The move has been a huge success and all of the children in Willow are benefiting from having their own outside courtyard where we work on gross motor skills, sensory regulation and messy play activities whilst having lots of fun!



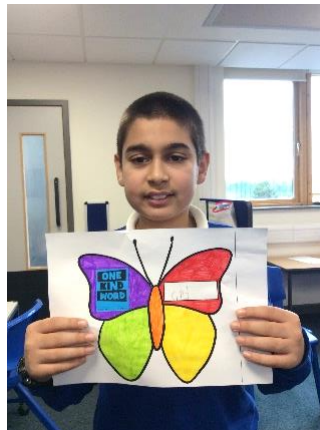
Lots of our learning has been through our topic 'Magic, Mess and Mystery' where we enjoyed stories such as 'Messy Martin', and 'The Magic Porridge Pot'. This week we have been thinking about Christmas and found the story of 'The Dinosaur that Pooped Christmas' hilarious! Last week we took part in the Interhouse Gingerbread Competition and enjoyed decorating our bakes. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



## Rowan class

This half term Rowan class have enjoyed getting into the festive spirit, with activities including making Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer faces, sparkly snowflakes, cotton wool Santa beard Christmas cards and carol singing via TEAMS. Before that we explored techniques such as Jackson Pollock-style drip painting and creating frothing witches' potions as part of our 'Magic, Mystery and Mess!' topic.

We explored verbs, rhyming words and traditional tales in literacy and 2-D shape, money and the process of basic multiplication in numeracy. We also loved taking part in our weekly samba drumming workshop, outdoor learning and swimming lessons at Bulmershe Leisure Centre. It has been a busy but hugely rewarding half term for all!





## Complex, Therapeutic and Sensory Needs Department



### Birch Class

Birch class has continued learning lots of things in our 'school of magic' during the first few weeks. This half term has been full of new experiences: we began our swimming sessions! We had a wonderful time in Taplow too. Everybody loves Immersive Drama every week. During the last weeks of term we have enjoyed a new sensory story "Vixen the Naughty Reindeer" and many other Christmas activities in arts & craft, Attention Bucket and cooking.

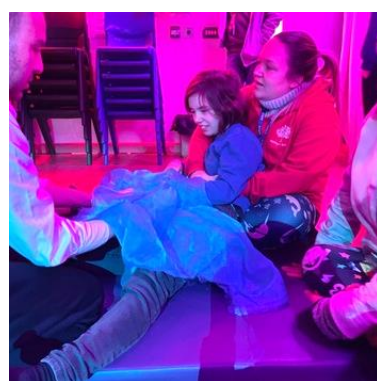
Irene and the Birch class team



### Holly Class

Holly class have had another fun filled half term. They have enjoyed our Harry Potter theme and engaged with touch talk stories, Sensology and TAC PAC around the theme. Some pupils have enjoyed integration session with Angie the Art teacher. Some pupils enjoyed visiting the Christmas fair and spending some of their money. As always Immersive theatre has been a huge success with Holly Class. Each week their engagement levels increase the more they get to know the routine. We have also continued to work on the pupils PLP targets and academic skills too. We hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year.

Kerrie & Holly class team





## Poppy Class



Poppy class have had a busy half term. We have continued with our 'Hocus Pocus' theme and enjoyed some magical Sensology sessions and Touch talk massages. This week we have been making some Christmas crafts and had a lot of fun getting very messy with snow paint and glitter!

We have loved Music and Immersive drama over the weeks and have shown lots of anticipation and enjoyment throughout. We hope you have a lovely Christmas holidays and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Jo and the Poppy class team

## Cherry Class



Cherry class have enjoyed the Harry Potter topic. We created our own kindness owls and letters to our families. We have really enjoyed Horticulture this term and we have made a lot of exciting goodies to take home for Christmas!

We have been getting into the Christmas spirit these last couple of weeks and have been having fun with arts and crafts. We continue to love our hydro sessions and have all be doing amazing things in the water! Merry Christmas!

Alex and Cherry Class Team





## Apple Class

This term Apple Class have enjoyed the sensory story 'Room on the Broom', particularly the rhythmic call and response! We have been developing our curiosity and engagement in a range of sensory play, varying from dry materials to more complex wet materials. We have been working on our gross motor skills in rebound and daily movement activities.

