

# School Newsletter



Term : Spring 2 2020

Whole School Topic: My Wonderful Self

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well. As you will know, we usually put out class newsletters at the end of each term. This term we have had to do this remotely. As such, class teams have sent me some lovely bits of news and I have compiled them into a single newsletter.

Below is a section for each class, so you can see what goes on in other classes as well as your child's class.

I hope that you enjoy reading all about what has happened last term. I would like to wish all parents, pupils and staff a very pleasant Easter. At present, like other schools up and down the country, we don't know when we will be reopening as we await government guidance. As such, teachers will continue to communicate via email remotely after the Easter holidays as they have been doing last term.

For now, stay safe and take care,

Jon Hewitt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Hewitt', written in a cursive style.

Headteacher

## Cardiff Class

Cardiff Class have been busy since half term. Unfortunately, due to the heavy rain we couldn't go to Forest School so we created our own. We used our outdoor discovery area and had fun with water, sand, mud and bubbles. Some of the class decided that the bubbles would be better popped using equipment such as balls and even sticks!

We have also been making sandwiches in cooking. We had great fun exploring different fillings like jam, lemon curd and chocolate spread. We looked at, smelt and even touched and tasted them before deciding which one to put in our sandwiches. We practised spreading the butter and the filling onto the bread and then some of us ate them.



## Swansea Class

This term Swansea class made pancakes and tasted lemons; went to superhero training school and rescued toys from the bad guys; raced toy cars through paint before making and racing soap box cars in the playground; stomped, squeezed and shot paint from syringes for angry marks on paper; showed their mums just how loved they are by tasting...I mean making salt dough decorations! All of this on top of dressing up, using eye gaze, swimming, Rebound Therapy, Physio Therapy and communicating using switches, photos, voices and symbols. It was a busy few weeks! Well done team Swansea.



## **Pembroke Class**

This term Pembroke Class have really enjoyed looking at the story of 'Funnybones', making predictions about the story and writing sentences about pictures from the book. We also went to Lakeside Superbowl where everyone had an amazing time bowling, taking turns and getting strikes! Pembroke have also been working extremely hard in their Rebound Therapy sessions and many children received their Grade One certificate which is fantastic as well as building confidence on the trampoline.



## **Conway Class**

This term we've enjoyed getting messy! We've used lots of different sensory experiences (sand, shaving foam, corn flour, rice, colourful pasta, bubbles) to explore different textures, practise mark making, and to clean toys during life lessons. Books have been a big hit this term! Conway have shared the story 'Is this my nose?', and found different parts of our bodies whilst looking in the mirror. We all really enjoyed World Book Day, and have had a great time looking at and listening to different stories.



## **Richmond Class**

This term we have been learning about ourselves with our topic, All About Me. The children in class share their news every morning at circle time, which is a lovely window into each other's lives. The children do this with their communication switches which develops independence. Otis loves to share his news and is full of smiles when he does this. As part of our topic, we have been exploring likes and dislikes through sensory play. Everyone enjoys this and Louie finds the tickly feathers very funny. We also joined a very exciting primary Science assembly, watching fun science experiments in action and laughing at the scientist, who kept making jokes. Shelby couldn't stop giggling at him. We have enjoyed lots of stories as part of World Book Day, with Faye especially enjoying our sensory Burglar Bill story, turning the pages with interest. Jude





wore a fabulous Tin Man costume, joining in the fancy dress. You looked amazing Jude. We have also enjoyed a Richmond football game as part of Sports Relief, Sahithi liked being referee and squeezing the hand whistle as well as joining in the ball skills with the rest of the class. Everyone made a special Mother's Day gift in school, making it their own with some fantastic colour choosing. We hope Mother's Day was great. Tapestry is a



lovely place for us to share what your child does in school. Please do take this time at home to have a look, even add your own photos of the fun you have at home.

