

Paternoster School News

April 2022

Exciting opportunities stimulate learning pupils love new challenges

What extraordinary times we are still living in! In January we had hoped that the pandemic would have settled when we returned to school. It turns out that we were just a little too optimistic. We went on to experience the highest rates of Covid-19 infection yet in school with over 24 staff and pupil cases. However, we were for the most part able to continue as normal and I would like to thank you for continuing to support us. The one thing that we have all learnt, however, is that life never stops, and our pupils always amaze us.

This issue of our newsletter gives you a snapshot of just some of what we have been up to. Pupils have been Investigators and Inventors this term and there have been some very interesting inventions going on in school, some of which have made their way home!

Hydrotherapy restarted again in Term 4 after an unexpected repair was needed to the pool. It is a delight to see the pupils enjoying the freedom that the water gives them. Rugby continues to be enjoyed by all pupils who do it. Several of our pupils are engaged in work experience and are really benefitting from these opportunities. These include gardening in the hospital grounds and working in an EYFS nursery placement. Special yoga has also continued and music interaction and Music Works sessions are also running. We have also been holding individual nurturing and emotional wellbeing sessions.

Two pupils from school were recently invited to participate in the interviews for the Academy CEO role. They asked excellent questions and were commended for their performance on the day. It was a very proud moment for me.

Next term we will be starting a new



Will and Ben create music with Music Works tutor Hamish

intervention called Fizz Whizz, a programme aimed at developing children's motor skills. Pupils will be identified for this intervention and will participate in weekly small groups.

On 18th May, SANDMAT (the Academy we are part of) is hiring Cattle Country for a day out for all children in the MAT to celebrate its official launch. It looks set to be a great trip.

I plan to establish a parent/guardian voice group in Term 5. If you are interested in joining this group, please email me at school by the beginning of Term 5.

We are also having a street party on the 26th May to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we would love you all to join us at school to celebrate this event with your child. More details will follow soon.

Have a restful Easter break.

Annette

Parent Support News

New lottery raises funds and stay and play sessions on offer

Great news! Our lottery launched in January and is steadily raising funds to go towards holiday activities. We have 65 tickets sold so far and have 100 tickets as a target. The draw takes place every Saturday night. If you can spare £1 a week please visit the Onelottery page and find Paternoster School and join us. We are also running Stay and

Play sessions on Wednesday 13th April and Friday 15th April. Pupils and their siblings have the use of our fab playground and various activities are on offer. Snacks will be provided. Updates by Parentmail and Paternoster School Parent Facebook page.

Sheryl Suzanne

News from Elm Class

Forest School has been a big hit with Elm Class. The children are exploring their environment with growing confidence and even doing some 'cooking' with mud and leaves (right). The children are also doing well with 'Attention Autism' and are increasingly able to hold focus (far right).

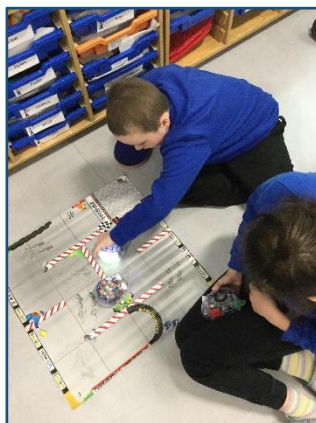


News from Pine Class

Pine Class have enjoyed lots of exciting activities this term. We have been exploring the outdoors at Forest School. We have also been focusing on materials in our science sessions and have been conducting experiments including exploring how to prevent eggs cracking if they drop (right). Last week we had a great time finding out all about planes and how they land and take off (far right).



News from Beech Class



In RE we have been learning about The Last Supper and re-enacted it as a group (far left). We talked about what each disciple might have been thinking during this time. We had breadsticks and blackcurrant squash to represent Jesus' blood and body.

In IT we have been using the Blu-Bots and Bee-Bots to practise programming (left).

