

Mabel Prichard School

Weekly Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

17th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Our community learning is really expanding with all classes taking part at some point in their week. Primary learners from Orange, Blue and Yellow have now started regularly attending Rosie's Cafe every Friday morning and some learners from Titanium began a new work experience placement in the canteen in the nursery at Donnington Doorstep. Joshua was fascinated by the tiny chairs! We also have an increase in the number of learners who are going cycling and swimming every week and most have a weekly budgeting and shopping trip as part of their regular curriculum.

Our wall artists have one more week with our artist, Jon Mackay. This week they added in some glowing fire flies, deer and some 3D foliage. Last week's chicken nugget tree has also been completed and the final week will involve painting and the creation of more sensory creatures. We will officially open our wall at the primary summer festival on Friday 12th July and parents and carers of all learners (primary and secondary) are welcome to come and see the amazing art work our students have produced.

In the summer term, we are looking forward to our Sportfests which are a day off timetable, offering learners exciting sporting activities to take part in. There is also the 'Wimbledon Day' to look forward to, where learners take part in tennis related events. Your son or daughter are encouraged to wear sports clothes on these day, and we have a real focus on making sure everyone is active.

We are also looking forward to our annual 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' on the afternoon of June 20th, where we welcome in existing parents and carers who have learners in years N2 to year 3 and parents and carers of new learners for September. Parents and Carers of new learners in KS2 and Secondary will be invited to the summer festivals.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Best wishes
Lucy

Coming up:

Friday 24th May
Break up for half term

Friday 7th June
Sportsfest on both sites

Thursday 20th June
EY/KS1 Teddy Bears'
Picnic

Wednesday June 26th
Wimbledon day

Thursday 11th July
Secondary Summer
Festival

Friday 12th July
Primary Summer Festival

Friday 19th July
Break up for summer
holidays 1pm

Member of the



Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

News from the Classrooms

Purple Class

Purple Class have been working hard this term and making great progress. The pupils have been developing their reading, writing, and maths skills through daily practice. They have been developing their love of reading through stories, visits to the library and joining in with rhymes and songs.

The year 6s continue to visit secondary as part of a transition period to help support them with their move to secondary in September. They have all enjoyed exploring the school and meeting up with old and new friends.



We have had lots of fun enjoying the good weather, exploring the school playground and our favourite outing to SOAP (South Oxfordshire Adventure Playground). Whilst out playing we have been learning about organising our belongings, playing with our friends and learning how to take risks whilst playing on the equipment. It has been wonderful seeing the friendships developing and most of all everyone has had fun.

We have continued to enjoy taking part in weekly art sessions with our resident artist, Jon. He has inspired us to develop our creativity and work as a team to create an amazing piece of art in the corridor. Mo has particularly enjoyed creating a Chicken nugget tree.



News from the Classrooms

Platinum Class

We have continued to work hard on communication skills in Platinum Class. This includes choice-making in a focused way in communication games, or choosing when to “Go!” during one of our fun movement songs. We also have multiple opportunities for choosing across the day.



We have fun communicating as a group using drums during our daily afternoon greeting. We have regular music-making opportunities with students supported to choose an instrument to play either as a solo with everyone else listening, or as part of a music circle with adults providing a rhythmic drumming backbeat. We are really enjoying getting together with Copper Class for a weekly drumming session this term featuring our call and response story, Theseus and the Minotaur, but always beginning by drumming the rhythms of the names of all drummers in the room.



We now have a stronger focus on sharing a variety of stories, using props, movements and sensory elements. Our sensory story of the term, ‘After the Party’ is repeated each week to enable students to get familiar with the story, anticipate what is coming next and start to take part.



HEADTEACHER'S
AWARDS



Our Sensory story wall

Our work with silk screen artist and illustrator, Jon Mackay, is now in week 5. This week, fire flies went in and some deer appeared.



Carly's Skydive for Thomley

Carly from Titainium will be doing a Skydive for Thomley on Sunday 26th May.

Carly says "I have never done anything like this before but I am pleased to be doing it for such a lovely charity, which is very close to my heart"

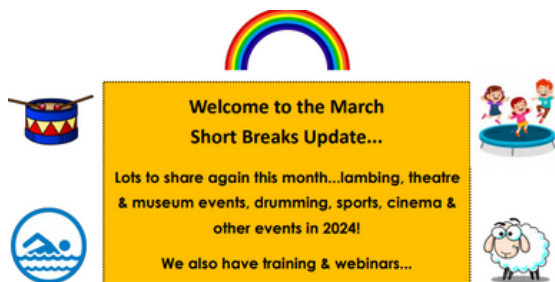
If you would like to donate, the link to her page is below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/carly-skydive>



Short Breaks

Please find below links to the March Short Breaks newsletters.



Short Breaks Update for Families with Disabled Children and Young People March 24

Short Breaks update - Parent/Carer Support Groups

Keeping Safe Online



[Childnet](#)



[Safer Internet](#)



[Internet Matters](#)



[NSPCC](#)

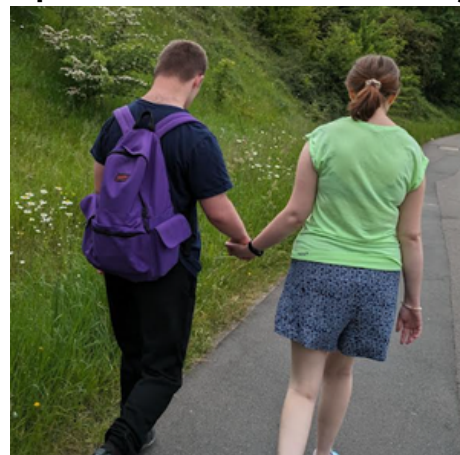
[ThinkuKnow](#)





Skills Builder: Staying Positive

We have seen some great examples this week of 'Staying Positive', which is our focus for the term. Titanium Class spent some time thinking about positive and negative emotions, what causes them to have positive emotions and recognising those emotions in others. We were so proud when two of our learners noticed that a peer was upset and worked hard to try and cheer them up showing great empathy and maturity.



The 'Staying Positive' skill is all about your son or daughter being equipped to manage their emotions effectively and being able to remain motivated. It is challenging to move on from a difficult situation back to positive emotions, but with practice and support it is possible to neutralise strong negative emotions, to get back to a calm feeling.

Being calm is helpful because it gives us space to reset after a challenging situation. Everyone will have different ways to calm down. You might like to explore

- Making a choice to explore a calm activity using symbols, there is an example included with the newsletter to explore
- Making a 'Calm Book' that is personal to your son or daughter containing pictures of people and things they love.
- Yoga and/ or breathing exercises; try searching Cosmic Kids Yoga on Youtube

If there is anything your son or daughter does at home which shows them building the skill of 'Staying positive' and working on being calm we would love to see it on the Class Dojo.

Thank you
Tor

Choosing a Calm Activity

Aided language boards are one type of low tech augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) that we use to support communication. Aided language boards allow adults to point to visual language (symbols) alongside verbal language (speech), positively modelling communication. The vocabulary on the board is arranged from left to right to imitate sentence structure. Here is an example you may like to share at home to support making calming choices and ‘staying positive’.

