

John Watson School

a community special school

Newsletter

2nd December 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope you have had a chance to read about our latest Ofsted inspection. You can find the report on our website here...

Ofsted inspection 2022

Inspectors were very positive about the work of the school, there are many things to celebrate. I was particularly pleased they acknowledged that developing independence is at the heart of everything we do.

Stephen Passey
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

- ★ **Thursday 8th December** - 'Save The Children' Christmas Jumper Day & Wheatley site Christmas Lunch
- ★ **Thursday 15th December, 1.30pm** - KS1 Wheatley Site Celebration Assembly
- ★ **Friday 16th December, 1.30pm** - KS2 Wheatley Site Celebration Assembly
- ★ **Monday 19th December, 9.30am** - Holton Site Celebration Assembly
- ★ **Tuesday 20th December** - last day of term, pupils leave at 1:15pm
- ★ **Wednesday 4th January 2023** - Inset day
- ★ **Thursday 5th January 2023** - Pupils return to school

This week's round up from the classes...

Reception / KS1: Sunflower Class:

For the last few weeks we have been focusing on the Gingerbread man story and have been doing lots of activities around this theme. We have had lots of fun with the story, reenacting some of the characters. gingerbread scented playdough has been used to practise our fine motor skills and we decorated paper gingerbread men in our maths activities.



We have also been doing our outdoor learning sessions and have been enjoying the new playhouse where we have been doing reading and role play. We have been using songs and 1:1 games to work on our communication and interaction skills. New bikes and scooters have also been a lot of fun.



KS2: Lilac Class

In English, we have learnt about the history of Thanksgiving and its traditions, and we made Stuffed Butternut Squash with Feta and Couscous in our life skills room as part of our feast inspired menu.



This week we've begun to look at the Christmas Story. We have created our own Advent Calendars for the festive month. In Art we have created Thanksgiving Turkey Collages, and Stained Glass inspired Angels, to mark the beginning of our festive crafts.

In Maths we've been looking at why and how people shop, counting money and looking at how people pay for things, and packaging. We investigated Barcodes and QR codes, and how and why they are useful. We set up our own shop game, and designed some items to sell with some very creative and exciting names and descriptions! Would anyone like to try The Hulk drink - it's smashing! We have also worked very hard on our individual learning targets.

In Sports we have been playing cricket, practising on the trikes, playing football, frisbee and yoga... as well as fun times at breaks on the trampoline.

We have also had a few visits from Bella, the Therapy dog and have been learning all about her favourite treats and her favourite things to do. We practised throwing the toys for her and giving her a lovely stroke.

In our Gardening Project, we have begun clearing the garden in readiness for Spring planting. We have harvested Butternut Squash seeds and planted them in pots in the classroom windowsills and are helping them to grow.

KS1: Sweet Pea Class

In class we have been focusing on lovely classic tales for the last few weeks.

We listened to the story of the gingerbread man and we made our own gingerbread people in our cooking session. Everyone decorated their gingerbread and enjoyed trying it.



It has been a busy week outdoors where we explored our new playhouse! We had a great time reading books and doing role play. We explored the water tuff tray and tried to help the gingerbread man to swim across the river!



Brushing our teeth is very important in sweetpea class, so we sang and listened to the song while brushing our teeth. Brushing teeth is a great activity to help our children understand the importance of self care and to become independent.

Squiggle whilst you wiggle was great, and we used our colourful scarves to make circular moves and to work on following verbal and visual instructions. Then, we practised writing on paint, and everyone worked on their individual targets in English.

In Move a while to fill your bucket, we filled our buckets with kind actions using our favourite materials. Our children made choices independently and filled their buckets with shiny pompoms, and colourful patterned fabrics.



Excellent work Sweetpea class!

KS3 & KS4:

All the classes have had a busy time recently. We marked remembrance day with some quiet reflection and in Art by using different techniques to create a fields of poppies. We have also had some great art sessions using natural materials from the sensory garden to make collages and using straws to blow paint across coloured card.



The students have responded incredibly well to our focus on kindness during Anti-bullying Week, during many different activities.



Some of the students from across the key stages have enjoyed visits from sixth form Drama students, from Magdalen College School. We've enjoyed initial workshops, exploring and creating props.

KS1: Snapdragon Class

We've had a lovely couple of weeks in class! In English, we have looked at The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We really enjoyed re-telling the story through play. We used wooden blocks, and puppets to do this.



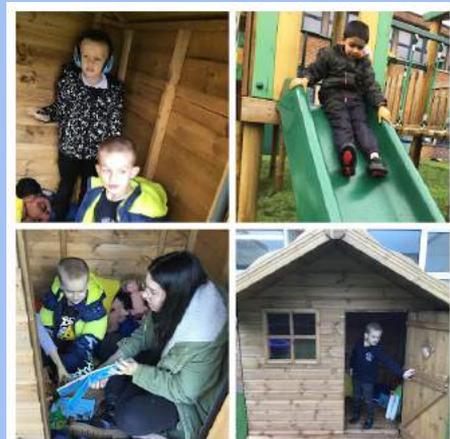
In maths, we have been increasing our independence by making dough. We have been following instructions to count out the correct scoops of ingredients.



We have also really enjoyed counting out bears into tens frames and then finding the number digit card to match.



