

# Kingsweston School

## Newsletter

October 2021



### Governors' area

As you will have seen from the letter from Alison Hurley, Director for Education, Learning and Skills at Bristol City Council, it has been a complex and challenging start to the new academic year. Thank you all for your patience and your positive support for the staff as they have coped with not only the computer virus at the beginning of term, the absence of both the headteacher and deputy headteacher, but also the ongoing challenges of Covid. The Governors recognise and appreciate that the staff have worked tirelessly to provide a safe and caring learning environment for the pupils.

We are working closely with the Local Authority to ensure that this continues.

*Peter Searle-Barnes - Chair of Governors*

### Term Dates & Inset Days 2021—2022

#### Term 1

Thursday 2nd September 2021 to Friday 22nd October 2021

#### Term 2

**\*Monday 1st November 2021** to Friday 17th December 2021

#### Term 3

Tuesday 4th January 2022 to Friday 18th February 2022

#### Term 4

Monday 28th February 2022 to Friday 8th April 2022

#### Term 5

Monday 25th April 2022 to Friday 27th May 2022

#### Term 6

Monday 6th June 2022 to **Thursday 21st July 2022**

*In acknowledgement of the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3rd June 2022, the Department for Education has agreed to reduce the minimum number of teaching days to 189 meaning the total school year will be 194 days. As the 3rd June falls within the current summer half term holiday, the additional bank holiday will be taken by schools on what would have been the final day of the school year, meaning the **school year will now end on Thursday 21st July 2022** not Friday 22nd July 2022, as originally published.*

#### Remaining Inset Days

**\*Monday 1st November 2021** Friday 8th April 2022

Friday 7th January 2022 Thursday 21st July 2022

Monday 18th February 2022

### Forest School & Horticulture



In Forest School, we have been learning about spiders. We've loved learning facts about spiders and looking under all the dark hideaways in the Forest School to find them. Whilst looking for spiders we've found lots of common newts, frogs and a toad which was very exciting! Two students managed to catch the jumpy frogs and have a hold. We've made mini spiders from conkers and had a go at weaving our own spider webs.

During our Horticulture lessons we have been taking good care of our huge pumpkins. They will be ready for carving any day now. We have been collecting apples and helping out by raking up the fallen leaves and looking out for signs of Autumn.

We've loved all of the warm sunshine we've had in our outdoor sessions so far this term.



## Our Learning

### Shark Class @ Napier Miles

Shark class in Post 16 have been learning about what tools a carpenter uses and have been experiencing sawing wood, sanding down wood, using a screwdriver and trying on the clothes and accessories that a carpenter would use. We have been going out in the community for either a drink and a snack in a local café or shopping for cooking ingredients. We have cooked different dishes such as quiche and soup and will be making pumpkin soup from our Halloween pumpkin in the last week of term! We have been thinking about exercise and why it is important to keep taking part in regular exercise for our health and wellbeing and we are enjoying a daily walk to Kingsweston House grounds each morning.



## Our Learning

### Penguin Class @ Napier Miles

What have we been learning this term?

In Term 1, we had a few topics; penguins, all about me, Autumn and Halloween.

Because we have a new class name "Penguin", we have been sharing sensory stories about penguins, and we have created some pieces of art related with this very remarkable animal. We have also been baking penguin biscuits and making penguin sandwiches.

During our maths lessons, we have been singing number songs and using lots of sensory resources as shaving foam, flour and water.

We have been doing a daily session of attention autism time, "bucket time" (taking out items from a bucket), where we try to engage our pupils to keep their attention for more than 10 minutes.

In our yoga sessions, pupils have been discovering parts of their body, and they have experienced different smells, feelings and visual clues.



## Our Learning

### Rainbowfish Class @ Napier Miles

We have had a brilliant first term in Rainbowfish Class. The children have done amazingly well, settling into their new classroom, meeting new peers and getting to know each other.

Our big focus this term has been learning our new class routines, with lots of different structured learning activities, group time, free play sessions and time exploring outside.

