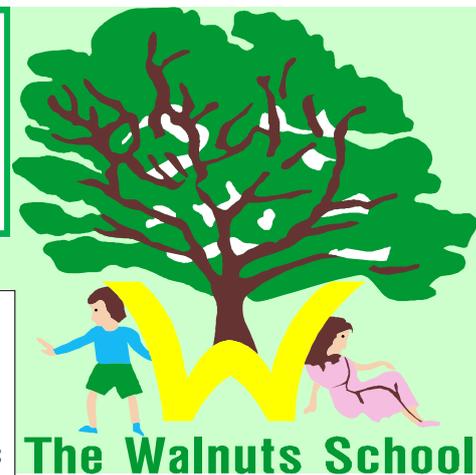


THE WALNUTS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



The Walnuts School

SUMMER TERM 2019

This year has been full of adventures for the children and young people. Arts week was a highlight; it was a delight seeing the scarecrow entries, they were all fantastic; it was extremely hard to choose a winner.

The Lower and Middle departments had their trip to Whipsnade Zoo, this is always enjoyed by all. We are grateful to the Rotary Club for their support to part fund the trip. Upper School students will be celebrating their end of year with a range of events such as Thrift Farm and The Harvester.

On 8th July the children will move to their new classes, this will allow them to transition prior to the long Summer holiday.

In September we have three new class teachers joining us, Molly Lambert, Louise Lambert and Rachel Ellis. I hope that the children and young people will meet them on our transition day on Tuesday 9th July as well as the new starters to The Walnuts School. Siobhan Kelly will be changing roles and will be our PE specialist teacher at the Hazeley site.

I hope to see you soon at our upcoming parent and carer events.

Lisa Munro

It has been a privilege to be a part of the Walnuts Team this year. I am very proud of the children and young adults and all they have achieved this year. Seeing our young people on stage has been inspiring, as has seeing our younger pupils development especially their communication.

Much work has been completed to develop our curriculum and the offer we provide for each pupil, which has been driven by our strengthened middle leadership and senior teams. The Lead Teaching Assistants and the Behaviour Stress Team have been a great support at both Hazeley and Hertford Place. All staff have been fantastic this year making the school what it is, offering great learning opportunities, whilst keeping excellent care and support of the children and young adults.

Have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you in September

Jonathan Budd

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PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL :

TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

PINE GROUP

Throughout the summer term, Pine's topic focus was Amazing Animals – sea animals, land animals, zoo and farm animals. The children listened to a variety of animal stories such as Shark in the Park, We Going on a Bear Hunt, Dear Zoo, and the Three Little Pigs.

The children had fun sticking paper teeth in the shark's mouth and exploring the telescope. Their favorite story was, We Going on a Bear Hunt. The children decorated their slice of toast to create a bear face. During our golden time session, we had a teddy bear's picnic in the garden area, and the children were able to eat their toast, as well as other snacks. The children enjoyed listening to "Where's the monkey" song, which tied in with positional language for our Maths focus. It was exciting when the chimp at Whipsnade Zoo came close to the window screen, to meet Pine class. The children were well engaged and excited during a teeth brushing activity. First, they brushed the puppet's teeth, and then their own teeth. During Arts week, the children had lots of fun listening to the music and copying the dance moves in the hall. Pine class team would like to thank the parents for their support this year!

CEDAR GROUP

This term Cedar have been very busy learning about amazing animals. We spent two weeks learning about big cats and read the story "The Tiger who came to tea". We concentrated on punctuation and are now very good at capital letters and full stops. We enjoyed having tea in our role play area with our friends and making big cats for our display in class. During multicultural week we focused on Brazil. We made lots of yummy treats from Brazil and learnt some Portuguese. We made the Brazil flag and read books about the country. We even had a Samba lesson from Karen in our class! We have just been learning about bears and read 'We're going on a bear hunt'. We loved playing with the sensory tools to go with the story. We were very good at putting the story back together in the right order. We had our trip to Whipsnade zoo and we really enjoyed looking at all of the animals. We were all very excited when the chimpanzee was high fiving us from behind the glass!



