

Paternoster School News

October 2020

Paternoster rises to challenge New term brings fresh opportunities

What extraordinary times we are currently living in! In July, we had hoped that the pandemic would have settled somewhat by the end of Term 1 and, that we would be almost back to 'normal'. It turns out that we were just a tad too optimistic!

This issue of our newsletter gives you a snapshot of just some of what we have been up to this term. Although some of our activities such as swimming cannot continue at present, pupils are still getting some exciting opportunities to try new activities. One of these activities is Open Orchestra, which teacher Andrew Armond has brought to the school. Currently Oak Class are learning to compose their own music and play together using a range of electronic equipment. I was invited to listen to an impromptu performance by three pupils last week, which was extremely moving. We hope to be able to put on a virtual performance for parents and carers before Christmas. Special yoga has also started with Jennie Laird and pupils have been benefiting from either 1:1 sessions or small groups. Music interaction with Baz will also start again next term. From Term 2, we will be running small nurturing

and emotional wellbeing sessions for some pupils in a new space, Cherry Room. These will be led by Val Kennedy, teacher in Oak class, who has applied and therapeutic skill training and is a trainer for 'Leading a mentally healthy school'.

Parents' evenings

We will be holding parents' evening after half term. Parents will have a 'virtual' appointment with their child's class teacher. Further details about booking and accessing these meetings will be sent out soon.

Results of COVID tests

If your child has been off school awaiting the results of a COVID test please could we ask you to ring or email the school office to let us know the result as soon as possible. Thank you.

If you would like to speak to me about the school or about any aspect of life at Paternoster, please do email me at head@paternoster.sandmat.uk

Annette Fidderman Head Teacher

Our amazing new playground Thanks to all who made it happen



After the most incredible fundraising campaign which raised more than £100,000, Paternoster School finally has a brilliant new playground.

The fundraising was led by the Friends of Paternoster School and we cannot thank them

enough for all their efforts.

The playground has made a fundamental difference to the life of the school and the children have been loving playing in it since its completion just before the summer holidays.

The playground is to be named for William Fletcher, a much-loved pupil of Paternoster who passed away in 2018. His mum, Rachael, has been instrumental in driving forward the campaign for funding and we are very grateful for her commitment to making this project a reality.

Photos by Noah from Oak Class



News from Elm Class



Elm Class has had a great start to the new year with new pupils settling in with pupils who already know Paternoster School. The class follows a sensory based curriculum, learning through a range of exploratory experiences.

Our story this term is *My Granny Went to Market* and Jude (left) is exploring letters and making his favourite words and phrases from the story. Owen (right) is having a great time exploring sensory materials – all of our new reception children have been enjoying themselves with sensory and messy play.



News from Pine Class

As part of our maths curriculum, Pine class have been investigating tall and short, big and small. The children have been building towers to see which one is the tallest and the shortest.

The biggest tower we made was using 13 bricks. Jack (right) is trying to break the record! Sunny and Elijah (far right) worked well together, building a tower using just red and yellow bricks. They were really good at taking it in turns to add the correct colour brick to the tower.



News from Beech Class



In Beech Class the children have been learning how to write and follow sequences of instructions. Bethany (far left) is following directions to make colour changing potions – she was very pleased with the results. Kane (left) is experimenting with colour and exploring patterns – the pupils found many exciting ways to create great effects!

News from Chestnut Class



All the children (Caden, Josh, Alfie, Brandon and Charlie, right) are all loving cooking sessions, preparing a variety of recipes. In maths, the children are working on problem solving. George, Caden and Charlie (left) worked out together how to hold 4 limbs in the air!



News from Redwood Class



The young people in Redwood Class are loving letting staff know what their favourite things are as they explore different ways to make choices. Rebecca (right) is choosing whether she would like bubbles or the Japanese fish kite



during our sensory story. Will (left) is choosing his favourite song.

News from Maple Class

Building independence skills is key for the young people in Maple Class. Every Thursday we make our own lunch and shop for ingredients. Kyle (right) is using the hand blender to make a smoothie. Ben (far right) is choosing strawberries in Tesco for our pudding.



News from Oak Class



This term Oak Class have been lucky enough to have the benefit of tennis coaching sessions with a professional coach.

Each week the young people in Oak have been going across the road to the courts in St Michael's Park where they have been given instruction in a range of basic tennis techniques. They have thoroughly enjoyed the process and everyone has made great progress over the weeks. Jared (far left) and Kieran (left) demonstrate their impressive racket skills.

Local Advisory Board Monitoring Paternoster

Allan Brown is the Chair of the Local Advisory Board (LAB). This is the group who undertake a similar role to governors now that we are an academy. He was appointed in June 2019. He became chair of the former school governing board shortly after the Ofsted inspection in March 2018 and has worked alongside the leaders of the school, the Local Authority and the Chief Executive of SAND to support and challenge the leadership through the period of improvement. The LAB includes two parent elected members and a staff member. The LAB recently sent a letter to all staff thanking them for their efforts during the pandemic. Allan said, 'I know everyone is united in doing the very best we can to keep children safe and in the best place for the education which will enhance their lives.'



Sensory Garden

A valuable outdoor space
revamped



We have all come to appreciate our gardens more since lockdown and Paternoster School is no exception. Our Sensory Garden, which was redeveloped at the time of the new build, has had a facelift over the summer and is now a well maintained and tranquil space for our pupils.

One of our long-standing teaching assistants, Rose Beavan has been working hard weeding and planting and co-ordinating parent volunteers to get the garden looking great. A massive thank you to everyone who has helped.

Lots of children have been out using the garden Poppy (above) and Ben (below) took part in a number hunt out there.



Dates for your diary

Monday 2nd November Term starts for children.

Thursday 19th November Pantomime in school.

Friday 18th December Term ends.

Tuesday 5th January Term starts.

School contacts

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Friends Just Giving page:

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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.