

Date: 7th October 2022

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

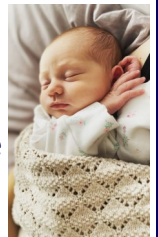
We have had a wonderfully busy fortnight and it's been great to look through the photographs of such a range of experiences that the children have enjoyed.

Again, I'm so proud to share my congratulations to the Year 3 classes for hosting all of the parents, carers and families who came to support their Macmillan fundraiser. They raised over £600 which was a fantastic achievement. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed.

Last week, the Year 1 children enjoyed a woodland adventure at Westonbirt Arboretum and were even able to meet the Gruffalo with his woodland friends. They returned to school full of enthusiasm for their topic and have continued to develop their learning skills at school.



We were delighted to hear the news that two beautiful babies have been welcomed to the world. Mrs Stratford has had a beautiful baby girl, Quinn and Mr O'Brien has been enjoying time with his new born son Jesse. We wish both of their families all the best as they enjoy making precious memories together.



I wish you all a happy couple of weeks as our first term comes to a close. Please note that a TD day has been scheduled for Wednesday 19th October, so this will be the first day of the half term holiday for the children.

Have a lovely weekend - Mrs Fraser

PTA news

Congratulations and thank you to the following parents who are stepping up to our PTA committee this year. We are so pleased we can continue the fun events and fundraising!

Chair—Claire Harris

Vice Chair—Amy Richards

Treasurer—Kate Cobden

We are still looking for 2 Trustees and a Secretary.

Please contact the PTA email if you can help: pta.at.williammorris@gmail.com

Next Weeks PTA Events:

*Monday 10th October- Glamrose Cake Van - at 3pm
(a percentage of profit goes to the PTA)



*Wednesday 12th October— Clothes Donations— Bags to School. Please do not bring bags in before this day. They will be collected at 9:00am on Wednesday.





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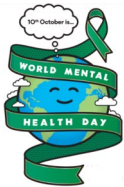
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2024—2025 Admissions Policy

The Blue Kite Academy Trust has a new Admissions Policy for 2024/25, it is therefore statutory that it is consulted on from 1 October 2022 to 31 January 2023. The policy now covers all schools within the Trust but no significant changes have been made from the individual school's original admission policy. To view the new policy, please find the link under the Parents tab on the school website. If you have any comments regarding the Admissions Policy for 2024/25, please email Anna Richardson, Head of Governance: Richardsona@bluekitetrust.org.uk



Reading for Mental Health

Did you know that reading for just 10 minutes a day can improve your wellbeing? This World Mental Health Day, we're supporting the National Literacy Trust by encouraging our staff and students to take part in the #Take10ToRead challenge. You can join us by reading for 10 minutes at 10am on Monday 10 October, and by sharing your pictures on social media using the hashtag #Take10ToRead.

Cost of Living

Please remember to contact the school office or Mrs Fraser if you need any support with the current cost of living as we are able to make referrals to the food bank if necessary. For further information about the help and support that is available, please use this link: <https://www.swindon.gov.uk/costofliving>

Useful Guides

Mrs Day has recently found a very useful website that contains a range of guides and ideas for neurodivergent children, however, many of the ideas are applicable for all children. Please see one of the useful guides on the page below about getting ready for school in the morning.

Harvest Festival Reminder

We will be supporting the Swindon Food Collective (Swindon's Food Bank) for our harvest this year. We would be really grateful for any donations that are listed on the flyer below. Please can these be brought to school during the week commencing the 10th October. Thank you.



Tadpole Surgery Car Park

We have been asked by Tadpole Surgery to remind parents and carers not to use their car park at pick up and drop off times. It is important that their car park is used by their staff and patients only. In the future, we may wish to ask our neighbours for support for whole school events and this will be difficult to approach if we do not follow this request in the meantime.



WILLIAM MORRIS PTA
PRESENTS...



HALLOWEEN DRESS UP DAY!

FRIDAY
4TH NOVEMBER

**£1 per
child**
(Voluntary
donation)



**Wear your best spooky costume
or home clothes to school!
(No terrifying masks please)**

**WHY NOT ENTER
OUR PUMPKIN
CARVING
COMPETITION?**
MORE DETAILS BELOW...



£1 per entry (money to be handed in to the school office in a named, sealed envelope by 18th October). Then email a photo of your pumpkin carving creation to pta.at.williammorris@gmail.com during half term! Please enter by November 1st, winners will be announced on November 9th. Good luck!