ASH GROUP

This term Ash group have been excited to explore our topic of On the Farm. We have enjoyed our shared books at circle times including, What the ladybird heard, What the ladybird heard next, Finding out about Poland, The pig in the pond, Farmer duck and Farmyard hullabaloo. During these sessions we have joined in with sensory parts of the story by getting wet in the pond as well as finding out the sounds each of the animals make.

We have started forest school again which is great because we love getting out in the great outdoors and enjoy exploring the environment, even when the weather isn't that great! This term has been a very busy one with Arts week where we enjoyed the bouncy castle, dancing in the hall with Lydia and Helen as well as Just dance. We have also had Whipsnade zoo which was a great trip out to see the animals and also had fun at sports day trying our best at all the different sports.

It has been a great year in Ash group and we are looking forward to our new classes next year.



LAUREL GROUP

Laurel Group have had another very busy term. Our topic has been 'Farm Animals' and we started the term off by sharing the story of "The Three Little Pigs". More recently we have shared a very enjoyable book called 'Grandad's Farm', which we acted out as a sensory story, with the children joining in with actions such as feeding the cows and watering the tomatoes. We have also crafted a whole range of farm animals for our 'Laurel Group Farm' on our display board. Laurel children have also learnt about shapes and how they can be used to make some pictures, with the children then creating their own shape dinosaurs. The children looked at books of wild animals in order to prepare for animals that we might see at the zoo. The Whipsnade Zoo trip was enjoyed by all, with the animal highlights being the Giraffes and the Tropical Fish! All of Laurel Group demonstrated how hard they have been working this term on being able to walk together, as part of a group. The Laurel Group team have loved working with your children this year and we would like to wish everyone a very happy and restful summer break



HOLLY GROUP



The last term of this academic year has certainly been a busy one for Holly Group. From dance workshops to mud kitchens, not to mention scarecrows and yellow brick roads, Holly Group has had a wonderful Summer Term! Our Arts week has most definitely been a highlight for Holly Group this year, with scarecrow making and our creativity having been pushed to the limit. I am sure you will agree we were worthy winners of the Lower Department's trip to Thrift Farm.

Holly Group has ventured to a few places when learning about our 'Amazing Animals' topic including Safari MK and our annual visit to Whipsnade Zoo. We have explored the many realms of fantasy through stories such as *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and enjoyed learning about *Frogs* through an information text.

As we continue our summer term preparing for Sports Day, we wanted to take a moment to thank Holly Group families for their support and cooperation throughout the last academic year. It has been a pleasure teaching all of your children and we wish them all the best for the future. Have a wonderful Summer Holiday!

CYPRESS GROUP

Cypress group have had a wonderful Summer Term. Our topic this term has been 'Amazing animals' which gave us the chance to explore a wide range of animals and their lives. We sang lots of animal-themed songs, read many books and enjoyed lots of messy and role play activities with different animals. The highlight of this term has definitely been our trip to Whipsnade zoo which reinforced children's experiences about animals. We have also enjoyed our special weeks such as 'Multicultural week' when we came across different countries and cultures, and 'Arts Week' when we loved making 'Jim', our funny scarecrow. 'Sports day' has definitely been a way to practice our physical skills and get all of our energy out, which has been a lot of fun for most of us. We couldn't miss our weekly trips to the parks where we expanded our understanding about the world. It has been a great pleasure for both adults and children in Cypress group to share our experiences this year and there is no doubt we will take our memories with us while moving to our new classes. Best wishes for an amazing summer! The Cypress Group team



SYCAMORE GROUP



In our topic *Amazing Animals* this term Sycamore Group has learnt about the features and life cycles of different animal groups. They have watched videos about these creatures, labelled and sorted them into groups. We have shared the story of *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and the children enjoyed engaging in story role play [picture]. They have also used the contents and index pages of non-fiction books to find information to answer questions.

