



KINGFISHER CHRONICLES

Autumn 2 Edition - Friday 20th December 2024



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Dear Parents and Carers,

The second autumn term has passed incredibly quickly. Our wonderful children have demonstrated excellent attitudes and a strong work ethic, continuing to make outstanding progress in all subjects. As you will see from this newsletter, the children have again experienced a fully enriched curriculum, with some brilliant trips and visitors.

The highlight of every autumn term for me is the Christmas period, and this year was no exception. Four wonderful nativities were produced by Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2, where our pupils showed such confidence in their singing, dancing, and speaking. We also took the whole school to Westlands to watch the pantomime during the final week of term, which was a fantastic experience for all.

As you know, we were inspected by Ofsted at the start of December. We are still awaiting the draft report. Once it has been finalised and published, I will share it with you all. Due to the Christmas break, it is now likely to be available in the new year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big well done to our pupils in Minnow Class, who have successfully completed their first full term at Kingfisher. It has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence, become more social, and form secure friendships that will last throughout their time at school.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year. I cannot wait to see you all again in January for what will be a very exciting spring term. Please remember that the first day back for pupils will be **Tuesday, 7th January 2025**.

With festive greetings,

Daniel Glentworth

Mr Daniel Glentworth
Head teacher



Thank you...

For your generous donations this term. We have raised £215.50 for Children in Need.



You also donated to our Poppy Appeal by purchasing pin badges and wrist bands. Thanks to your generosity we raised an incredible £171.26



Safeguarding is everyone's business!

If you are concerned that a child may be at risk or that you are struggling to look after your own child, please phone Somerset Children's Social Care on **0300 123 2224**.

If you would like to speak to a social worker outside of office hours, please phone the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on **0300 123 23 27**.

You can also contact the police on 101. In an emergency, always call 999.



ChildLine
0800 1111



NSPCC Speak to a safe adult




Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

We are pleased with our attendance this academic year which is **96.2%** (the national average for this year up to December 8th was **95.3%**) Thank you for supporting the school by sending your children into school.

Our winning class with the best attendance this term is:

Year 3 - Otter class with 96.8%!

Please ensure you send your child to school so they arrive on time.



School start and end times

The school gates will open at 8:40am with teachers on the playground to meet them. Children need to enter class promptly at **8:50am** so they can start their learning. We finish the school day at **3:20pm**.

CLASS PAGES

Minnow Class



Minnow Class's first term at school has been a busy one. They have settled into the routine and structure of school life beautifully and you should all be very proud of how much they have achieved so far. We spent a lot of the first half term getting to know each other and the children enjoyed taking part in lots of 'All about me' activities including, painting self-portraits, sharing things about their families and learning how to write their name. We then moved onto learning about Autumn and Harvest and enjoyed our outdoor learning sessions where we made self portraits using natural materials and vegetable printing. We have been out on welly walks to look at the signs of the seasons changing and linking this back in with our different story focuses such as Stickman. We also had a great time taking part in careers day. It was wonderful to hear all about what the children wanted to be when they grow up and we had fun doing lots of role play activities linked to different jobs.

The children have also proven themselves to be amazing at their more formal learning and we have now completed the Phase 2 stage of phonics and are moving into Phase 3. All the children seem to love reading and this is not only from school but also because of the support you offer them at home as well. This second half term we started off by thinking all about the Understanding the World and Personal Social and Emotional

Development parts of the curriculum. We had great fun learning all about people who help us as well as taking part in the Diwali dance workshop. We have also thought lots about friendship and being kind to our friends and what we can do to make sure we are being a good friend to others. Finally, these last couple of months Christmas preparation has been in full swing! The children have done amazingly at learning all their songs and lines for the Nativity as well as learning all about the meaning of Christmas and where the Nativity story comes from. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas, Miss Jackson.



