

Friday 10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish another term, its been lovely to begin to see glimmers of spring as the days start to get longer. If you are short of ideas for half term, check out this website which has lots of ideas on keeping busy.

[February half term activities 2023: Whats on for kids in Oxfordshire - Oxfordshire Mummies](#)

House Sports

House Sports yesterday was another fantastic success, with the focus sport being netball. We held mini-matches across the school with the results shared here. Well done to **Ash** who now hold the House Sports Cup!

	Chestnut	Oak	Ash
Shot in (Robins/Owls)	9	7	13
Kingfishers (nets)	4	3	3
Robins	1 +3	1+1 +3 +3	1 +3
Owls	3 +3 +1 +1	1 +1	1+ 3 +1
Red Kites	1	3 + 1	3 +1
TOTAL	26	24	29



Festival of Voices

It has been lovely to hear Mr Campbell and the children who are taking part in Festival of Voices practicing over the last few weeks. They are making such progress and are all rising to the challenge of performing in front of an audience at the end of March. I am looking forward to hearing them as much as you are. Details of the arrangements on the day will follow next term.

Mrs Rooke

This week Mrs Rooke came to visit for the first time and I know all the children enjoyed meeting their new headteacher. She was made to feel very welcome, especially when she found herself a little bit lost at times. It won't take long to find her way around I'm sure and next term we have



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planned in a weekly visit on Wednesdays so that by the time I leave the children will be very used to having her around.

OFSTED

I know many of you have been wondering when our OFSTED report is due to be shared. Having received the draft report this week, I am now awaiting OFSTED to release the final report which I will share with you as soon as I am able to. This is likely to be in the first week after half term and I am very much looking forward to sharing it with you then.

Booking deadline – School dinners, Fun Club and Breakfast Club

Just a reminder to book school dinners and Breakfast and Fun Club by midnight on the Thursday before. This means that in half term it would be by **Thursday 16th February**. We cannot always guarantee a school dinner if you miss the cut off as catering are only delivering according to numbers booked. Likewise Fun Club is very busy at the moment. Please note, you can book ahead for the whole term if this is easier.

Band Night – Legion 4th March

Just a reminder that from 7.30pm on 4th March, Friends of St Nics are putting on a band night at the Legion. Please contact them directly for tickets.

What's going on around the school

Wrens

As we have approached the end of our 'Marvelous machines' topic the Wrens have been making robot costumes this week. They used a variety of materials like baking foil, tinsel, buttons, pipe cleaners, bottle tops to cut and glue onto their tabards. During role play and using their tabards the children used the buttons to press to make them move in different ways i.e. jumping, hopping. While others were chocolate, sweet and ice cream robots.

During this week we have focused on the letter sound 't' and practiced our listening skills by talking about some instruments by name. They were then hidden for the children to see if they could guess the correct sound and tell me the name of the instrument. We then played with the instruments to see if we could make quiet and loud sounds. Which they were very good at, especially the loud sounds!

The children have been trying to recognise numerals from 1 to 10 and using heart shapes on the table with numerals on, they were using tweezers to pick pom poms up to match to the correct numerals.

We have talked about Valentine's day and why we send Valentine cards to each other, to tell people that we love them. The children decided who they wanted to send them too. Some gave their friends them, while other wanted to give it to parents and grandparents. They used a variety of materials which we talked about as they used them and they developed their scissors, drawing and gluing skills.

We ended the week with water play, making potions for Valentine's day, it did start of as red water but we included some bath bombs which changed the colour. The children were fascinated by the bath bombs dissolving and of course squirting water through syringes.



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Next term our topic will be 'Dinosaurs', I know a lot of the children will love this topic. Have a lovely half term from the Wren staff.

Mrs Betts and the Early Years Team

Kingfishers

Our final week of this term has been jam packed as we come to the end of our theme 'Marvelous machines'. Here are some of the children's comments about what they have enjoyed and learnt.....

"I liked doing actions to Mrs. Armitage on Wheels and when there was music on the bike" – Daisy

"I remember Mrs Armitage's dog called Breakspear who ran next to her bike" -George

"I learnt about cogs and bolts" - Nico

"I liked passing the screwdriver and spanner around the circle with Benji's dad" - Beth

"I learnt about diggers and dumper trucks, they have a scoop to pick up the mud" - Benji

"I learnt about time machines in the olden days, they were different" - Arthur

"Robots need electricity and batteries" - Carter

"My favourite part was when Benji's dad told us about the real robots" - Fraiser

We have been learning about the emergency services which the children have loved. They learnt about who we call for different emergencies and the vehicles they use to get to them. They asked a lot of interesting questions, shared their own personal experiences and many decided that they'd like to take a boat trip with the RNLI. I was pleased to hear that the children already knew about what to do in different, unexpected situations and that they can call 999 for emergencies.

In the second half of the week we enjoyed Valentines activities. The children learnt about the story of St Valentine, discussed who we love and why, decorated boxes with messages for loved ones in and mixed 'love potions' in the messy play tray.

