

Paternoster School News

July 2021

Our school family grows together New challenges and opportunities

Well, what a year! As I look back and reflect on the past 16 months, I am amazed at how much the pupils and staff have achieved, despite the most extraordinary of circumstances. I would like to thank you, our families, who have continued to support us through the pandemic. It has been an incredibly challenging time for us all, but we have found many silver linings along the way and discovered new strengths and qualities in ourselves and our pupils.

Some good news from our school improvement partner, Deirdre Fitzpatrick, is that the school has continued to move forwards and improve this academic year. On her last two visits, she looked at the quality of reading and maths teaching. She found that 'the teaching of maths and English are both good and the school leads the core subjects of reading and maths well'. We were absolutely delighted for our staff to receive this feedback from her.

We are really pleased that we have managed to run new learning experiences and activities for our pupils this year. These have included drumming, play champions, rebound therapy and tag rugby. Sailing, pentathlon, music interaction, Forest School and Scrubditch Farm have also continued. The benefits for pupils have been immense, and we plan to continue with as many of these activities as possible next year.

We have also focussed on continuing to improve our school learning environment. Earlier this year, we had a communication and social interaction hub installed in the atrium. A new hoist



Rebound therapy is now available thanks to FOPS

system in the hydro pool has allowed our pupils easier access, and we have plans to put in a new lighting system. The climbing wall is in constant use in our main sports hall, and we have a brand new hot-pink trampoline, courtesy of Friends of Paternoster School for rebound therapy.

Plans over the summer include the total refurbishment of one of the Elliott buildings for Willow Class and the external painting of all three. By October, we plan to have a new outdoor seating area between the pool and the new build, and to improve the area in front of the sports hall.

Over the summer holidays, we will be opening our playground to pupils by class groups and their siblings. Please do look out for more information about this from our family support worker, Sheryl.

We are planning to have an open day and celebration in October (Covid-19 allowing) for families and friends of the school to mark the opening of our playground.

Sadly, we say goodbye to our leavers next week, and we wish them every success and happiness in the next stage of their lives. We will miss each one of them very much but know they will do exceptionally well.

I would like to end by thanking all our fantastic staff, who have continued to work tirelessly during these uncertain times. I wish you all a safe and relaxing break.

Annette

Jude Loscombe

Remembered with love

In May, we learned of the tragic passing of Jude Loscombe, a treasured member of Elm Class. He will be missed terribly by staff and pupils alike and we send our love to his family.



News from Elm Class



This year Elm Class have enjoyed a variety of sensory stories. They have mastered Forest School trips and hydrotherapy sessions. Our main focus continues to be to encourage communication skills and it is lovely to see how all the children have progressed in this area. Music sessions and cooking also remain firm favourites.



News from Pine Class

We have had a very busy last couple of terms, we have enjoyed reading different stories, like *No-bot the Robot*, *Jasper's Beanstalk* and *Superworm*. We have looked at different characters in the books and made our own characters up as well.

All the children have enjoyed cooking sessions this term, we have made quiche, sausage rolls, lemon drizzle cakes and fruit salad.

We have also been investigating how different plants grow – what they need to thrive and be healthy. We have grown our own sunflowers and made some funny grass heads.

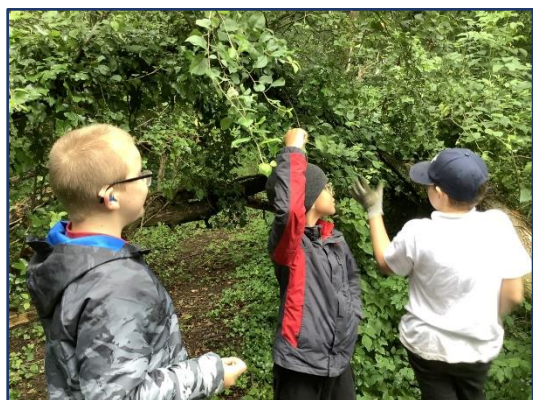


News from Beech Class



What a wonderful term it's been. As the weather has been warmer, we have had more opportunities to be outside and active; we have especially enjoyed participating in sporting events. We've participated in team games and learned new skills in tag rugby sessions and loved winning our medals in the Panathlon.