Dragonfly Class



I have been so proud of all the children for their first term in Year 1! They have been working so hard in English perfecting their neat handwriting and using their phonics. The children produced some brilliant work describing fire-works and wrote some fantastic firework safety rules. We also learnt all about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. More recently, the children have written some super stories about the Bear and the Hare. In Maths, the children have continued to work hard developing their understanding of addition and subtraction. We have looked at the days of the week and the months of the year which tied in nicely with Science. This half term we have explored the four seasons and have observed changes as we move from Autumn to Winter. The class enjoyed presenting their own weather reports, making rain gauges

and creating some colourful wind socks!

In other curriculum areas, the children enjoyed working together to programme the bee bots in computing and they drew some amazing portraits in Art. In History, our topic has been Toys and we have been learning how these have changed over time. Last week, the children enjoyed playing with some toys and games from the past, when Natasha from the Heritage Centre brought them in for a workshop. This half term in Outdoor Learning, the children have been studying leaves and how they change colour in Autumn. They have also learnt all about Hedgehogs, and have created some amazing pictures and sculptures.



We've had some fantastic visitors into school this term, including a Diwali Dance workshop and visitors discussing their jobs on Careers Day. It was fun dressing up on this day and all the children looked amazing in their 'future career' outfits! As we approach Christmas we've been very creative in class, making Christmas tea-light holders, Christingles and decorating Christmas biscuits. The children also made me very proud when they performed their Nativity play. Thank you for providing such amazing costumes and for supporting them with learning their words. It has been such a busy first term, and I know this has been a big change for the children coming from Reception, but they have all been absolute superstars. Thank you for your continued support and I hope you all manage to have an enjoyable break and have lots of festive fun together as a family. Merry Christmas! Mrs Kerrigan

Mallard Class



What an incredible term it has been for Mallard Class! This term has been filled with excitement and growth across all areas of the curriculum, and I am so proud of the children for all their hard work and effort. In English, we were captivated by the enchanting world of Julia Donaldson's texts. Her delightful stories ignited our imaginations and nurtured a love for reading in all the children. Throughout our exploration of these wonderful books, Mallard Class embraced a range of writing tasks with enthusiasm, learning how to write for different purposes while expressing their ideas creatively. In Maths, we ventured into new territory by mastering column addition and subtraction. This has empowered the children with the confidence and precision needed to tackle mathematical problems head-on. Alongside learning new methods, we reinforced previously taught concepts, helping our mathematical understanding to expand and flourish.

Our Science curriculum has been a true journey of discovery. The children enthusiastically conducted a range of investigations, learning through hands-on experiences. From exploring the properties of materials to uncovering the secrets of different animal habitats, their natural curiosity has shone brightly as they asked questions and sought answers. In Design Technology, the children enjoyed the exciting challenge of designing, making, and evaluating their very own moving vehicles. This hands-on project not only fostered creativity and problem-solving skills but also provided a wonderful opportunity for teamwork and collaboration. Our exploration of Judaism provided meaningful insights into different cultures, broadening the children's understanding of the world around them.

A particular highlight of the year was our Nativity performance, which truly blew us all away! The children's enthusiasm and talent shone through, making it a memorable event for everyone involved. Watching the pantomime at Westlands was another hit this year! The children had a brilliant time, and the whole class behaved impeccably throughout.

As we reach the end of 2024, I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Have a brilliant time and a well-deserved break. I look forward to seeing you all in 2025! Miss Jones



Otter Class



What an incredible term it has been for Otter Class! From exploring the wonders of Science and History to unleashing our creativity and coding skills, the children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and determination. With so many exciting activities, this term has been one to remember.

Right at the start of the term, Science lessons were packed with excitement as we explored forces and friction. Using Mr. Green's favourite toy cars, we tested how different surfaces affected movement. With ramps of various materials, the children investigated how friction can slow objects down or speed them up. Eager to see results, they worked brilliantly in teams to analyse their findings and showed great enthusiasm for hands-on learning. Despite the snow, our trip to Taunton Museum was a real highlight. The children delved into the fascinating world of the Romans, handling genuine artefacts and imagining life in Roman Britain. By exploring the museum's exhibits, they learned about

the role of historians and how evidence is interpreted to tell the stories of the past. In addition, they discovered the incredible history of Somerset, tracing its transformation from prehistoric times to the present day. Amazed by what they saw, the children asked thoughtful questions and left inspired.

