

Paternoster School News

March 2023

Progress continues with new leadership team Jennie takes the helm

What an amazing term as the new Headteacher of Paternoster. As with many other schools, we have experienced unprecedented levels of illness (due to various winter bugs) and I wanted to thank you all for your support through these challenges.

We appointed a Deputy Headteacher, Sam Beltran, in Term 3 and she is also joint Designated Safeguarding Lead with Sheryl Suzanne. Val Kennedy has also joined the senior leadership team, as our mental health and nurture lead.

Anna Mountney has joined the teaching staff and is teaching in Oak Class three days a week. She has settled in quickly and the pupils have enjoyed having her as their new teacher. After Easter we will also be welcoming Ellie Briggs, who formerly worked at Milestone School. She will be teaching in Elm class.

I am pleased to welcome Sarah Knowles, Emma Valda and Jade Smith in their Midday Supervisor roles. They have been supporting all the classes over lunchtime which has been a great help. We have also increased the amount of supply staff that we have to call on to support the classes during periods of staff absence.

I took Deirdre Fitzpatrick through my first school improvement visit as Headteacher and I am pleased to report she maintains that we are a good school and has been supportive of the staffing changes and new roles within the school. With that in mind, I wanted to let you know that the trust has decided that Annette Fidderman will no longer need to act as Executive Headteacher at Paternoster from this term. She will still be supporting the school in her full-time role as School Improvement Director.

I have enjoyed seeing all the work on our topic of Roald Dahl this term and World Book Day was a wonderful celebration of this. The pupils enjoyed visiting the different classes for a range of activities including making potions for marvellous medicine science, sampling the Willy Wonka chocolate fountain and making BFG dream jars. We hope to have an equally exciting launch day for our new Bugs' Life topic next term.



Our pupils had a really great time with visitors from Cirencester Primary school on a joint sports afternoon.

To update on improvement work around the school, we now have access to the toilet and changing area from the playground and pupils and their families will be able to use these facilities over the holidays. Sheryl has been working hard to provide more school holiday activities. There will be stay and play provision during the Easter holidays.

We have been developing links with the local primary school and Cirencester Primary thoroughly enjoyed their time visiting Paternoster for a sports afternoon and have invited us to experience their school in the summer term.

Earwig has now been rolled out to all parents. Please access this to see the learning journey for your child which may include written observations, photographs and videos. We will also record the pupils' updated EHCP small steps and new targets set by the class teacher.

I would like to thank everyone for their support in my new role as Headteacher, I hope to provide more opportunities to welcome families into the school so you can share the great work that your children have been doing. Wishing you a relaxing Easter break.

Jennie

News from Elm Class

In Elm Class we have been working at sitting with our friends at snack time to make it a sociable experience. We also use snack time as an opportunity to develop our communication skills. The children are allowed to choose what to eat from our selection of snacks - some children are signing to indicate their choice, some are talking and others are using PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System). We encourage healthy eating and offer lots of fruit and vegetables and we encourage the children explore new food items. They are working on independently feeding themselves and have started using forks and spoons.



News from Pine Class

This term Pine Class have enjoyed lots of cooking making all sorts of different things and won the Pizza competition. The class still enjoy horse riding and swimming every week. We have been enjoying Roald Dahl books and on World Book Day, we liked trying the chocolate fountain and potion making. We have loved having Bailey the dog in class with us every week and we have been reading him stories and making sure he is looked after.



News from Beech Class



Beech class have been enjoying Forest School this term, we have been refining our whittling skills in preparation for toasting marshmallows on the campfire. We also designed and created our own pizza, nicknamed the 'Sweetza' for the Red Nose Day competition.

News from Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class have found that their Roald Dahl topic has provided wonderful opportunities for writing and art. The children have created Fantastic Mr Fox themed snacks, masks and models; BFG dream jars and Enormous Crocodile egg carton models.

The pupils have taken part in weekly swimming sessions, and daily morning exercise and sport before maths. The class have benefitted from a fantastic supply of new construction toys, many of which have been kindly donated.



News from Ash Class

Communication is at the heart of all we do in Ash Class, and we help our pupils to communicate in the way that is right for them as individuals. Will has been doing really well in exchanging TOBI (True Object Based Icons) photos to make choices at snack time. We also encourage as much independence as possible in our pupils and Brandon has been making huge progress in following recipes independently.



News from Willow Class



Willow class have been making great progress with their communication skills with several members of the class now regularly using Makaton signs. The class has also been enjoying cooking sessions (see Braxton, far left) and are able to follow basic instructions to make recipes. The children have also been making good use of our new sensory roller slide. Jack (left) loves it!

News from Maple Class

Maple Class have been enjoying their work experience with Cirencester Town Council this week. One group has been doing lots of outdoor work with the Land and Property Team. Our second group has been with the CEO and Corporate Team and has curated an art exhibition and inspected the local environment.



News from Oak Class

Oak and Beech had a lovely visit from some Cirencester Primary School pupils recently. We had an afternoon of sports and art. The students played some tag games, explored the playground together and made use of our climbing wall. (The Cirencester pupils were very jealous!). We are hoping to organise another visit in the near future. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Oak class are still sending out pupils to learn woodworking skills with the Ernest Cook Trust. Poppy (right) is getting to grips with power tools.



Happy kids learn best

Supporting emotional health

The emotional wellbeing of our pupils is supported at Paternoster by interventions run by our two Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) – Emma Ayres and Laura Hunt. Our ELSAs run one to one sessions for pupils who may have a higher level of emotional support need and also run group work sessions. They set up a teamwork and friendship group which met once a week. The group talked about what made positive and negative relationships and did a range of activities. They called themselves the Foxy Nerfs. The Fun Builders is another group set up by the ELSAs, and the children learn skills needed to work as part of a team via a range of construction activities.



Our teamwork and friendship group, calling themselves the Foxy Nerfs met once a week to share activities.



Another group of Paternoster children – who named themselves 'The Fun Builders' work on improving teamwork skills and practising problem solving activities. The children have made a range of mini planters and are working on building a big one for the school. Ben, Kane and George (far left) have done a great job with their planters and Codie (left) quickly mastered safe use of the power screwdriver.

Activity boost Paternoster announces a range of new clubs

We are delighted to announce that we have secured funding to run a community sports club on Saturday mornings. This will involve a range of sports, delivered by DLK Inclusion who already come into school to do rugby sessions. The sessions will be offered out to the wider community for children with additional needs age 8 and up as well as our own pupils. Keep an eye out for the flyer on Parentmail.

We are also pleased to be able to offer an increasing number of after school clubs at Paternoster. We already have a Cooking Club and Art and Drama Clubs are scheduled to start after Easter. There will be more to come in future too. All after school clubs are now being charged at £3 a session as we have a financial subsidy for the next year to make them accessible to all.

Stay and Play has had funding agreed for the next year. There will be 2 dates in Easter holidays, 4 days in the summer holidays and a day at Christmas.

Sheryl Suzanne, Parent Support Worker



Rugby sessions run by DLK Inclusion Sports.