It may have been cold and wet outside this week, but this has not stopped us having lots of fun exploring the outdoor area! We have particularly enjoyed playing in our new wendy house, alongside our climbing frame, swing, bikes and mud kitchen.





The students have been focusing really well in Maths, where in multiple classes we are incorporating and using ICT skills to join simultaneous online games and quizzes. This has been coupled with our English work, using the short story, Unplugged, about all the fun you can have when we reduce our screen time.



Despite a great deal of rain recently, we've been able to dodge the showers and take some of our learning outside. This has included improving our gross motor skills in cycling and cricket sessions. We've also enjoyed visits from Bella the dog, giving students the opportunity to take her for walks, throw her toys to fetch and brush her hair.

KS2: Lemongrass Class

We've had a great couple of weeks! In our PE sessions, we've been climbing, jumping and sliding, developing our gross motor skills as well as having fun.



In maths we've been looking at match counting objects and



using playdough, bears, squares and cars to help us. We've also used our cooking sessions to think about more and less, as well as identifying ingredients and measurements on a recipe card. We made a delicious roasted butternut

squash soup which was a wonderful colour of orange!

In English we have been looking at letters in our names, as well as using squiggle while you wiggle to write letters and copy circular motions. We all get involved and it can get very messy!

The weather has meant that outdoor play has been rather muddy, however we have enjoyed splashing in the



puddles and exploring the mud!



We've also been busy sharing books, making puzzles and having messy bucket times!



We have shown great teamwork and communication in turn taking activities and making puzzles. We have been having lots of group discussions and activities on how to look after ourselves by keeping fit and healthy as well as doing things we enjoy.



KS2: Lotus Class

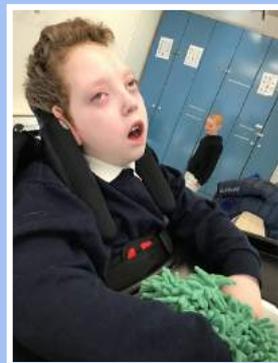
We have been very busy this week working on our targets in Maths and English. This week we have been thinking about Advent: we have made some pictures of advent wreaths, thought about the messages of advent: peace, love, hope and joy and we have thought a little about the first Christmas. We made some lovely angel Gabriels with hand prints as well as listening to Christmas music. We have decorated our bags with winter themes ready to take home things we are going to make and create in the final stretch of term.



We have also been practising our hand control using scissors as well as practising our drawing and pencil control on the white board.

We have also enjoyed sensory exploration of different textures and colours related to winter.

We have continued with our daily reading and explored many books that interest us



We have also enjoyed our new playground equipment and look forward to bouncing on the trampoline.

Sixth Form: Elderflower Class

We have had another busy two weeks in class. Students practised their Curling and football skills dribbling a ball around cones. We have been working on our weighing and measuring skills by using electric and manual scales.



Linked to our Asdan creative unit we have had fun drumming and learning simple cake decorating for example spreading butter icing and cutting decorations out of fondant icing.



During a food preparation lesson we practised preparing a selection of toppings for pizzas. When the pizzas were cooked the students enjoyed eating them and they said they were very tasty!

KS2: Lupin Class

In the last two weeks Lupin Class have learnt about being a kind friend and about giving thanks for things. Last week we used the book Pumpkin Soup to help us learn that friends need to share and take turns. It also taught us that sometimes friends can disagree and have arguments, but we can say sorry and be friends again. We had to make pumpkin soup, of course!



We have also been learning about keeping active to keep us healthy. We have used the PE equipment inside ...

And busting some great dance moves outside!



We even included physical activity in our maths sessions and practised counting our jumps and bounces on the trampette.

This week we have been learning about giving thanks for the food we eat, and the story of Thanksgiving. We had a sensory story about the first Thanksgiving, and practised planting seeds.



Then we used vegetables to make prints to create our own artwork.

We have also kept up with our handwriting practise with Squiggle While You Wiggle, and our maths sessions too.





Other activities we have completed included learning about food storage of food, for example which foods need to be stored in the fridge, freezer or cupboard.

We have also been sharing our likes and dislikes linked to headphone style and board games.

We started cooking our lunch again on Thursday. On the menu last week was filled jacket potato with salad including homemade coleslaw. For dessert was a choice of angel delights and homemade shortbread biscuits.



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This app empowers adults to understand and address online safeguarding risks any time, anywhere, on any device.

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KS2: Lavender Class

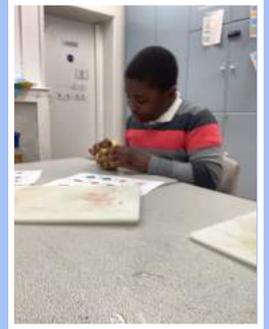
It has been a busy few weeks in class, we have been concentrating on our new phase 2 targets.

We have been working really hard

on our life skills and have been preparing healthy dishes.

Focussing

on our knife skills we prepared a delicious exotic fruit salad and a lovely autumnal butternut squash soup. This week we made stuffed butternut squash. It was delicious.



We have been focussing a lot on developing our fine and gross motor skills. We did a lovely "squiggle whilst you wiggle" session focusing on up and down movements using chalk, pom-poms and sand.