Earlier this term, Family Learning Day gave everyone a chance to get creative together. With the help of professional artist Darrell Wakelam, the children and their families worked together to make stunning Viking masks. Patiently shaping, cutting, and decorating their designs, everyone created truly impressive masks. It was heartwarming to see families working side by side, celebrating their artistic skills and teamwork. In Computing, the children wowed us with their coding skills. Confidently using Scratch, they created their very own virtual pianos. Programming notes, creating algorithms, and perfecting their designs, they showed both technical skill and creativity. Watching their faces light up as their pianos worked perfectly was a joy to see! In Art, the children explored the natural world through the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. Inspired by her focus on nature, they designed and created leaf bowls, using careful shaping techniques they had practiced. As the weeks went on, their skills grew, and the final results were breathtaking. Proud of their work, they demonstrated the patience and creativity that O'Keeffe herself would admire.

Midway through the term, we were thrilled to welcome visiting author Annelise Gray. Sharing her journey as a writer, she introduced us to her books about Roman chariot racing. Enthralled by her storytelling, the children were inspired by her passion for history and writing.

Finally, we ended the term with an incredible outdoor learning day. The children took on exciting STEM challenges, splitting into groups to complete two big projects. One team constructed a free-standing tower that ended up taller than Mr. Green himself! The other team engineered water bridges, testing gradients and experimenting with teamwork to find the best solutions. It was a brilliant session of creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration.

As the term comes to a close, I want to thank all of you for your continued support. Whether you've helped with homework, joined us for events, or cheered your children on from home, your involvement has made all these wonderful activities possible. From all of us in Otter Class, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Have a relaxing holiday break, and we can't wait to see you in 2025 for more incredible adventures! Warm wishes, Mr. Green



Hedgehog Class



What a fantastic Autumn term we've had in Hedgehog Class! The children have become curious, enthusiastic learners and have enjoyed all areas of the curriculum. All staff have certainly loved seeing the children thrive across all subjects. In RE, we learned about Hinduism, exploring artefacts and crafting beautiful Diya lamps in DT to enhance our understanding. In Art, we worked with clay to create cartoon characters similar to Nick Park's *Wallace and Gromit*. Recently, we have enjoyed decorating our classroom and making moving cards full of glitter, as well as producing stunning drawings inspired by Lowry.

Science had us diving into living things, habitats, and digestion, which we connected to our outdoor learning sessions. We have done plenty of exploring, investigating, and classifying, and the children's natural curiosity has shone through. In Maths, we have been buzzing with excitement, particularly when working on times tables. Many children have become real Times Tables Rockstars, turning their heat maps green, and plenty more are incredibly close!

In English, we explored a range of books, including our favourite class read, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. It took us on a roller-coaster of emotions and had us all cheering at the very end! We also enjoyed *The Iron Man*, *The Green Ship*, *The Proudest Blue*, and more. Through these stories, we created letters, instructions, non-chronological reports, and even more fantastic writing! In Geography, we explored mountains, volcanoes, and earthquakes, while in History, we journeyed back to the Tudors, comparing their clothes, food, and housing with those of today. Highlights of the term have included Languages Day, Careers Day, and a special visit from Pudsey Bear.



We are so excited about the Spring term, with trips, swimming, Rockstars Day, and Performing Arts to look forward to! As always, thank you for your continued support, especially with reading, homework, and times tables—it has such a great impact on the children's progress. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2025! Miss Kitto

Swan Class

Swan Class have worked incredibly hard this term, demonstrating remarkable dedication and effort across all areas of the curriculum. In Maths, the children have continued to strengthen their understanding of place value. They also explored statistics by creating line graphs and interpreting data from various tables and charts. Towards the end of the term, they tackled the challenging concept of fractions, learning to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. Their perseverance and determination shone through as they mastered these advanced topics.