During the last two weeks we have particularly enjoyed some festive activities including exploring gingerbread baking and peppermint creams!

Lois and Apple Class team



## Beech Class



Beech class have had a busy term. Some of our students have been enjoying horticulture and making Christmas crafts. In PE we have been focusing on ball skills and trying out different ball games including hockey, football and basketball. In maths we have been doing weight and capacity and these have been really practical lessons with lots of equipment and apparatus. The students have also been working on estimating before checking the correct weight or amount, and predicting which items will be heavier. We link this to our weekly cooking lesson, weighing the ingredients and working out how much we think we will need.

In our music lessons with Sean we have been enjoying the song 'something just like this', and working on following a beat and keeping to a rhythm. For our last week of term we will be creating some Christmas cards and gifts and enjoying some treats and Christmas films.

Happy Christmas from Beech class!!!



## Lime Class

Lime Class have had a busy half term continuing to explore our topic of 'Hocus Pocus', we've really enjoyed our Harry Potter sensory story.

We have been spending lots of time working on our communication through PECs and Objects of Reference, and we have also been exploring a range of equipment to help with our regulation. We've been very busy getting ready for Christmas and have made lots of different decorations and cards which we can't wait to share with you!

We hope you have a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2022





## Key Stage 3

### Key Stage 3

We have had such a wonderful half term in Key Stage 3 with many exciting and fun opportunities to partake in! We started off with pumpkin lantern carving and decorating - it was a bit of a shock when we saw all 60 pumpkins together which arrived ready for every pupil to have a go at carving or painting. They looked brilliant!

We continued our topic of 'Superheroes' and began to look at real life heroes. We enjoyed a visit from Iain who is both a nurse and works in the army and talked to classes about how he helps people. Formal classes looked at people such as David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg; semi-formal classes looked at different professions such as firefighters, police and nurses. We took part in our drama production 'Mystery Hero' and enjoyed working towards our scenes and performing on stage.

We also enjoyed the music concert by maestros which left us all with a spring in our step - it was lovely to enjoy live music with friends again. We've raised money by wearing spots for Children in Need, Christmas Jumpers for Save the Children and took part in the Santa Dash! All classes took part in the gingerbread inter-house competition and there were so many brilliant entries! Well done everyone for taking part!

We would like to wish everyone a lovely Christmas Holiday and Season's Greetings to all. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year!

Lydia Colios (Head of Key Stage 3)



### Aspen Class

This half term in Aspen Class we have really enjoyed learning about different people who help us. Our favourite heroes to learn about were firefighters. We enjoyed learning the Makaton sign for "firefighter" and looking at their uniform and vehicles. We've learnt lots of different call and responses.

In maths we have been learning about shape, position and capacity as well as number. We've worked on our individual maths and cognition targets. Pupils really enjoyed wrapping the 3D shapes in wrapping paper!



In cooking we have been making toast and choosing our toppings. We've also really enjoyed making our gingerbread for the inter-house competition and made salt dough to make decorations!

We particularly love music and dancing and have learnt many Makaton signs to our favourite songs!

As Christmas approaches we've enjoyed many different arts and crafts including santa masks, glitter baubles, salt dough decorations, wreaths and gingerbread.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday!



## Cedar Class

This half term we have been learning about real life heroes and we talked about what doctors, firefighters and police do to keep us safe. We have practised saying and writing sentences and labelled pictures.

In maths we have been learning about the properties of 2D shapes, positional language, capacity and we continued to work on our number targets.





In our cooking lessons we have been practising making snacks independently. We learned about being kind friends and how to play together in our RSE lessons.

Cedar class moved to a new room; the children have taken the change in their stride and settled really well. In the run up to Christmas we have been making lots of decorations and enjoyed baking gingerbread houses.



## Maple Class

This term, Maple Class have been learning all about 'real life' heroes – people in the community who work hard, show bravery and keep us safe. In literacy, we have done lots of speaking and writing about doctors, nurses, firefighters, police officers and postmen and women.