In Literacy we have been talking about families and looking at different people in our families. In Maths we have been singing and signing number songs, matching symbols and quantities, exploring big and small and ordering objects by size.

One of our favourite sessions this term had been sensory time where we get out our trays and have some free play exploring a range of materials and mixtures as a group, including foam, playdoh and slime!

The pupils have really enjoyed their art sessions making family trees, self-portraits and woodland creatures and have had lots of opportunities to develop their mark-making skills.

Next term our topic will be 'Houses and homes' and we will be doing lots of work based around the traditional tale of the Three Little Pigs!

## Our Learning

### Turtle Class @ Napier Miles

Turtle class have had a great time getting to know their new class team and their new classroom this term. We have welcomed Josh, who started in Turtle class in September, and we enjoyed lots of activities that have focused on the theme of 'All about me'. Turtle class have written about their favourite foods, school lessons, hobbies and talked about their families. In Math's we have enjoyed exploring number lines, simple addition and subtraction and measuring using cubes. We have explored our environment, finding out about Autumn colours and creating Autumn leaf rubbings. A great term one!

## Our Learning

### Kingsweston Centre: Shirehampton

Kingsweston Centre: Shirehampton pupils have been learning about Italy and identifying landmarks and places of interest.

They have also developed their historical knowledge about the Romans – looking at the roles people had and how they lived their lives.

Our wow event will be about trying Roman foods at a Roman banquet.

In PSHE we have been getting to know our new class and how we can be a kind friend.



## Great Progress

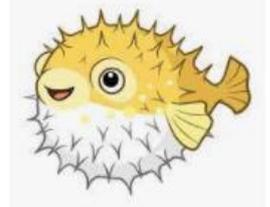
Great progress goes out to all of the new pupils at Kingsweston Centre: Shirehampton who have settled in to their new school and have shown us how they try hard with their work activities.

Penguin Class pupils also get a mention because all of them have made a wonderful start to the year. They have showed us that they can communicate some of their needs, food, toilet, water and they can tell us their favourite items and places using their PECS book.

## Our Learning

### **Pufferfish Class @ Napier Miles**

Pufferfish have had a very busy term, packed with lots of fun! In English we have been learning about our own identities – like learning to identify or write our names, finding pictures of ourselves and introducing ourselves to others. We have also been considering things that we like and dislike, and we will continue to work on communicating our likes and dislikes to others. We have listened to a number of sensory stories linked to emotions too – and have got wet/sandy/generally messy in the process!



In Maths we have been working on counting, number recognition, personal details such as our ages and we have also been learning about 2D shapes. The class have been amazing at playing interactive games and using playdough to create lots of different shapes!

We have also been learning about the human bodies which has included dancing along to 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes' – a very popular activity in Pufferfish Class! Some pupils have even been learning about our skeletons!

In PE we have played communication games using a giant parachute and we have also worked on our balancing and jumping skills! Some of the jumps have been from so high up!

The work created in Art with Julia has been incredible with the class using such a wide range of tools and techniques to create masterpieces linked to our topic. There has also been fantastic independent work outside during Forest School lessons with Katy, and we've got very messy at times!

Everybody is transitioning well around the school, we have all built some excellent relationships already (including with Daisy the Dinosaur, our class teddy) and it's been a fantastic term! Even with having to put up with Matt's guitar playing and attempts at singing!

## Our Learning

### **Kingsweston Centre: Brightstowe**

#### **Eclipse Class**

Eclipse have had great start back to school and have meshed really well as a class. As part of our Explorers topic, we have looked at reading maps and co-ordinates, explored the mystery of the lost colony of Roanoke, and talked about the pros and cons of being an adventurer during the Age of Exploration. The rest of the term will take us to the thick of the Amazon jungle, the frozen tundras of the Arctic, and the unexplored depths of the sea.

#### **Supernova Class**

Supernova Class have made a really positive start this academic year. We've formed excellent relationships with one another and been active learners. We have studied our Explorers topic and enjoyed learning about those that explored by land, sea, and sky!