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Gold Book

Well done to all of the children who were in the Gold Book this week and last week — we are very proud of you and your achievements!





HARVEST DONATIONS 2022 FLYER

Each year your organisation collects non-perishable, tinned and packet food which is then donated to the Swindon Food Collective (Swindon's food bank). We then distribute your donated items to those in need, helping individuals and families that are finding it hard to feed themselves because of low wages, family crisis, delayed payments, redundancy, bereavement and/or sickness and the current cost of living crisis.

HOWEVER THINGS HAVE CHANGED THIS YEAR.

Firstly, please note that we currently **have plentiful supplies of** cereal, pasta, tinned soup and baked beans.

Secondly, we continue to be fortunate in receiving great support from supermarkets through customer donations hence why this year, **we are asking for a mixture of food related items and household goods/toiletries to help keep families safe and well within their homes.** Many people have limited amounts of or are unable to afford cleaning products and toiletries on a regular basis.

Thank you as always for your support.

Swindon Food Collective Is In Most Need Of:

Cleaning cloths/Anti Bac wipes	Household Cleaners	Laundry pods / power / liquid/conditioner
Wash & Go 2in1 Shampoo / Conditioner	Deodorant (male & female)	Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Surface Cleaners	Toilet Rolls	Shower gel (male & female)
Biscuits	Tinned Fruit	Small Jars of Coffee
Tinned Meats	Tinned Potatoes	Small Bags of Sugar

Neurodiversity Home 101:

Getting dressed for school

Some children find it hard to work out which way around clothes and shoes go on and may be slower doing up buttons and fastening.

This may be due to:

- ❖ Weaker hand strength
- ❖ Difficulties using two hands together
- ❖ Difficulties balancing while dressing
- ❖ Not sure of the order to put clothes on
- ❖ Telling right and left



Ideas to Help:

❖ Weaker hand strength

- ✓ Playdough and rolling exercises with dough can help strengthen hands
- ✓ Pushing and pulling games with others
- ✓ Playing with Lego and other construction toys

❖ Difficulties using two hands together

- ✓ Threading tasks such as buttons on material before doing it on themselves

❖ Difficulties balancing while dressing

- ✓ Ensuring a stable base – sitting on a low chair/on the floor with back against a wall

❖ Not sure of the order to put clothes on

- ✓ Show where the labels are. Lay clothes out in the order they are being put on. Use coloured heels in socks to help with orientation
- ✓ Demonstrate how to do this alongside the child - not opposite.

❖ Telling right and left

- ✓ Show where the labels are. Lay clothes out in the order they are being put on. Use coloured heels in socks to help with orientation.
- ✓ Put R and L stickers in shoes or a red spot in the Right shoe

Nursery—Poppy and Daisy Classes

What have we been learning in Nursery?

What a wonderful couple of weeks we have had in Daisy and Poppy Class. We have learnt all about our families last week, were we got to show a family photo and talk about who is in our family. We drew a picture of who lives in our houses and made a paper plate self-portrait, thinking about the colour of our eyes and hair.

This week we have moved on to learning about Autumn!

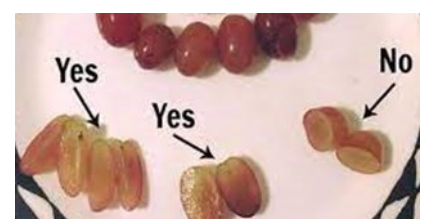
We have explored colours of the leaves and objects that you might find during Autumn, for example; conkers and pinecones. We have been looking at the types of animals that hibernate and getting ready for the winter during Autumn time. We enjoyed listening to the story of Owl Babies.

We are working hard on our independent skills, please help us by letting your child get themselves dressed.



Reminders:

- Name all water bottles
- Please provide a change of clothes, just in case.
- Bookbags to be in school everyday – **library books in every Monday**
- **Please cut up your grapes**
- Wellies to be named and in school.





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Nursery—Poppy and Daisy Classes



Exploring the climbing frame



PIC•COLLAGE



Lots of autumn crafts



PIC•COLLAGE

Nursery—Poppy and Daisy Classes



More fun in our classroom...