Below in the photos, you can see us: working on counting in 2s, practising letter formation in our name, role playing doctors and patients, counting money using £2 coins, creating beautiful poppy art for Remembrance week, independently changing the date on our classroom date and time board, practising racket skills in tennis, listening to an amazing rock concert given by Berkshire Maestros, and adding the topping to apple crumble.

As you can see, our term has been very busy and varied! We hope you all have a relaxing holiday and are able to spend time with your loved ones this year.







## Elm Class

Elm Class have enjoyed learning about real life super heroes this half term! We have been researching inspirational people like Florence Nightingale and creating fact files and biographies for each person. When learning about Greta Thunberg, we also did lots of research about climate change and what we can do to help the environment. Everyone chose an animal to research in detail, focusing on the effect of climate change on their habitat. Each student created an impressive presentation about their chosen animal, sharing their research and presenting their brilliant dioramas with the rest of the class.

In PE, we have been developing our basketball skills and in Art, we have been drawing portraits and experimenting with making stamps using different textures. We also helped to create the set for the school production too! Elm class worked so hard in Drama to prepare for their roles in the school play. They were fabulous!

In RSE, we have been exploring what makes a good friend. This is a theme that we work on every day in Elm class and it linked brilliantly with the theme for Anti Bullying week – 'One Kind Word'. We made kindness butterflies for students in Cedar class and received our own butterflies from them too!

In Music, we have been learning about rhythm and last week, we enjoyed Christmas karaoke where we impressed everyone with our top singing skills!

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and we can't wait for more adventures in 2022!



## Chestnut Newsletter

This term we have asked the pupils to dictate to us what they would like to include in the newsletter under various headings:

### Maths with Ness (Subtraction)

We have been doing take aways in Maths - Kayla

### Maths with Martin (Capacity Work and Time; half past, quarter past and quarter to work)

We made potions, we had to read the numbers and make sure there was enough of it – Cody

We have been learning about clocks. - Sophia

Martin calls the clock a pizza! – Billy

### Literacy/Topic with Ness (Real Life Superhero - Jack Cornwell)

Jack Cornwell was born in 1900, he died in WW1. He stayed with his gun after everyone else died – Billy

### Literacy/Topic with Martin (Real Life Superhero - David Attenborough)

David Attenborough is a man that films animals. - Gracie

He looks after the world. – Sophia

He teaches us all about animals. – Cody



### Our Cinema Trip

We went to watch 'Horrible Histories the Movie'. It was funny. – Leo

### Internet Safety (Digital Footprint)

When you go on line it leaves a trace. – Billy

### P.E. with Danny

Trampolining is my favourite part of P.E. – Gracie

### Art with Angie

My best art lesson was Superheroes, we made a town. – Leo

### Science with Julie

I liked the exploding experiment. – Kayla

We got a tray, leaves and toy bugs, we put baking powder, red dye and vinegar in and it exploded! – Gracie

## Sycamore Class

In Sycamore Class we have continued enjoying our Superhero topic. This half term we have learnt about 'real life superheroes' – Florence Nightingale, Jack Cornwell, Greta Thunberg, David Attenborough and Marcus Rashford.

We have continued with bike maintenance and gardening every week.

We have also enjoyed some visits to Camp Mohawk and making lots more delicious snacks and treats in our cooking sessions. We had great fun carving and decorating pumpkins for harvest.

As we have got closer to Christmas we have also made some great decorations and gifts.





## Key Stage 4

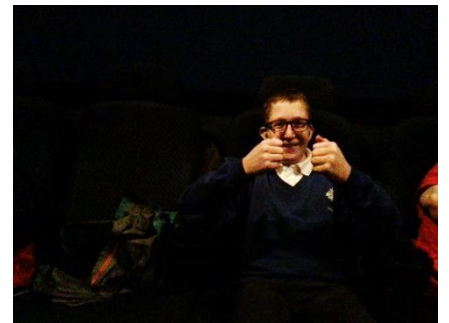
### Swan Class

#### Trips in the local community

We have enjoyed a variety of trips out this half-term, taking the opportunity to do travel training.

We went to Reading Museum, exploring the Huntley and Palmer Gallery as part of our project on biscuits.

