

Paternoster School **News**

December 2021

A rich school life continues COVID challenges won't stop us!

This has been, to say the very least, another unusual term! Whilst our daily school life has carried on and it's been business as usual, Covid-19 has continued to throw a few spanners in the works and interfere with our school life at times. Despite this, we have kept our pupils safe and ensured they have continued to access their exciting curriculum and enrichment activities. We have managed to do some things together such as the Children in Need assembly (right).

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding, as we were forced to close classes, either partially or fully in Term 2 due to so many staff identified as close contacts.

We were so pleased to welcome you to our end of term celebration, our Christmas market outside in the fresh air. We were delighted that it was so well attended by families and friends, and we would like to thank you for supporting us with this event. In the cold, at least it was like a true Christmas Market! We hope you enjoyed sampling food and drink and having the opportunity to buy some of the lovely items that the children have made. We raised an amazing £369.

Please may I politely ask you all to follow the Government's guidance and test regularly and get vaccinated as this will give us the greatest chance of remaining Covid-19 free.



Please keep as safe and well as you can over the Christmas holidays. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Yours with thanks and best wishes,
Annette



Keeping the beat

Drumming workshops a hit across the school

Students from across the school have been loving their weekly drumming sessions and have been growing in skill and confidence as the year progresses. We've been lucky enough to have been loaned five digital drum kits to use in these lessons. The whole thing has been funded by an incredible organisation called The Clem Burke Drumming Project, set up by the drummer from the 80s hit band Blondie.

His vision and determination have brought drumming to hundreds of young people around the country and Paternoster School is really thankful to be a part of this.

News from Elm Class

Elm class have had a busy term with rugby, swimming, drumming and forest school every week. In rugby we have been exploring different equipment with the help of our teachers and learning different ways to use our bodies and engage in physical exercise. The weekly sessions in the hydrotherapy pool are going swimmingly with all pupils making progress in water confidence and independence! In class we have been looking at the story of The Three Little Pigs, with this there have been lots of construction opportunities, as well as huffing and puffing and blowing these down. Cooking is a favourite of many of the pupils and we enjoy mixing ingredients.

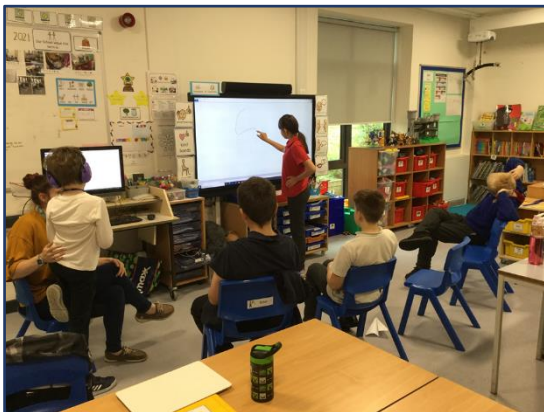


News from Pine Class

This term Pine Class have enjoyed learning about traditional tales especially The Three Little Pigs. We have looked at different materials to build houses out of and tested to see if we could blow them down. We found Duplo bricks worked the best. We have also had Play Nuture every Wednesday when we have been able to explore different games and share equipment.



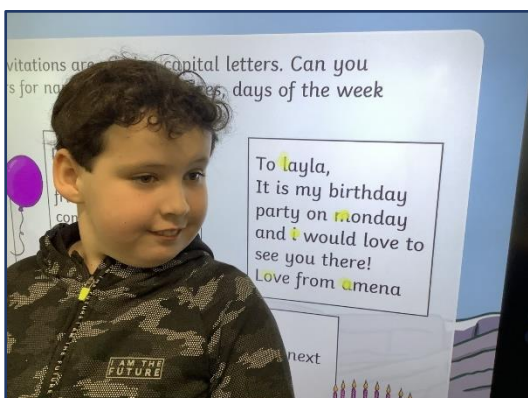
News from Beech Class



In PE we have been working on performing dance sequences and in gymnastics we have used our skills of balancing, travelling, and co-ordination to create routines to perform to the rest of the group.