In English, the children engaged with a wide range of writing genres, including narrative writing, setting and character descriptions, letters, diary entries, and information writing. Highlights included writing a witness statement and newspaper report based on the theft of a book in *Paddington 2*, alongside crafting an adventure pirate narrative, which contributed to a beautiful writing display. The class achieved a remarkable accomplishment when every student was named a winner in a highly competitive Young Writers Poetry Competition. This achievement made the school proud, and their work will be published in the new year in an anthology of poems—a testament to their outstanding creativity and writing talent.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their Science lessons, conducting experiments and carrying out research to deepen their understanding of properties and changes of materials. Later in the term, lessons focused on reproduction in animals and plants, as well as the fascinating life cycles of living things. In Geography, the children studied rivers, examining their human and physical features in detail. Meanwhile, in History, they delved into the Victorian era, creating a timeline of key events, exploring the impact of the Industrial Revolution, and analysing historical sources about Victorian workhouses. A visit to the Rural Life Museum allowed the children to immerse themselves in everyday Victorian life. They practiced Victorian cooking by making drop scones on an old range stove and created their own rag rug using pieces of vegetable sack and torn-up shirts.

In Art, the children focused on collage and sketching, drawing inspiration from artists Robert Longo and Hollie Chastain. They experimented with various techniques, including sketching with charcoal and creating vibrant collages inspired by these artists' unique styles. In Design and Technology, they displayed creativity and skill by designing and making miniature playgrounds and crafting yarn Christmas ornaments. The children thoroughly enjoyed participating in house tournaments during PE and taking part in whole-day events such as Careers Day, Languages Day, and World Mental Health Day. They also performed songs in assemblies, showcasing their enthusiasm and teamwork.

Year 5 would like to wish everyone a joyful Christmas break and a wonderful start to the New Year. Mrs Musgrave



Owl Class

As we wrap up another busy and exciting term, we're thrilled to share the fantastic learning and achievements of our Year 6 Owls. The children have truly soared in their knowledge and skills, tackling each topic with enthusiasm and resilience. Here are some of the key highlights from this term. In English, we explored the moving and thought-provoking novel *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness. The children delved into character analysis, wrote poignant diary entries, and used powerful vocabulary to craft their own reflective pieces. They've also mastered using punctuation such as colons, ellipses, and dialogue to bring their writing to life. During maths sessions, our focus has been on fractions, decimals, and percentages, as well as deepening our problem-solving skills. Owl Class tackled multi-step challenges with determination, and it's been wonderful to see their growing confidence in reasoning and justifying their answers.



In Science, we investigated light and how it travels. The children conducted experiments to explore reflection and refraction and were fascinated to learn how light behaves in different conditions. A particular highlight was learning about the human eye and how it processes light into images during a visit from Robert Frith Opticians. We journeyed back to Ancient Greece in History this term, exploring its rich culture, mythology, and enduring influence on modern society. From learning about the birth of democracy to examining the achievements of Greek philosophers, Owl Class was captivated by the stories and legacy of this remarkable civilization. In Geography, our focus has been on the beautiful country of France. The children explored French landmarks, learned about its regions and rivers, and compared life in rural and urban areas. This learning linked beautifully to our French lessons, where the children practised discussing Paris and its features.



In PSHE this term, we focused on building relationships and understanding British Values through celebrating differences. Owl Class participated in discussions about democracy, respect, and inclusion, reflecting on how we can celebrate diversity within our community. In Art and Design, the children explored the works of Vincent Van Gogh, designing their own *Starry Night* interpretations inspired by his style. They also developed collaging techniques in the style of Eileen Agar and used tessellation to create repeated patterns.