We planned our trip to the Vue Cinema in Reading to watch Horrible Histories as part of the Into Film Festival.



We have been into Woodley Precinct to visit cafes, to practise our money and budgeting skills as well as to socialise with our friends.



Our work ready day was a visit to The Museum of Rural Life where students found out about the different jobs in a museum, they also took on the job role of curator, putting together their own exhibition on farm tools.







In Business Enterprise students made Chocolate Santa Sleighs, Bath Bombs and Chocolate Wreaths which were then sold at the Upper School Christmas Fayre.



The inter-house Gingerbread week, meant that students not only made gingerbread biscuits but worked together in teams to mix, bake, construct and decorate our class gingerbread houses. They looked amazing.

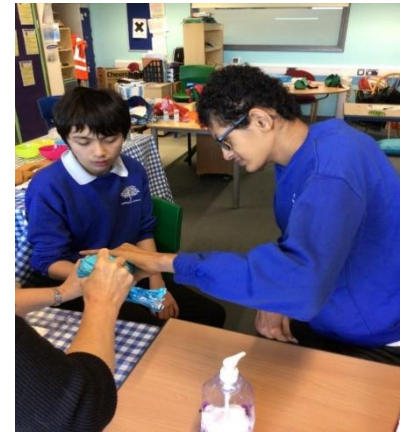




## Kite Class

### Cooking

Students have been cooking a variety of dishes this term, including gingerbread people and houses for the inter-house gingerbread competition.



As part of life skills, students have been out in the local community investigating the different shops in Woodley precinct as well as buying their own snack in a local café.



As part of travel training students have planned and taken a journey on the buses to Reading to go to the cinemas, and also Reading Museum.



### Jeallots Hill Community Landshare

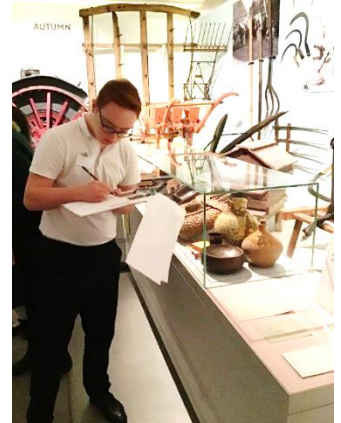
Our weekly group 'experience for work' at Jeallot's Hill has been successful this half term, with students listening to and following the employers' instructions and beginning to develop independence as gardening tasks become more familiar to them. We loved getting involved in Christmas activities there too!





## Work Ready Day at MERL

Students visited the Museum of English Rural Life to learn about and experience different job roles at the local museum. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day; taking part in activities such as pricing and selling for the museum shop and carefully handling and cleaning artefacts. They transferred skills from other settings; listening and following instructions from the employer, and explored the museum with enthusiasm.





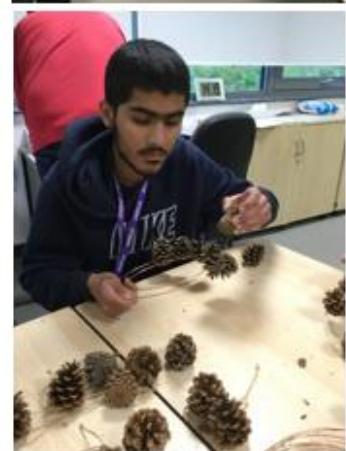
## Sixth Form News

### Eagle class: Has it been an eventful term? Oh Yes it has .....

The uncertainty caused by the pandemic would make one think the autumn term would have put a dampener on things and deprived our young people of an activity filled term. Oh no it didn't!

Over the term, our young people have enjoyed a number of activities in the wider community to develop social, leisure, independence and life skills.

Pictures are worth a thousand words and the ones below are evidence of very positive and enriching activities had by all. Eagle class wishes all a safe and enjoyable festive break, and only the very best in 2022









The Berkshire Masonic Charity funded a special performance of Jack and the Beanstalk for local children with special educational needs.







Upper school students from Addington were privileged to be invited to a very enjoyable day out at Windsor for which everyone who attended are extremely grateful for their thoughtfulness. The event helped bring some much needed and light hearted cheer to a trying time.