The children have come on enormously with their writing. They are taking their time to form letters correctly and using the resources around them (sound mat and freeze flash cards) to help them. We have moved onto the second stage in phonics and the most recent sounds that we have learnt have been 'J', 'V', 'W' 'Z' 'Qu' and 'S' as a 'Z'. If you'd like to challenge your children over half term, ask them to write a sentence using some of the common exception words such as; The, I, to, into, no, go, he, she, be and we.

In maths we have been practicing 'One less' from six and below. They have had a really good go at this and are beginning to deepen their understanding of taking away, learning to write number sentences and continuing to work well in pairs.

During Forest school we made up our own stories about being in the circus and the children acted out their parts and added their own ideas. This was really fun and it was great to see the children taking it in turns to add to the story and show off their fantastic imaginations.

Next term we will be learning all about dinosaurs which I'm sure the children will thoroughly enjoy. We will continue to have outdoor learning on a Tuesday afternoon and PE on a Friday afternoon. If the weather is good I'd like to have a go at having some PE lessons outside, therefore please may your children have sturdy trainers for both out and indoors. Thank you!

Ms Dyet and the Kingfishers team

Robins

This week in English we have been busy exploring, solving and writing animal riddles. In geography we worked in role together to help the people of Dominica after the hurricane that devastated the island (we discussed that a hurricane of this kind actually took place there in 2017).

The team showed ingenuity and care whilst trying to solve the problem of clearing the wildlife trails around the island (which really were devastated by the hurricane in 2017). In doing so, we consolidated our understanding of the differing climate and features of Dominica when compared to Great Britain.

In maths, Year 1s continue to look at place value, comparing and describing different numbers, whilst Year 2s continue to work on using their number facts to help them subtract. They really understand how crucial it is to secure number bonds to 10, as they are usefully for so many calculations!

In DT, we looked at how far food travels before it arrives at our local shops, or on our plate. We used world maps to explore

where different food stuffs came from and thought about the effect on the environment of food travelling so far, recapping our knowledge of continents. The furthest journey was a pineapple, which had come from Costa Rica. We looked at food that couldn't be grown here, such as bananas, and those that could, like green beans, thinking about seasonal food what happens when we want to eat food out of season and whether bringing food long distances might have some good points as it provides jobs within those countries, or whether the pollution created from the long air journeys means we should buy local where possible.

In outdoor learning, the children had a great last session and really enjoyed exploring in the sunshine. They noticed there was still quite a lot of ice in hidden places and busied themselves making dens, bug hotels and obstacle courses.



Ms Winter and Ms Miller

Owls

This week in Owls we have been looking at recounts. Particularly, the past tense and the first person. The children have started their final outcome of writing a recount from Tranio's perspective on the day of the volcano. The children have collected information about the key events leading up the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii. The children have been taking great care in their work and we are over the moon with their use of vocabulary and how powerful it is!

In Art we focused on the paintings of L S Lowry using outdoor learning. The children had the task of depicting the painting using chalk in groups for their final piece. They used exceptional team work and their precision was incredible. They worked well together and were very appreciative of each other's work.

This week Owl class had a fantastic trip to the park! As a class they whole class must work together to earn a whole class dojo. This is different to individual dojo and requires all the children to be ready to learn and being the best that they can be. They have done well to earn so many points and they know they can be trusted for such a good opportunity. Well done Owls!



Mrs Richards

Red Kites

We have ended the term on a high with a day of Baking and House Sports on Thursday. Our baking this week was to give us a baseline from which to work next term. We will be thinking about alterations we can make to the recipe which keep it healthy, but perhaps a little more interesting to eat. This week, we experimented with allowing the dough to rise only once and allowing it to rise, be knocked-back and rise again. This will help us to think about the method we want to use when we cook our final loaves.

In English, we wrote a newspaper report imagining that Ernest Shackleton had just returned home. Everyone did a really great job in remembering the sequence of events on the journey and using the vocabulary that we have been working on this term.

At the end of the week, we had a joint maths lesson for both year groups and thought about how we can find unknown facts from what we do know. I was really impressed by the thinking shown by children in both year groups, and in particular the way that someone managed to find a simple method to work out $17.5 \times$ a number using their knowledge of multiplying by 100 and halving twice.

Across the week, we have also been taking part in the Taskmaster and Place2Be wellbeing treasure hunt. Each day we have had some clues to help us to work out the number sequence needed to solve the final puzzle on Friday. We have also had a go at some of the challenges, including making 'the best rainbow' on Monday and inventing a game which uses one piece of equipment and only 3 rules. 'Floor-ball', a cross between netball and football, was definitely my favourite.

Mrs Mallinson



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High 5's

Wrens

Ben, for excellent listening in and joining in with every activity.
Louis for becoming more confident and making new friends.

Kingfishers

Tony for going out of his way to help the teachers and his friends.
Daisy for resilience in her reading.

Robins

This week a high five goes to Daisy for working so hard this week and Alfie for impressing us with his great reading.

Owls

Henley for applying herself to well particularly in maths and being the best he can be
Veha for applying herself so well this week and being so polite to others.

Red Kites

Tyler and Sawyer for being such a great role model always by encouraging and quietly leading by example.

Have a lovely half term holiday!

Mrs Richards and the St Nics team



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