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PART OF
The **GALLERY** TRUST

Secondary Site:
Sandy Lane West
Oxford OX4 6JZ

Friday 9th September 2022

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers



I would first like to welcome everyone back and share what a positive week it has been with the learners. As you know we have implemented new curriculums and learners' groupings are now based on their curriculum pathways. We will share more about each curriculum, and the impact we have seen so far, at our curriculum information evening on September 27th at 5pm. We will share further information about this next week.

Secondly I would like to extend our thoughts to those of you who have families and friends in Pakistan affected by the devastating floods. Please do let us know if you think your son or daughter may be experiencing any anxiety around this and we can offer further support. For anyone wishing to support the relief effort, there are a number of charities taking donations, such as The Red Cross on <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/pakistan-floods-appeal>.

Finally we are now in a period of national mourning following the news of the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. Many of our students feel a strong connection to the Queen, having recently celebrated her Platinum Jubilee, and for many there is also a revisiting of grief, which sadly our community has experienced twice over the last 18 months. As a result, we will mark this period of time by adapting some of our teaching materials and offering support to any learners who need it. If you feel your son or daughter may need additional support exploring loss and grief, please do contact us and let us know. The coming days will not be easy for many members of our community and we are entering a profound and pivotal moment in our history. Our thoughts are with the many people affected by this sad news including The Queen's family, close friends, the nation, and others beyond.

With all good wishes

Lucy Wawrzyniak
Executive Head Teacher

Blue Class



Blue Class have arrived back in school happily and confidently and have done brilliantly to settle into their new class. They are getting used to new faces, places and routines.

It has been wonderful to see the children getting to know their new classmates and starting to form new relationships. Learners and adults alike are enjoying our new Informal curriculum which actively encourages exploration and child-led learning.

In between the showers, we've loved getting out in the school outdoor environment and we now have increased opportunities to mix with learners from

the other classes and explore their learning spaces too. Over the next weeks, we will focus on communication and expressing our choices using signs, symbols and switches.

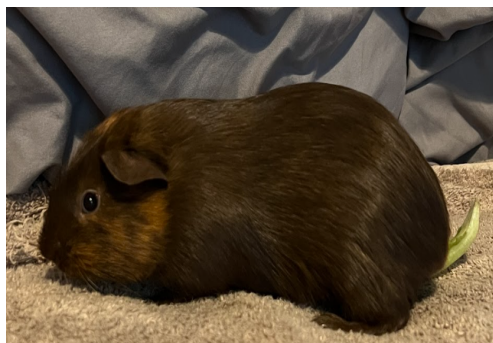


Titanium Class

Titanium Class have been busy welcoming our new guests - the guinea pigs. They are now a part of our curriculum to teach learners across the secondary site about care and responsibility. The class has been to *Pets at Home* to buy guinea pig food and researched their favourite fruit and vegetables which we bought from Sainsbury's. Wispa (Mum), Twirl and Flake have, although still a little shy, started to enjoy being handled more, and Titanium learners are creating booklets to teach other learners how to do this safely. We will share their journey on Instagram @mabelguineagram and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mabelguineagram. We also originally thought we had 3 girl guinea pigs, however, we have just found out that Flake is male, so there could be Guinea piglets on the horizon.



Wispa



Twirl



Flake

Meet Topaze



Hello, my name is Topaze Skerrett and I'm new to the School as Head of Primary. I am very excited to be working here at Mabel Prichard; thank you to the students, staff and families who have been so very warm in their welcome.

This really is a vibrant place to work and this is a great point to be joining the school, with the new Equals Curriculum being fully embraced across all classes. I am lead for the Pre Formal Curriculum as well as line manager and operational lead for the primary classes. I have moved to Mabel Prichard from another leadership position in a different community special school within the Gallery Trust. My working days are Monday - Thursday.

When I am not in school I enjoy spending time with my own family; the current play themes with my own children are pokemon meeting princesses! Please do come and say hello and introduce yourself to me. I look forward to working with your families and your children.

Meet Alex



Hello, for those of you who do not know me, can I introduce myself. My name is Alex Wilson, I am an Assistant Head and from September I will be responsible for everything to do with Education and Health Care Plans.

I have worked in special education for 28 years and have been teaching at Mabel Prichard School for the last 4 years, most recently teaching music across the school.

I look forward to meeting all of you during the year as we review the EHCPs in our Annual Review meetings. If you have any questions about the EHCP process or meetings that are coming up then please drop me an email (awilson@mabelprichard.org) or alternatively, we have a general EHCP email address (ehcp@mabelprichard.org), this is used for any online invitations, and general communication regarding any EHCP meetings.



Headteachers Awards





Oxfordshire Libraries

THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK 

BUILD A BUG HOTEL!

A free event at Blackbird Leys Library

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER | 10 AM - 12 NOON

Insects and creepy-crawlies are a very important of the ecosystem, so it's essential that they have somewhere safe, warm and dry to shelter and lay their eggs. Bug hotels are perfect for this, so come along and make one to put in your garden!

No need to book, just drop in.



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