## Hawk Class

Students in Hawk class have been working hard at their work experience placements through bespoke timetables. They have made excellent progress on their communication skills by interacting with colleagues and customers.

While in school we have been focusing on skills to prepare for adulthood through PSHE, RSE and Home management sessions, as well as practising Highway Code theory for students that are interested in learning to drive.

Hawk class students have engaged in festive activities in December by entering the gingerbread competition with our 'Vincent Express' train. We have made decorations such as Christmas wreaths and paper chains.

Happy Holidays from Hawk Class!







## Kestrel Class



This half term, Kestrel have been learning about products that are suitable for vegetarians and vegans. Students have visited the supermarket to purchase items which they have then tasted and decided if they liked them or not.

Students are continuing to improve their skills in the kitchen. They are all becoming more independent, but more importantly are starting to communicate well as part of a team.





Kestrel have demonstrated their creativity and enterprise this term by planning, purchasing and producing items to be sold at the school Christmas Fayre. They organised themselves well and managed to sell all their products!



To finish off the term, the students have been putting in to practise their cooking skills and created some wonderful entries for the school gingerbread competition.



Have a wonderful winter break and we look forward to a successful 2022.

## Owl Class

We can't quite believe we have already reached the Christmas holidays! We have especially enjoyed the Christmas festivities this half term brings: we have made lavender scented snowmen; decorated stockings using Eye Gaze and touch screens to create digital art to transfer; created Snowman fence panels; competed in the gingerbread inter-house tournament, and enjoyed a virtual Christmas pantomime to name a few activities.

In PSHE, we have identified characteristics of a good friend through intensive interaction, labelling different actions, and sorting characteristics. We have also continued to work towards our personal targets and have enjoyed a range of life skills activities both within school and the local community. Next term we look forward to the topic 'fast fashions' where we will work towards: making clothing choices, exploring different textures, identifying clothing, developing independence with dressing and clothing management, and designing and decorating clothes and accessories.







## Robin Class

In Robin class this half term we have made the most of our project 'Right Here Right Now' and have enjoyed getting out and about, to see the Christmas lights, explore the shops using public transport, and have enjoyed all of the seasonal activities open to us this year. We have used our local leisure centre for swimming lessons each week, and the gardening charity Ridgeline, for amazing weekly horticulture sessions, as well as visits from Bailey the PAT dog! We have participated in National events such as raising money for Children in Need, and joined with Owl class for a parachute session to raise awareness of anti-bullying and this years 'one kind word' campaign, as well as Christmas Jumper day. Our highlights this half term have been our annual Gingerbread competition – which became really heated this year with amazing sculptures from Hawk and Kestrel classes, as well as a wonderful trip to Windsor to the Theatre Royal for this year's Pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk', and the upper school Christmas Fayre. 6<sup>th</sup> Form students have also taken inspiration from Strictly Come Dancing, to choreograph a wonderful dance to 'Jingle Bell Rock' which will be shared with the rest of the school in the Creative Arts team's Christmas edition of the Addington Show.







## Horticulture

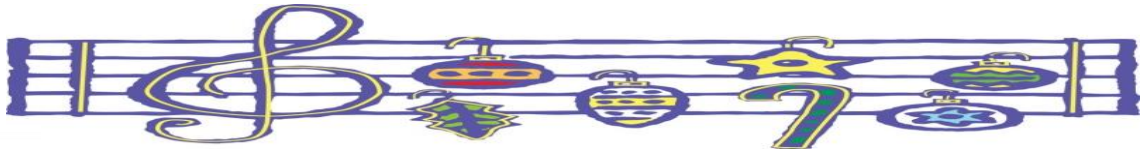
The students have been busy making Christmas wreaths and 'Santa stop here!' signs, made from recycled wooden pallets. We have been focusing on using natural materials and recycling, wherever possible. We saved the poppy seed heads from the car park, painting them silver and used them in the wreaths. We will make seed bombs with the thousands of seeds we shook out of their heads.



The garlic has had a growth spurt since the recent frosty weather and the spring bulbs and onions have also started to sprout.