We have been reading a variety of traditional tales this term. We have been describing story characters. The group had to guess the character we were describing and drawing.

News from Chestnut Class



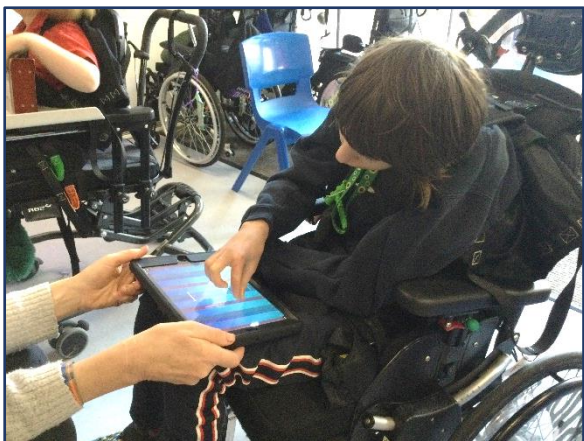
The children in Chestnut Class are really enjoying 'Quick Maths', which they do every day. They love learning new skills in a fun way.

Some of the children have also been learning about when to use capitals and are proud of themselves when they can identify where they are needed.

Others have been doing music and are making great compositions.



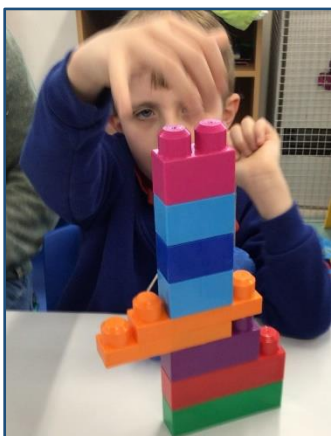
News from Ash Class



Expressing ourselves through music is an important part of life for the students in Ash Class and we have been lucky enough to enjoy Music Works sessions in class where we get to make music on a range of instruments and on iPADS. Communication is a central part of our curriculum and students have been making great progress in using photographs and symbols to make choices.



News from Willow Class



Willow is a class of happy children who enjoy school! Our children know their way to the big new playground but they still love the small adventure playground as well. We have fun in the hydrotherapy pool, sensory room, sports hall and the small hall: the sensory swings are a big hit with our children! In term one we had fabulous outings to forest school which everyone appreciated. All our children love music and we can use our whiteboard as a huge interactive menu board so that children can choose their favourite songs.

News from Maple Class

Maple Class have enjoyed visiting different places in the community this term. We were fortunate enough to have trips to Scrubditch Farm, where we have worked on developing life skills. In addition to caring for the animals, the class has shown excellent teamwork skills.



News from Oak Class

Oscar has been running an enterprise project with Oak Class. He started out by working behind the coffee bar at the Macmillan Coffee morning. The class made cakes and served refreshments to visiting parents, staff and pupils. Oscar has plans to expand and has contacted St James' Place in Cirencester in order to arrange the selling of breaktime snacks to the office workers.

In our PE lessons we have been doing plenty of gymnastics and movement exercises and the students have been improving their flexibility, strength and stamina throughout the term. It even looks like we have been learning to fly!



What an experience!

Great opportunities available for Paternoster pupils

In addition to our core curriculum, students at Paternoster have the chance to experience a wide range of enrichment activities to ensure they get the broadest education possible. Activities on offer this term have included dance with Flamingo Chicks, rugby coaching, drumming workshops, music workshops run by Music Works and Music Interaction with Baz. Some students have taken part in woodwork sessions run by the Ernest Cook Trust and have made amazing pieces. Others have gone horse riding or sailing. Rebound therapy enhances the range of physical therapies on offer and some pupils have regular visits to help on a local farm.



Sailing at the Cotswold Water Park has given many students a taste of independence. Students from Oak and Maple classes have been going each week to the Ernest Cook Trust in Fairford to learn woodworking skills. The students are expected to work with proper tools in a safe manner.



Stay in touch on Facebook

Keep up to date with the latest that's happening in school and share information on the *Paternoster School Parent Group* on Facebook. It's a really quick way to stay in touch.

School contacts for Jan '22

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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.