EXPLORING AUTUMN OBJECTS

This week we have started looking at autumn and things you see in te autumn



Nursery—Poppy and Daisy Classes

BUILDING AND CREATING



CONKER MARBLE RUN



PIC•COLLAGE

Exploring musical instrument



We enjoyed playing with the instruments, hearing the sounds they make and experimenting with going fast and slow.

PIC•COLLAGE

Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes

What have we been learning in Reception?

Sunflower and Bellflower class children have been doing some amazing learning based on the book. "I want my hat back" We have painted woodland creatures, made hats for them and created amazing dens for them to live in. The children have loved acting out the story in their play inside and out.

We are really enjoying PE lessons, we have been out on the playground while the weather is lovely. The children are getting really good at getting themselves changed independently, please ensure that ALL clothes are labelled as the children often do not recognise which age 4 white t-shirt belongs to them!

Thanks to all the parents who have sent in wellies and waterproofs, if you have not yet done so, please can you send some in as soon as possible. We want all children to access outside provision in all weather.

Thanks for your continued support
EYFS team



Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes



Super teamwork in the sand and water tray!



PIC•COLLAGE



We made dens, stick puppets and painted pictures based on the story 'I want my hat back'



PIC•COLLAGE

Year 1—Lily and Tulip Classes

What have we been learning in Year 1?

Another busy few weeks in Year 1. From planting cress seeds to our trip to Westonbirt the children have been amazing!

English- This week we have been using 'Talk 4 Writing' to recount our trip to Westonbirt. We have been learning actions and using a story map to help us learn the sequence of events during our trip, as well as remembering some science facts.

Maths- We have been practicing our counting, both forwards and backwards. We have also compared numbers; choosing which one is bigger/smaller as well as order number from smallest to greatest.

Topic- In Topic we have been busy investigating as scientists! We started our investigation by planting cress seeds and making predictions as to what will happen when we grow some of our seeds in the light and some in the dark. We have also observed changes that have occurred to the seeds since planting them. Next week we are going to check on the cress in the cupboard and write a conclusion.

There will be no Phonic support sheet sent out this week, due to a week of phonics assessments.

Enhancing our outdoor area: As a team we are in the process of enhancing our outdoor area. We are on the lookout for the following:

- Old pots and pans
- Large paintbrushes
- Plastic animals
- Toy cars
- Old guttering
- Conkers
- Pinecones
- Shells
- Pebbles

If you have any of the above, donations would be greatly received.

We look forward to speaking to you at parents evening next week.

Have a lovely weekend, Year 1 Team



Year 1—Lily and Tulip Classes



FUN AT
WESTONBIRT!



PIC•COLLAGE



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Year 1—Lily and Tulip Classes



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Year 2 - Willow and Clover Classes

What have we been learning in Year 2?

Year 2 have continued to enjoy their Muck, Mess and Mixtures topic and have been trying incredibly hard with their learning.

In our lessons, we have been learning about:

English – We have been writing instructions on how to make more disgusting meals such as Fly Cheese Pizza and a Hairy Flapjack! We continued to focus on the skills needed for instruction writing (capital letters, full stops, phonics to spell, bullet points, time connectives [eg. first, next, then, finally] and imperative verbs [eg. slice, place, sprinkle, leave]). In the last few weeks of term, we will be focussing on poetry by creating some riddles about different foods!

Maths – Recently, we have been adding and subtracting 10 using 2-digit numbers to finish our unit about place value. Then we moved on to identifying and describing 2D shapes such as pentagons, hexagons and octagons. This week, we have started to look at the properties of 3D shapes by looking at their different properties (vertices, edges and faces). We even made our very own 3D shapes which you can see in the pictures below.

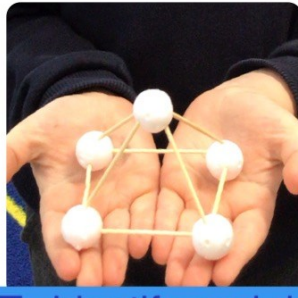
Science – We have continued learning about the properties of everyday materials and have been using a range of adjectives to describe different materials (eg. hard, soft, rough, smooth, transparent, smooth, waterproof, absorbent). We have also begun practising our enquiry skills to test scientific questions such as ‘Which paper is the strongest?’.

Art / DT – Using marbling inks created amazing patterns and we are excited for parents to have a go at these at our Fab Finish event on the last day of term. In DT, we have been learning about the origins of food and how we can create a healthy, balanced meal by including the right amount of foods from different food groups.