News from Chestnut Class

In Chestnut Class, we have been learning about the story of Easter in RE. We learned about Palm Sunday (Charlie is showing you a Palm leaf that he made, right) and we learned about The Last Supper. We have had lots of fun thinking up inventions and carrying out investigations this term, and in humanities, we learnt about some inventors, including Leonardo Da Vinci and the Wright Brothers. We then created our own parachutes and paper planes. George is testing his parachute in the playground (far right).



News from Ash Class



Ash Class pupils had a fantastic time as day visitors to Macaroni Wood during the recent residential. The music room was a particular favourite of Rebecca (left) who loved the drums. Our class has also really got into the swing of Rebound Therapy – using a trampoline designed to strengthen the core but which is also great for communication and independence. Jodie (right) loves it.



News from Willow Class



Willow class have two new teachers this term, Jennie Laird and Fran Bellotti. The class have made them feel very welcome. We are lucky to have been able to start hydrotherapy now that the pool is back in action. Our story of *Room on the Broom* is a big hit and we particularly like the animal noises and the dragon roaring. We've cooked up a storm, from biscuit wands to pasta salad and have enjoyed exploring all the ingredients (left). During our problem solving sessions (far left) pupils have been developing their joint attention and fine motor skills.

News from Maple Class

Maple Class have been lucky enough to take part in a wide variety of activities this term, including a residential trip to Macaroni Wood, kindly funded by the Ernest Cook Trust. The pupils behaved excellently and showed great teamwork during the three days. Here's Rhyce enjoying the trampoline (far right). The pupils also had a fantastic opportunity in school to learn about air travel with the Travelling Airport (right).



News from Oak Class

Oak Class have been enjoying their time in the community. They are practising using money in a variety of ways, shopping for cooking ingredients (right) and working out what they can afford to buy by studying menus in a local café (far right). Sometimes they even enjoy sampling the creations that come out of our cooking sessions! Annette has been down to try a few too. The students also took part in a Fly2Help Travelling Airport Day which was great fun and which gave them experience of the wide variety of jobs available in an airport.



News from FOPS

Fundraising, friendships and vital school support

FOPS – Friends of Paternoster School - would like to welcome Paternoster parents, Dan Lawrence, Roxy Roberts, and Matthew Elliott to the Committee. It's great to have you join the team. We are always looking for new members, if you would like to find out more about what we do please speak to Sheryl Suzanne, Parent Support Worker.

We asked the current secretary, Rachael Fletcher, former parent at the school for her thoughts on being a member of FOPS. Here is what she said:

'I joined the FOPS in 2014. In 2015 I became the secretary. What this means is that I send out the agenda for each meeting and write up the meeting minutes. As we only have 5 meetings a year, it doesn't take up a lot of my time. I'm thrilled that during the last 7 years we have been able to fund so many things for the school. I believe being a member of the FOPS is more than just supporting the school, it gives parents the opportunity to make friends for life with people who really understand each other's situation and I'm so pleased I joined.'

Emma Sutton, our Chair who has been a member of FOPS for ten years, stepped down from the role this year and we would like to thank her for all she has done. It's great news she is continuing in the FOPS committee.

We are now looking for another Chair for the FOPS so if this is something that might interest you, please contact Sheryl Suzanne for details.

During last term, Paternoster classes made a wish list of pieces of equipment, toys and games they would love to have available to them. The great news is FOPS have been able to pay for these items totalling £9000. These items will be ordered and in classes for all children to enjoy over the coming weeks.

We are also working with the school to fund alterations to the Sports Hall to enable easy access to the toilets from the rear of the building. This will make it easier to open up the playground outside school hours without the need to open the main building.

If you'd like to come along to the last meeting of the academic year and see what the FOPS is all about, you would be very welcome. The meeting is on Thursday 9th June at 1.30pm on Zoom. Please contact Sheryl Suzanne for more details.

That's it from the FOPS this term. The whole team wishes you all a very happy, healthy and sunny Easter!

School contacts for April '22

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Parent Support Worker and FOPS information

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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.