This term has been enriched with exciting themed days and workshops:

- European Day of Languages: The children celebrated the beauty of languages by learning phrases in French, Spanish, and Italian, and explored the cultures behind them.
- Mental Health Day: Through mindfulness activities and open discussions, we focused on the importance of mental well-being and strategies to stay positive.
- Diwali Dance Workshop: Owl Class embraced the joy of movement while learning traditional Indian dance styles to celebrate the Festival of Lights.
- Careers Day: The children explored a wide range of professions, from medicine to engineering, and were inspired by guest speakers who shared their career journeys.
- Learn with the Lords Online: We were incredibly fortunate to participate in a session with Baroness Scott of Needham Market, where the children asked questions about life in the House of Lords.

As always, PE lessons have been a highlight for many, with a focus on teamwork through invasion games like netball and football. In addition, we discussed the importance of staying active and making healthy choices for both our physical and mental well-being.

As we move into the next term, Owl Class will continue preparing for their SATs with tailored support and exciting opportunities for learning.

Thank you for your continued support at home. Wishing you all a restful and joyful break.

Mrs Farnell



Remembrance

As always at Kingfisher, Remembrance is a very important day which is acknowledged across the whole school. We have many children whose parents are in the military, and it is important to educate our young people on the sacrifice of those in the armed forces. This year, pupils performed In Flanders Fields in our whole school assembly. We also encourage any pupil who attends Scouts or Brownies to wear their troop uniform ahead of being on parade at the weekend. Following our 2-minute silence, Rev. Sarah finished the assembly with a special military prayer. As a school we raised £171.26 for the Poppy Appeal.



Children in Need

£215.50 was raised by our school community for BBC Children in Need this year. Kingfisher was awash with Pudsey Bears as we raised awareness of the excellent charity work that is done by CiN. We even had a visit from Pudsey the week after to say thank you for all our donations.



Bikeability

Pupils in Year 5 took part in a 2-day Bikeability course in November. The sessions focused on road safety, danger awareness and being able to cycle confidently and safely on the roads. All pupils who took part passed the Level 2.



The team are returning in the summer so that more pupils can learn to cycle safely. A big thank you to the staff who led and assisted the course.

Kingfisher Choir

Kingfisher Choir have once again been out and about around the local area performing songs. In November they sang with the Armonico choir at Westlands, along with other children from local schools. Then on Monday 9th December, our KS2 choir were invited to sing at an invitation-only carol service at St John's Church, Yeovil. The service was led by Rev. James and was hosted by North Seam Financial Planning Ltd. Children sang three songs throughout the service, filling the church with beautiful singing. Many emails of thanks and praise have been received since the event which showcased our pupils' musical talents.



Christingle with Rev. Sarah

In the last week of term, Rev. Sarah spent the morning at Kingfisher. She led workshops with every class where she explained the meaning of Christingle. Each child made their own Christingle using an orange, a candle, cocktail sticks, sweets and raisins. In the afternoon, Sarah led a whole school assembly where children revisited their learning from their morning session and sang songs by candlelight.



Thank you - an update from the summer term...

In July 2024, children from across the school took part in a sponsored walk in aid of RSPB. We are delighted to announce that as a school we donated £346 to RSPB. Thank you as always for your generosity.



Thank you for your donation

Nativities

Pupils in Little Kingfishers', Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all put on incredible nativity performances in front of their parents in the last two weeks of term. It was brilliant having a live audience in school for these wonderful occasions with lots of parents and grandparents in attendance. A special mention to the teaching and support staff who worked tirelessly to ensure these shows were of a high standard; our children's confidence, narration, acting and singing were exceptional.



Christmas lunch

As is tradition, the whole school had their Christmas lunch on Tuesday 17th December. Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves and our excellent catering staff made up of Charlene, Julie and Liza did an excellent job of providing a delicious lunch to over 230 staff and children.



Anti-Bullying Week

November saw children and staff wearing odd socks to school as we celebrated Anti Bullying Week 2024. Our odd socks helped everyone see and accept our differences. In class, pupils learned about kindness and what to do if they are worried about bullying.