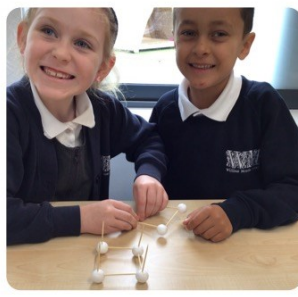
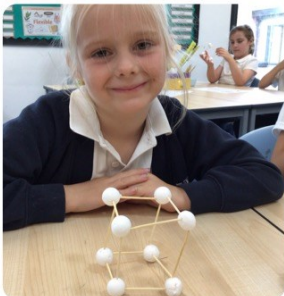
Thank you for all of the reading that is happening at home so far this term. We really appreciate the support and can see how additional practice at home is having a positive impact on the children’s progress.

The Year 2 Team :)

Year 2 - Willow and Clover Classes



To identify and describe 3D shapes



Year 2 - Willow and Clover Classes



Investigating absorbency

Mop up
the
mess!





Year 3—Honeysuckle and Rose Classes

What have we been learning in Year 3?

Macmillan coffee morning

Year 3 worked extremely hard to put on two incredible Macmillan coffee mornings as part of their Life Skills curriculum. In Honeysuckle and Rose class, we looked at why we wanted to support Macmillan and all the excellent support they provide for people living with cancer.

Then we thought about what we'd like our coffee morning to be like and all the jobs we would need to do this. The children worked in teams to take on different responsibilities and organise areas such as a toddlers' area, games and sales. We all made decorations for the day and even baked some delicious treats!

On the day, all of Year 3 worked amazingly together to carry out a smooth-running event. They all showed great engagement and enjoyed raising money for Macmillan. In total, we raised over £600!

Other learning:

English—We have written our own stories inspired by the book *The Stone Age boy*. We enjoyed studying the book and used drama to retell the story, before making changes and creating our own exciting stories.

Topic—Our stories linked to our topic lessons and we have created our own class books by compiling all the information we have learnt about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age! We loved decorating our caves display with cave paintings of prehistoric animals—we focused on our sketching skills and careful water colour painting.

Maths—In maths, we have continued to practice our times tables and are still rocking on Times Tables Rockstars! This week we have also been comparing and ordering 3-digit numbers.

A reminder our trip is on 2nd November to Stonehenge—please make sure you have signed the forms.

Have a lovely weekend - The Y3 Team



Year 3—Honeysuckle and Rose Classes

What have we been learning in Year 3?





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Year 3—Honeysuckle and Rose Classes

What have we been learning in Year 3?





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School Diary

October

10th Oct week Harvest Donations
10th Oct 10:00 Read for 10 minutes for World
Mental Health Day
10th Oct - 3:00 Glamrose Cake Van (PTA fund-
raiser).
12th Oct - 9:00 Bags to school clothes dona-
tions (PTA fundraiser).
13th Oct 2-8pm Parents Evening
17th Oct - Individual school photos to be taken
by Fraser Portraits Ltd.
18th Oct 2pm Open House
18th PTA pumpkin competition entry closes
19th Oct TD INSET Day—closed to children
Half term holiday 19th Oct— 30th Oct
31st Oct Children return to school

December

6th 9:30am YR Nativity
8th 2pm YR Nativity
9th Christmas Jumper Day
9th Nursery Christmas fab finish—am & pm
9th 2pm Open House
12th 2pm Y3 Carol Concert
13th 2pm Y1 & 2 Christmas Play
15th 9:30am Y1 & 2 Christmas Play
16th 3pm Break Up for Christmas Holidays

November

2nd Nov—Year 3 Stonehenge Visit
4th PTA Halloween dress up day
7th Nov Road Safety week
7th Nov Flu vaccines
8th Nov 2pm Sleep PSA session
11th Nov Remembrance Day
14th Nov Anti-bullying week
17th Nov 2pm Anxiety PSA session
18th Nov Children In Need—own clothes
24th Nov 6pm Governors meeting

TD INSET Days 2022-23

We have 6 school closure days for staff development each year. The ones which are already confirmed for this academic year are:

- Thursday 1st September 2022
- Friday 2nd September 2022
- Wednesday 19th October 2022
- Tuesday 3rd January 2023
- Wed 4th January 2023
- 3rd July 2023

[New dates in red]