

Kingfisher Primary School
Kingfisher Drive, Yeovil,
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Headteacher: Mr Dan Glentworth
BEd (Hons)



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Preston Primary Academy Trust



Friday 25th October 2024

Newsletter Autumn 1 - 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fast-moving first half-term this has been. We have seen lots of exciting learning and enrichment opportunities for our pupils which has been pleasing to see. All our pupils returned after the summer break in high spirits and have settled back into school routines quickly and calmly. At this point, I must say a special 'well done' to our newest pupils who have started in Minnow Class – they have taken to life at Kingfisher as if they have always been here which is brilliant news!



The next half-term is one of my favourites, as we start to hear nativity productions being practiced in the hall and classrooms. Christmas is always a special time in school, and I am very much looking forward to taking the entire school to watch the pantomime again this year.



As we start the second half of the autumn term, I'd like to remind parents of a few important routines that help ensure everything runs smoothly. Please make sure your child arrives on time each morning, ready to learn, and in the correct school uniform. Attendance is vital to your child's progress, so please inform the school office promptly if they're unwell and unable to attend. Don't forget to book school lunches, breakfast club, and after-school childcare in advance, as this helps us accommodate everyone. Finally, if you're driving to school, please park safely and respectfully in the surrounding area.

A quick reminder, if you are a parent of a of a child in Year 6, don't forget that the closing date for secondary school applications is Thursday 31st October 2024. Click on the following link to take you to the council's webpage. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september/>

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very safe and healthy half-term and I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 4th November 2024.

With best wishes,

Mr Daniel Glentworth
Head Teacher



Please remember to be careful and considerate when parking around the school; we want to keep our children and families safe. Please also be respectful of residents' drives and gardens. Thank you.

Baroness Scott of Needham Market

On Friday morning, as part of our on-going commitment to promoting British Values, pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 had the opportunity to learn about the House of Lords. Pupils took part in a live Zoom session with Baroness Scott of Needham Market where they could ask Baroness Scott any questions they had about her role in the House of Lords and more general questions about democracy and the rule of law.



World Mental Health Day 2024

On Thursday 10th October 2024, Kingfisher turned yellow to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day. The entire day was dedicated to pupils learning about the importance of mental health as well as physical health and what to do if they felt their mental health was suffering.



As you can see, all pupils looked amazing, with some designing their own Mental Health Day t-shirts. In the afternoon, our newly appointed vicar, Rev. Sarah Sanderson, led a whole school assembly which focussed understanding different emotions.



Harvest Festival

Friday 27th September 2024 saw our Harvest assembly. As always, our families were incredibly generous with their donations which were gratefully received by The Lord's Larder. Each class read a poem in our assembly and a variety of harvest songs were sung enthusiastically by all.



Careers Day

Tuesday 8th October saw Kingfisher hold its first Careers Day as part of our on-going commitment to enhance our pupils' personal development. Careers Day was a valuable opportunity for our pupils to explore a variety of career paths and expand their understanding of the working world. Exposing children to different careers at an early age helps them to identify their interests, develop aspirations, and make connections between their learning in school and potential future professions. This event not only motivated pupils to work toward their goals but also builds their confidence by encouraging them to ask questions and seek advice from professionals. We're thrilled to give our students this chance to think about their futures and broaden their horizons! Even our staff came dressed as what they want to be when they were younger.

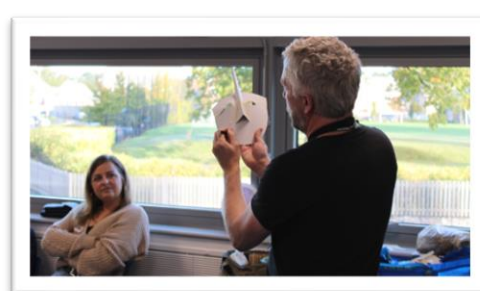
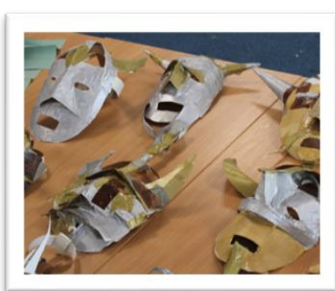
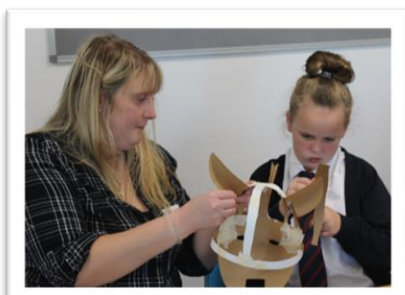


Careers Day was kicked off with a whole school assembly where visitors kindly gave up their time to talk about their careers. Children heard from a mechanic and manager at Vertu Land Rover Yeovil, they also heard from one of our parents, Anna, who has worked as a fashion designer for high street brands and now works in marketing for Screwfix. Pupils also heard from a Mental Health Nurse from the NHS who supports adults with a range of difficulties.