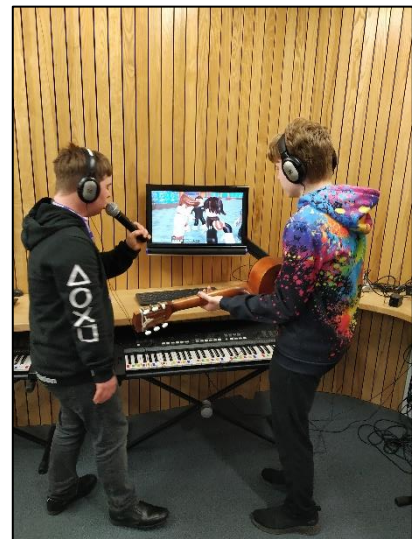
Some of the students sowed tomatoes and peppers today. Hopefully when we return in 2022 they will have germinated.





# The Creative Arts Page

This half term, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new sixth form creative arts pathway. Sixth form students will spend the day with the creative arts team which has been split into three parts – Experience, Community and Leisure. Students will have the opportunity to explore a different art form each half term in their class groups before moving into mixed groups for their community session. In these sessions, the students have been developing leadership and teamwork skills through music, drama and art. The final part of the day gives the students an opportunity to choose a chosen art form to explore further. These sessions are designed to develop their own personal interests in the arts and leisure opportunities for the future. Choices include drama, sewing, painting, music, music technology and more. We are very excited about this new pathway and the students have already shown great enthusiasm and progress so far.



## Music

Early Years have been developing instrument skills and taking turns to use the microphone to play and sing songs based around fireworks and going to the North Pole.

Sensory and Complex Needs have continued exploring songs and activities based upon Superheroes. They have been exploring changes in musical elements like changing fast to slow when helping Superman get to rescues as quick as they can. They have been exploring rhythm and developing knowledge of musical cues along to the song 'Flash' by Queen too. During December, students went on a festive adventure to the North Pole.



KS2 and 3 have also been continued with the theme of Superheroes. They have been focussing on singing 'Heroes' by David Bowie for the KS3 production. Classes have also focussed on using the bass line to 'Flash' by Queen to develop their interaction and listening skills to know when to stop and start playing again during a performance.

KS4 have been learning songs chosen through discussions about their favourite music last half term. Students have been focussing on independence skills by learning how to set up their chosen instrument independently and moving towards rehearsing independently too. Swan class created a performance of 'Stand By Me' by Ben E. King and Kite class performed 'Dance With Me Tonight' by Olly Murs.



## Art

Over the past few weeks in Key Stage 3 we have continued the superhero theme in Art by exploring portraiture. Pupils have been looking at the faces of people past and present who have extra special jobs or have done superhuman things in their lives. We have explored facial features, working with a range of different materials, thinking about where and how shapes fit together on a face. Some classes have learnt how famous artists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Frida Kahlo approached portraiture in their work and thought about how we can use some of their ideas to inform our own work.



Swan class in KS4 have been making dioramas. Their brief was to think about their own interests and create a 3D scene using anything they wanted from the Art room.

Robin Class in 6<sup>th</sup> Form have studied the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, particularly her love of spots and pumpkins! We made our own clay from toilet paper, glue and flour and then set about making our own spotty pumpkins! Here are some of the results...



## Drama

In KS3, students performed 'The Superhero Detectives' to an invited audience. It was a joyous event with many key moments. Here are some of the highlights....





In KS4 students have been working on creating a film trailer. They have explored using still images to show the best bits and used a storyboard to plan the trailer. This will be developed into the students using iMovie to create effects for their film trailer.



In KS5 students have explored how to put on a small performance. They have had to make decisions on costumes, music and set. They have increased acting skills by learning how to perform a short script and how to communicate stage directions through performance skills.



## The Addington Show

The Addington Show is back and available to watch on the school website

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

The latest edition shows what our students have been learning in school as well as some festive music videos from students and staff including our song of the show.

## Clubs

This half term we started our lunchtime and afterschool clubs. Our Addington Band met on Wednesdays with Di, rehearsing festive tunes which will feature on the latest edition of The Addington Show. Our brand new samba club has started too which focussed on exploring instruments used in samba as well as learning a rhythm piece based upon having breakfast.