News from Chestnut Class



Chestnut Class have welcomed Dylan into class since June and have worked really hard on their friendships. In particular they have really engaged with Forest School and have made dens, mixed potions and helped each other cross a ditch, alongside exploring the environment. They also loved hunting for clues during sports week and practising sounds and letter shapes.



News from Redwood Class

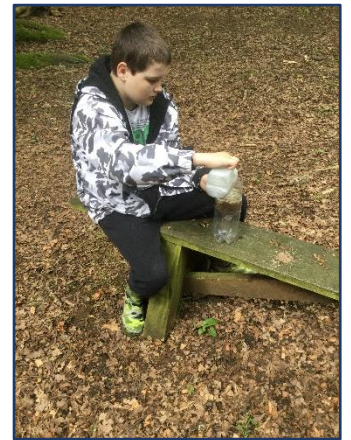


Our class has been enjoying a truly multisensory experience in the hydrotherapy pool which is an important part of some of our children's physiotherapy routines. Some of our children have benefitted from being in the open air at Scrubditch Farm and Forest School this term: it has been great to see our children exploring. Finally, a huge thank you to all our parents who helped make our end of term outing such a success.



News from Maple Class

We've been really lucky to get out and about over the last couple of terms. Some of our young people have had chance to study for sailing certificates at South Cerney and we have started working for a National Outdoor Learning Award at weekly Forest School sessions.



News from Oak Class



Oak class have been working hard this year to develop the skills they need as they move towards adulthood as well as trying some exciting new activities – first aid, woodwork and map reading.

The highlight of the year, however, has been to see the class re-connecting after lockdown - enjoying the opportunity to have fun together again and celebrating their school community.

The residential trip to Macaroni Wood was a great success and made a huge contribution to increasing the confidence, resilience and happiness of everyone involved. A great year for a great group and we know our leavers will go on to future success.

ASDAN qualifications Preparing our young people for adulthood

Lots of our older pupils have been studying for ASDAN Lifeskills Challenge qualifications which can show just what they are capable of when it comes to functional maths and literacy skills and a range of life skills such as shopping, cooking and gardening. Our leavers this year are all walking away with a clutch of qualifications which they can show to their post-16 placements in recognition of their hard work. ASDAN offers a range of qualifications in a huge variety of different subjects and at different levels so each pupil can gain qualifications reflecting their individual skills.



New school traffic system

Plans to reduce congestion and increase safety

In September, there will be a new entrance/exit system in school for transport/cars. Pedestrians will continue to enter/leave school grounds in the same way, but transport will now enter school through the middle entrance and leave school by the exit we share with Paternoster House. Staff have already implemented a new parking system and feedback about the reduced number of cars on site from parents and transport has been very positive. We believe these changes will improve safety for everyone.

Friends of Paternoster School

Can you help out?

Friends of Paternoster School (FOPS) make an invaluable contribution to the life of our school. Made up of parents, staff and other members of the community who support the school, FOPS raises vitally important funds. It is thanks to them that the school now has an amazing playground and that we are able to offer rebound therapy in school on a brand new trampoline. FOPS has also made funding available to help towards day and residential trips. If you would like to get involved please contact the Chair, Emma Sutton on sutton134@btinternet.com



Dates for your diary

Thursday 6th September Term starts for children.
Friday 22nd October Term ends.
Monday 1st November Term starts.
Friday 17th December Term ends.

School contacts for Sept '21

Headteacher Annette Fidderman:

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Chair of Local Advisory Board Allan Brown:

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Parent Support Worker Sheryl:

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Friends of Paternoster School:

Emma Sutton, Chair: sutton134@btinternet.com

Friends Just Giving page:

www.justgiving.com/friendsofpaternosterschool

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Willow Class Teacher:

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Website: www.paternosterschool.co.uk

Community contacts

www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk for information on a wide range of services and support for children with additional needs in Gloucestershire.

www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk for information on a wide range of services and support for children with additional needs in Wiltshire.

www.skybadger.co.uk finding help for families with children with additional needs.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/branches>

southwest for information on National Autistic Society groups which meet regularly.

<https://yournetwork.mencap.org.uk/>

group/602 Stroud and District MENCAP, charity focusing on learning disability.

www.specialneedsjungle.com provides parent-centred information, news, special needs resources and informed opinion about SEND.