Family Learning Otter Class

This term has seen pupils and parents in Year 3 enjoy a family learning session. The session had an art focus with visiting professional artist, Darrell Wakelam, leading a workshop where children and parents made Viking masks which is linked to their history topic, later this year, on the Vikings.



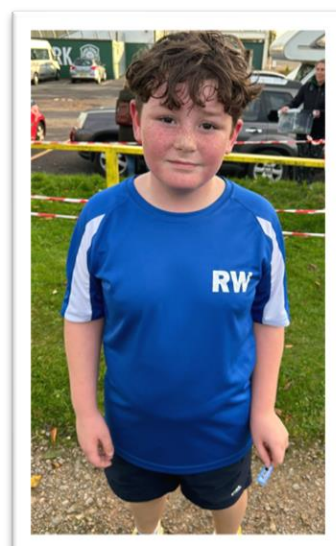
European Day of Languages

Thursday 26th September saw Kingfisher celebrate the European Day of Languages – thanks to Mrs Farnell who organised the brilliant day which saw classes pair up and learn the same language. Reception, Year 1, and Year 5 learned about the language, food, geography and culture of France. Year 2 and Year 3 learned about Germany with Year 4 and Year 6 focussing on Italy.



Cross Country Running

Our cross-country runners have been out in force this half-term, Mrs Worley's after-school enrichment club has been busy both in school and at competitive XC events across Yeovil. This year we have seen our first 1st place for a Kingfisher pupil and numerous top 10 and 20 finishes across the different age ranges. Well done to everyone for their participation and commitment.



Subject in Focus – Art & Design

Our Art and Design curriculum is something we are immensely proud of, and this is reflected in our pupils' motivation and passion for art along with their fantastic outcomes. Our curriculum focusses on the following aspect of art: drawing, painting, printing, collage, sculpture and learning about famous artists. Already this term, professional artist - Darrell Wakelam, has visited Kingfisher to work with our Year 3 pupils.

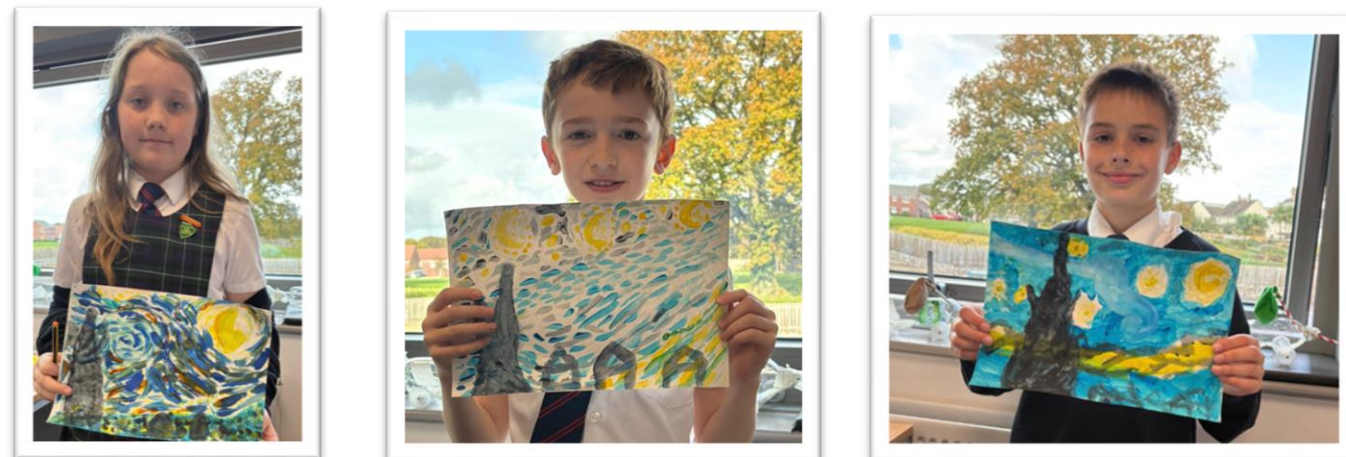
Here are pupils in Year 3 combining their skills in sculpture and painting to produce beautiful autumn leaf bowls.