### Skipton Class

During science week, Skipton Class did some bubble printing. Lots of 'training' was



needed to ensure pupils understood to blow down the straw, rather than suck liquid through it!!!

Pupils learned that because washing up liquid can hold air inside its bubbles, when you blow air into the mixture it stays there creating lots of coloured bubbles. Because there is water in the mixture, when you put paper on top of it the water is sucked into the paper, leaving a print.



### Balmoral Class

Well done to all the children who created some fabulous work during the start of this academic term. You all learnt how to write sentences using adjectives and verbs and enjoyed cooking as well as designing bags in DT. Although we are not together in class at the moment, I am still pleased to see that so many of you are taking part in my daily tasks and are trying to challenge yourselves in some way.



Well done to Katie who has been walking with her cane during her daily exercise and to Shaun who has been taking care of his pet rabbits in the beautiful sunshine! Charlie, Jake and Josh have also been working very hard on their phonics using the Teach your Monsters to Read app and Shaun and Charlie have also been busy Doodling too!



I am sure you are all keeping busy in one way or another but it's important to keep on smiling too so enjoy the sunshine, try to laugh and be kind to one another.

## Chillingham Class



One thing we really enjoyed doing in Chillingham this term was having a go at tossing pancakes and then eating some afterwards; obviously not the same ones we were tossing.



## Tiverton Class

During Science week we had a visit from John The Boffin Science man.

The pupils enjoyed watching his various experiments. Back in class Tiverton worked in teams to do their own experiment.



This involved preventing an egg from cracking when dropped from a height.

The pupils discussed how to protect their eggs using different materials.



Maestros scrap music session: The pupils attended a lesson to make their own instruments from a variety of scrap materials. They had a wonderful time making lots of interesting noises

## Dover Class



Dover Class have had a wonderful term exploring their senses and being very hands-on with their learning. Dover have been experimenting with different textures and have particularly enjoyed observing the changes when

making jelly. All the children read a story of their choice to Pembroke Class for World Book Day and it was lovely to see them interact so well with the younger children. I am incredibly proud of Dover Class for their efforts during Sports Relief as we all went for a 2 mile walk around Greenham Common, we were very fortunate to go on a lovely sunny morning!



## Pendragon Class



The last few weeks we have celebrated both World Book Day and Sports Relief.

I was really impressed with everyone's efforts for World Book Day – everyone dressed up and looked awesome! 😊 We enjoyed sharing our books and then joining in different KS3 classes in the afternoon.



We set ourselves a challenge to do as many steps as we could on our aerobic step and take turns so that someone was on it all day long. We



succeeded and worked out based on the number of steps we'd done how far we'd gone – jointly we walked 3 miles! Awesome! 😊 We also enjoyed joining a 'Wake up, shake up' session in the morning with the other KS3 classes.



Emmy and Leah took part in creating a video, signing Katy Perry's 'Roar' for World Down Syndrome Awareness Day! So proud of them! Please go and check it out on the school Facebook page, share and like it to support them in going viral!

## Colchester Class



Colchester have had a busy few weeks. We have really enjoyed our class story Billy and the Beast. We made wanted posters that we displayed them around the school, in the

hope that someone may have seen the Beast. We also created an email to warn Billy and Fatcat that they could be in danger!

In maths we have been ordering and comparing numbers, recognising the greatest and smallest numbers and then ordering numbers to 100.



The real highlights for us have been 'Internet Safety Day', 'Science Boffin' and 'Sports Relief'. On 'Sports Relief' Day Jo led a 'wake up – shake up' and other classes joined us and then with Windsor we learnt how to play 'Goal Ball', led by Adam and Gillian. It was brilliant!

Here are some photos of us enjoying all these different activities.

## The Hive

The Hive got fit cycling just over 10 miles for Sport Relief. Less than 5 minutes in and our first puncture!