After School Enrichment Clubs — Spring term

A reminder that the link to register your interest in After School Enrichment Clubs will close on Sunday 5th January 2025 at 5pm. You will be notified during the week of 7th January if your child has been successful in gaining a place at their chosen club.

All clubs will then start week commencing Monday 13th January and will run up to and including Friday 28th March 2025.



Diwali

As part of our Religious Education curriculum enrichment, the whole school celebrated the Hindu festival of Diwali with drama workshops from the West End in Schools Company.

Pupils in all year groups enjoyed their sessions, learning about the importance of dance during the festival of light. Our pupils who celebrate Diwali as part of their faith were invited to wear their traditional Hindu dress for the event.



Whole school trip to the Panto

Another Christmas tradition is the whole school visit to the Theatre in Yeovil to watch their annual pantomime. All pupils had the opportunity to enjoy a live performance as part of our on-going commitment to music and the arts. This year, we attended Westlands Entertainment Centre where the children thoroughly enjoyed Jack and the Beanstalk. Our brilliantly supportive PTA paid for every child's ticket again this year which meant there was no charge for any families.



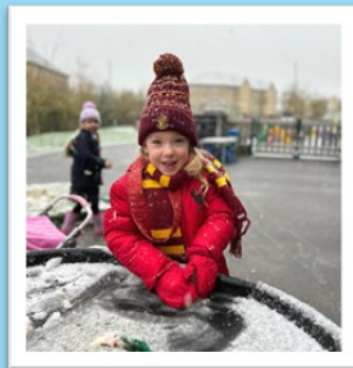
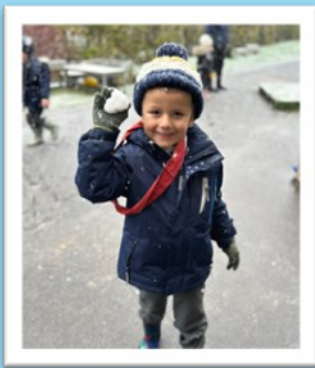
Sporting Success – PE enrichment

There was a busy week of sport in mid-November. Our Y5/6 football team were unbeaten and finished 2nd in their tournament beating Chard School 8-0, East Coker 1-0, Tintinhull 4-0 and draws against Countess Gytha and High Ham! Kingfisher was also represented at the Netball tournament this week and returned victorious as tournament **WINNERS!** Well done to all involved.



Let it snow! – Fun and enjoyment

One particular morning in November brought great excitement to everyone at Kingfisher. We had snow! Not much but enough to bring huge enjoyment and opportunities to explore the outdoors.



Rock up and Read – Reading for Pleasure

As always, promoting and developing a love of reading remains a high priority at Kingfisher. Our Rock up and Read sessions continue to take place half-termly, with the numbers of parents, carers and grandparents coming into school to read with their children. Our next rock up and read session will take place on Thursday 9th January 2025 at 2:45pm - we hope you can make it.



PTA Our PTA committee are already planning lots of exciting events for next year. Please keep an eye on their Facebook page for details of these events and when their next meeting is. If you have any questions or ideas, please email them on:



Finally, some photos from the Autumn Term.



Please remember that you can book the following using ParentPay:

- School lunches
- Breakfast Club
- After School Childcare Club



Diary Dates

- | | |
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| Friday 20th December | - Last day of term |
| Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January | - Christmas Holidays |
| Monday 23rd December | - Deadline for booking school lunches, Breakfast & After - School Club |
| Monday 6th January | - INSET DAY - School closed to pupils for staff training |
| Tuesday 7th January | - First day of term |
| Wednesday 8th January | - Year 4 Swimming starts 6 weeks |
| Thursday 9th January | - Rock up & Read 2.45pm |
| Monday 13th January | - After School Enrichment Clubs start this week |
| Thursday 16th & Friday 17th January | - Life Education Workshops |
| Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February | - Half Term |
| Monday 24th February | - First day back to school |



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ...

From all the staff here at Kingfisher Primary School and Little Kingfishers' Day Nursery, we would like to wish our families and wider school community a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