#### **Solar Class**

In KS3, Solar Class have settled as a group really quickly and it's a fun place to be! This term, we have particularly enjoyed our weekly cooking sessions in the Tech Room. The students that moved up from Shirehampton have also liked exploring Oasis Brightstowe's library, outdoor spaces and sports hall - although some of the class would rather Mr Solomon's PE lessons weren't so energetic!

#### **Aurora Class**

Aurora Class have been working very hard this term. All of our pupils are working towards gaining a range of qualifications and accreditations. In English, some of the class are working towards their GCSE through inclusion with Oasis Academy. Some of the class are working towards gaining their functional skills English qualification, for which we are currently reading the book Stone Cold by Robert Robert Swindells which a dark story about homelessness and murder!

#### **KS3 Trip to The Matthew of Bristol**

On Friday 15th October all our KS3 classes went on a school trip. As part of our Explorers topic, we sailed down Bristol harbour on The Matthew. The ship we sailed on is a replica of the ship that John Cabot sailed from Bristol to Newfoundland in Canada in 1497! Photographs from our trip are on the next page.

#### **Nebula Class**

Nebula Class have settled well this term. We have done lots of group activities which have helped us to get to know each other better. The class look forward to our cooking sessions and have enjoyed trying the food they make. We have been very excited about the Explorers topic, and we have all taken part in discussions and factual learning about the Jungle, the Arctic and the sea.

# Kingsweston Centre: Brightstowe trip to The Matthew



## Our Learning

### Dolphin Class @ Napier Miles

#### English

We have enjoyed Oscar and the Bird, Peepo and Monkey Trouble.

We have been experimenting with writing using different tools in different textures including sticks, flour, rice, foam and gloop.

We have been playing lots of speaking and listening games on the whiteboard, taking listening walks and practising our observational conversation about what we can see, feel and hear. This week we explored Autumn and describing the colours and textures.



#### Maths

We have been playing with boxes to make towers and having lots of fun knocking them down again. We have been learning how to identify 'full, empty, half full, nearly full and nearly empty' whilst filling different containers with different materials including water, pasta, rice and paint.

#### PSHE

KS4 pupils are following Lifeskills Challenge ASDAN and have been focussing on units to do with personal hygiene, physical and mental health. We have been learning about the different professionals that can help us and the different products we can use to look after ourselves.



#### Cooking

Dolphin class are excellent chefs! This term they have been making toast, pizza and smoothies!



#### Art

We have excellent artists in Dolphin class. We have been making dolphin themed art work to create a sense of classroom identify. The stained glass dolphins look beautiful in our new classroom.

Well done Dolphin Class for settling back into school so well. We look forward to Term 2!

## Our Learning

### Jellyfish Class @ Napier Miles

This term our topic has been All About Me. We have enjoyed the stories 'Happy to be me' by Emily Dodd and also "Goldilocks and The Three Bears". Some of us shared photos of us as babies with the rest of the class—we really enjoyed looking at them! We have been exploring body parts using Mr. Potato Head and have been working really hard at matching and sorting body parts. We have had lots of fun joining in with action songs using different parts of our body. Our class favourite was Heads, shoulders, knees and toes! In Art we used our hands to create some beautiful pieces of work.

### Updated guidance from Public Health England.

PCR tests are the gold standard and, in general, the PCR test result should be relied upon. However, in some cases we advise erring on the side of caution if you get a negative result **but** any of the following is true;

- **You had a positive lateral flow result**
- **You have symptoms of Covid-19**
- **You have been a close contact of a confirmed case**

In this instance it is advised that individuals isolate for 10 days from onset of symptom/s even if receiving a negative PCR result.

A number of factors can impact the result of PCR and LFD tests such as how the sample is taken, the accuracy of the test itself and the prevalence of Covid-19 in the community.

If you are routinely testing and test positive – take a PCR test. Proceed on basis of PCR advice above.

If you have Covid-19 symptoms – arrange a PCR test and isolate whilst waiting for your test results.

**If unwell with ANY kind of illness (cold/flu etc) — please stay at home!**