## Reading Junior Music Festival

In November, 9 of our KS2 and KS3 students had been rehearsing for the Junior Music Festival at The Hexagon in Reading which involved primary schools from the Reading and Wokingham area. Unfortunately, we were not able to attend the concert but we wanted to acknowledge the hard work our students put in to learning the songs. We are very proud of them and know they would have been fantastic!

## Christmas Decorations

The students have immersing themselves in creative activities throughout the festive period and been busy creating lots of Christmas decorations which have been filling up the corridors around Addington for all to enjoy.



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

Rhona, Sean, Jules, Martin and Angie





# News from the Association

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

December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

How is it possible that the first term of the school year is already over? Time continues to fly by! It's been a busy half-term and we were delighted to be able to hold our Christmas Fayre this year, despite it having to be a little more low-key than in previous years. However, it was so nice to simply see so many members of the school community come along and support the event. We raised a very creditable £1,150 on the day which we were very happy with. Thanks to everyone that came along and helped support the event.

We also ran the annual Christmas Hamper Raffle which raised over £1,000! Once again, we would like to thank everyone that entered (or just donated to) the draw. We hope the lucky winners are happy with their hampers!

We were so disappointed to have to cancel the Christmas Carol Concert. It's my personal favourite event each year and I know the same can be said for many of you. However, I know that everyone understood the reason for the decision, and we can only hope that we can hold the concert in 2022!

So, on behalf of the Association, a massive thank you to everyone that has supported our events and fundraising activities this term. We were so grateful for the weekly donations, for everyone that helped out at the Fayre, those that attended the Fayre and to everyone that took part in the raffle. Without you none of this would have been possible, so thank you!

I'd also like to say a special thank you to David Russell, one of our 6<sup>th</sup> Formers, who raised some money for the Association as part of his Silver Duke of Edinburgh award. David grew and sold plants to raise the money which he then kindly donated to the Association. Thank you, David, and well done for achieving your Silver DofE award too!

Which only leaves me to wish you all a very well-deserved Christmas and New Year break.

Relax, enjoy and stay safe.

Best wishes

Dawn Adams  
& all at the Addington School Association

## ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021 - 2022



Addington School

### AUTUMN TERM 2021

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Inset Days – (closed to pupils)</b> | <b>Wednesday 1 September &amp; Thursday 2 September 2021</b> |
| <b>Term Starts</b>                     | <b>Friday 3 September 2021</b>                               |
| <b>Half Term – (closed to pupils)</b>  | <b>Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October inclusive</b>      |
| <b>Inset Day (closed to pupils)</b>    | <b>Monday 1 November 2021</b>                                |
| <b>Term Restarts</b>                   | <b>Tuesday 2 November 2021</b>                               |
| <b>Term Ends</b>                       | <b>Friday 17 December 2021</b>                               |

### SPRING TERM 2022

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Term Starts</b>                    | <b>Tuesday 4 January 2022</b>                                  |
| <b>Half Term – (closed to pupils)</b> | <b>Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February 2022 inclusive</b> |
| <b>Inset Day – (closed to pupils)</b> | <b>Monday 28 February 2022</b>                                 |
| <b>Term Restarts</b>                  | <b>Tuesday 1 March 2022</b>                                    |
| <b>Term Ends</b>                      | <b>Friday 8 April 2022</b>                                     |

### SUMMER TERM 2022

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Term Starts</b>                    | <b>Monday 25 April 2022</b>                          |
| <b>Inset Day – (closed to pupils)</b> | <b>Friday 27 May</b>                                 |
| <b>Half Term – (closed to pupils)</b> | <b>Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June 2022 inclusive</b> |
| <b>Term Restarts</b>                  | <b>Monday 6 June 2022</b>                            |
| <b>Term Ends</b>                      | <b>Wednesday 20 July 2022</b>                        |

#### **Inset Days – School closed to pupils**

Wednesday 1 September 2021  
 Thursday 2 September 2021  
 Monday 1 November 2021  
 Monday 28 February 2022  
 Friday 27 May 2022