## Windsor Class



In Windsor class, we really like snakes! In maths, we have been measuring lots of toy snakes to see whether we are longer than or shorter than them. We have been estimating how long we think the snakes are and measuring

them to check our estimates. We made houses for our snakes, ensuring that the so that they have room. We snakes and have given biggest snake is called



houses are longer than the snakes, really enjoyed looking after our them some unusual names. (The Damian!)

## Totnes Class



Totnes have been thinking about others in our community. We have been looking at pavement parking in Donnington and the affect this could have on people in our community- particularly those with guide dogs, wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs. We photographed cars parked on the pavement and measured how much room was left on the pavement for pedestrians. We concluded that the members of our community mentioned above would

not be able to fit through the narrow pavement gap and would therefore have to walk on the road. We have written to Laura Farris (MP for Newbury) to make her aware of this dangerous problem and have included suggestions as to what could be done. Watch this space to see if we get a reply!

And in other news, Totnes have continued to improve their skills in the kitchen! This term we made a delicious chicken stir-fry!



## Oxford Class



For Sports Relief, Oxford managed to clock up 21.2 miles altogether by playing penalty shootout and having to do a lap of the MUGA if they missed scoring a goal. We had a fantastic day wearing our sports gear and getting active.



We have also been looking at garnishes and decorative desserts. Here is a picture of Ibrahima's creation. He has carefully thought about the fruit he needed to use to create a beautiful



symmetrical pattern around his meringue. Well done Oxford Class, you all created beautiful deserts and learnt some chopping skills along the way!

## Plympton Class



In Plympton Class, Pancake Day was a triumph! Students were fantastic at identifying the ingredients required, communicating their desired topping and then shopping. Abi showed great



confidence, independently researching a recipe and creating an impressive video of herself teaching everybody how to cook the pancakes. All students explored the ingredients and created a batter which they then cooked. The brief silence in the room was an indication of how tasty the pancakes were!

## Wallingford Class



Spring is here and planting is underway! In the last few weeks we have been sorting, planting and growing seeds ready for our beds at Growing2gether. So far we've planted wild flowers, carrots, peas, sunflowers, runner beans, pumpkins, onions, peppers and chillies! Everyone has worked



hard to plant and maintain everything we are doing! This term saw a visit from OpenView Education, who provided an engaging workshop on internet safety. It was great to see how our guys used the opportunity to show all their learning and understanding around internet safety. Tuesday cooking has seen a variation of sweet and savoury items. This term we have cooked veg chili, veg curry, Victoria sponge and some very chocolatey cookies. We've looked very hard at portions and balanced diets this term and we all encouraged each other with the right choice making to stay healthy! We have continued to work on our fitness this term. Exercises, walking, physio, yoga, gym sessions and more. It has been pleasing to see everyone get stuck in

and build on their fitness!



## **Dunnottar Class**

A highlight from this term for Dunnottar class has been our PSHE unit of work. This is based around a TV programme called Freaks and Geeks and staff have been blown away with the students' maturity and approach towards characters and how they act. Students have also explored the decisions made and the impact this has on a small and larger scale and delved into areas such as bullying, healthy lifestyles, emotional well-being, relationships and drugs and alcohol. Their reflection and empathy has been truly heart-warming.

## **Flint Class**

Flint Class had a busy, if a little short, term this time round! The students contributed massively towards helping organise the "Move a Marathon" challenge for Sport Relief and measured a variety of distances at Main Site and Post-16. On Friday itself, we all went to Greenham Common and walked/run a large section of the Common for Sport Relief and most of the students covered at least 3 miles. It was incredible to see the determination on show! In addition to this, we have continued to work on our First Aid skills and was fortunate enough to practise the correct methods on dummies. Finally, we have all really enjoyed using the teen drama "Freaks and Geeks" for a weekly lesson based around coming of age themes. All of the staff have been so impressed with the student's attitude and approach to these lessons, as they have all discussed complex themes and been respectful of different opinions.