Pupils in Year 4 have been studying the sculpture work of Nick Park. They have created volcanoes linked to their science learning, beautiful Diwali lamps and also a cartoon character in the style of Nick Park (creator of Wallace and Gromit).



Children in Year 6 have been honing their skills in painting this term, focussing on the work of Vincent Van Gogh. Their challenge was to create their own version of Van Gogh's famous Starry Night.



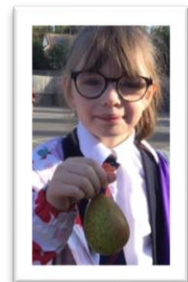
No Pens Day

In the penultimate week of term, we held 'No Pens Day.' This is where teachers planned a day of lessons without any formal recording. Pupils' learning on the day was brilliant to watch, with many different opportunities available to develop their skills in communication, problem solving, reasoning, debating, resilience and determination. Below are pupils from Y1 and Y2 who practiced their story telling skills. Pupils in Year 3 explored the digital microscopes and looked at a range of things in detail. Year 4 pupils honed their skills in performance poetry.



Community Garden Harvest

You may remember from our summer newsletter that in May we established our new Community Garden. Pupils, along with Mrs Huggins, worked hard to sow seeds for a variety of different vegetables, ranging from runner beans to beetroot to broad beans. Over the summer, a team of volunteer parents and staff ensure the vegetable were watered and we have now seen our first harvest of vegetables, all grown by our pupils.



PE Kit Reminder



Something which has become apparent in the last couple of weeks is an increasing number of pupils coming to school either without a PE kit or without a full PE kit. It is essential that all pupils have a change of clothes and shoes for PE. It is also important for children to have a spare pair of socks in their PE kits so when tights are removed, they have something to change into, or if their socks get wet due to a downpour, they have dry socks for the rest of the day. For further information or clarification, please contact the school office or speak to your child's class teacher.

Nut Free School

An important reminder that nuts and nut products should not be brought into school because we have a number of children who suffer from allergies related to nuts and nut products; this includes hazelnut products such as Nutella. Please look carefully at snacks and packed lunches to ensure that nut ingredients are not present. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated as anaphylaxis is a serious, even a life-threatening issue.



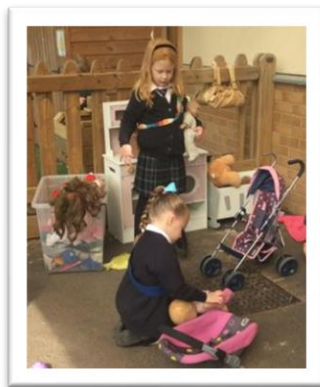
National Poetry Day

Mrs Kerrigan organised for the whole school to take part in National Poetry Day on the 4th October. This year's theme was 'counting' which enabled some excellent discussions. Pupils across the school wrote their own poems, performed their favourite ones, and had the opportunity to read a range of different poetry. Miss Jones then led our whole school assembly in the afternoon, where pupils performed their poetry to the school.



Minnow Class

It has been so pleasing to see our newest members of Kingfisher settle into school life so quickly. They have established new friendships and have made a brilliant start with their learning!



Attendance

As you are already aware, there is a clear correlation between good attendance at school and good progress and attainment. We are regularly monitoring attendance and if we identify a concern, we will send a letter to you which outlines your child's attendance. If your child's attendance were to drop to 90% over a school year, this would equate to 29 days absent from school – this is the equivalent of missing 6 weeks of learning. If you have any concerns regarding attendance, please speak to Mr Glentworth.



Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child who they believe may be disadvantaged in achieving their best in education. At Kingfisher Primary School, we provide high quality education and enrichment opportunities for all our pupils regardless of ability or background. However, it is useful to receive this funding for all children entitled to it. If your children are entitled to free school meals or a member of the household is currently in receipt, or has been in the last six years, of Universal credit then please contact the school office for more details.

Absence



On the occasion that your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please telephone the school office by 9.15am to let us know if your child is not going to be in school – thank you.

Cat Boy



You may remember children in Year 1 – Year 6 took part in a workshop in the Summer Term where they all contributed to writing a book along with the author Sarah Oliver. We have a number of these books left for you to purchase at a price of £4. If you would like to purchase a copy, please let the school office know.

Online Safety info from Mr Green



Many parents will opt to use apps to track and monitor the location and online activities of their children. These apps can be beneficial (e.g. physical safety) but as with anything there are drawbacks (e.g. invasion of privacy).

Using the voices of young people Voicebox have put together an excellent article which parents can use to give a more informed opinion of these apps and to use as discussion points with their children.

<https://voicebox.site/article/parental-supervision-how-far-too-far>

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all the parents who attended their child's parents' evening this half term; it was great to see so many of you in school. It was lovely hearing the positive comments from parents about the wonderful artwork on display and how happy parents are regarding their child's progress in school.



Twitter



Do not forget that we have a school Twitter account: [@KingfisherYeo](https://twitter.com/KingfisherYeo)

In the current circumstances, it continues to be very difficult to share some of the exceptional work and experiences that our pupils have done in school on a day-to-day basis. The Twitter account is a great way of celebrating what our pupils do with their parents, grandparents, and the wider school community.

Uniform

Please can I request that anything that your child brings into school is clearly labelled with their name. This includes coats, PE kits, jumpers, any uniform, drinks bottles and lunchboxes.

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2



Friday 25th October

Last Day of Term

Monday 28th – Friday 1st November

Half-term

Monday 4th November

First day back at school

Monday 4th November

Bikeability – Selected Year 5 & Year 6

Tuesday 5th November

Bikeability – Selected Year 5 & Year 6

Wednesday 6th November

Year 5 Swimming (6 weeks)

Thursday 7th November

Rock Up & Read 2.45pm

Thursday 7th November

Year 6 Residential Information Meeting 3.30pm

Monday 11th November

Remembrance Day

Monday 11th November

Anti Bullying Week

Tuesday 12th November

Tempest Photographer – Portraits – individual & siblings

Wednesday 13th November

World Kindness Day

Friday 15th November

Non-uniform day – Children in Need

Thursday 21st November

Year 3 to Somerset Museum, Taunton

Friday 22nd November

Year 5 to Somerset Rural Life Museum, Glastonbury

Friday 29th November

PTA Christmas Donation Day (more details to come)

Tuesday 19th November

Reception Class Vision Screening

Friday 29th November

PTA Christmas Donation Day (more details to come)

Monday 9th December

Nursery Nativity to Parents

Wednesday 11th December

Year 1 Dragonfly Nativity to Parents

Thursday 12th December

Year R Minnow Nativity to Parents

Thursday 12th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 13th December

Year 2 Mallard Nativity to Parents

Tuesday 17th December

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 18th December

Whole School Trip to the Pantomime at Westlands

Friday 20th December

Non-uniform day – Christmas Parties

Monday 23rd Dec – Friday 3rd January

Christmas Holiday

Monday 6th January

Teacher Training Day – School closed

Tuesday 7th January

First day back for pupils

Tuesday 17th December 2024

Please book on ParentPay



Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blankets and Stuffing Ball

Or

Roasted Vegetable Vegan Loaf with Stuffing Ball (V)

Roast Potatoes

Peas/Carrot Mixed

Shredded Cabbage

Gravy

Christmas Crispy Pudding

or

Warm Mince Pie

EVERYONE GETS A CHRISTMAS CRACKER!



Ncfe – Certified Courses for Parents

Ncfe cache certificated courses are aimed to support parents and carers who are looking to get back into work, or change career, that fits in with their families. Online webinars are run with full tutor support, within term times only and within school hours, making this more accessible to learners with children.

Any parent or carer who wishes to take this opportunity has a deadline to complete their enrolment application. After they have enrolled, we will send them two initial assessments in English and Maths, which determines the level they start on (available levels 1,2 & 3). We want to ensure they have enough time to complete this, as **the deadline to enrol is by 5th November**. We start on 11th November and will be running this course for 6 weeks.

For more information please go to www.studysmartuk.online



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6 Week Course
Mon - Fri
Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online

Available In the following levels:

Level 1:	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
	CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment
	CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing
Level 2:	Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
Level 3:	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs


Please go to our website address above, for more information.

*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that **MUST** be attended to complete this full time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria.

Yeovil Art Space & Love Yeovil message

Yeovil Art Space & Love Yeovil Teams are keen to hear the views and ideas of local residents and families as part of the public consultation of the area known as Glovers Walk. They are hoping to work with local schools, teachers and young people with their grant funded project 'Our Town'. Please scan the QR code below and complete the survey.



 FILL IN
THE SURVEY
SHARE
YOUR
THOUGHTS

TALKING THE WALK

FESTIVAL
OF IDEAS
FOR
YEOVIL
GLOVERS
WALK



yeovilartspace.uk/gloverswalk