The class enjoyed Multicultural Week in which we focused on Jamaica (where our lovely TA, Vinnette comes from). Vinnette taught us about the people, costumes, dance, flag and food from her country, and we all enjoyed learning how to make Jamaican Ginger Cake! Arts Week was lots of fun too. The children all helped to make our Paddington 'Bearcrow' for the scarecrow competition. They all enjoyed The Wizard of Oz story focus for the week – especially the sensory story and Liam's Tornado Music session! Sycamore Group have loved having older pupils from Slated Row School here this half-term to support them with Sports Day practice – it has really spurred them on! Have a wonderful summer break.

CHERRY GROUP

Cherry class has thoroughly enjoyed our Amazing Animal topic this term. We related our story books on farm animals. We have focused on identifying different animals by the sounds they make, we have looked at adult and baby animals. We also visited the farm when we went to the zoo.

In art we created a variety of animal pictures using different materials; we worked hard making a duck picture using coloured feathers and farm animal masks.

During Multi-cultural week we liked experiencing different countries. In Arts week we particularly liked the bouncy castle, bubble art and the dance sessions.

In PSHE we have been recognising the importance of personal hygiene such as applying deodorant, washing our hands and cleaning our teeth. Cherry class have enjoyed our cooking sessions where we took turns to add and mix the ingredients.

From everyone in Cherry class, we hope you a good summer holidays.



ROWAN GROUP

Rowan Group have been busy this term enjoying our topic: Pets. The highlights of the term have definitely been our trip to Whipsnade Zoo, Art, Sport and Multicultural Weeks. We also had great fun practicing our jumping skills on the bouncy castle, which was a great experience. This term in Rowan seems to have flown by.

As this busy year comes to an end, many of Rowan Group are preparing to transition to different classes. They should all be proud of what they achieved in Rowan Group. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy summer holiday.

Magda, Kendra, Joana and Megan



HAZEL GROUP



Hazel group's summer term topic has been African Animals. Luckily it didn't rain on our trip to the zoo and we even got to see a 20 minute old sea lion pup. In maths we have looked at measurements, money, number sequences, time, and have built our own zoos by measuring the perimeter and area of the spaces. In English we have made our own narrative and play scripts and written extremely persuasive writing about animal poaching. In pairs we have been using laptops to research different African animals and create fact files. In ICT we have started using Tynker and Lightbot to code and some of the students are using the coding language Python or Java Script. We also looked at the effects of cyberbullying. PSHE has been focusing on puberty and changes as we grow up including naming parts of the body. The class understand lots of different climates and conditions that are in

Africa and have been learning about adaptation, deforestation, refraction and reflection of light, invertebrates, coordinates and ancient animal worship; we even made canopic jars in art. We really enjoyed arts week making bubble art and our cool dabbing tin man. Have a great summer.

MAPLE GROUP

Maple group have enjoyed a fantastic Summer term; we really enjoyed the topic of pets we have enjoyed learning about how to care for different pets and even managed to visit some at the local pet store.

Along with visiting the local pet store the boys had a brilliant day at the zoo; they were fantastic at spotting the animals. The tigers, giraffes and the flamingos were defiantly among their favourites; but they were so pleased to see so many without the rain.

The boys really enjoyed making our scarecrow for Arts Week, we are so happy to win the competition and had our day trip to the farm. We had a great day and really enjoyed having a big picnic. We especially enjoyed making treats for our picnic in our cookery sessions.

We wish the boys lots of luck in their new classes next year, especially to those who are starting a new adventure in Upper School.

Have a lovely Summer holidays, From Georgie, Caitlin, Michelle and Nicky.

CHESTNUT GROUP



Chestnut group have enjoyed learning about pets this term. We initially focused on dogs who are man's best friend! We identified opposite words by looking at different types of dogs. For example, big dog, small dog, fat dog, thin dog etc. The children were able to label parts of a dog's body using words and symbols. We then moved on to positional language and the children enjoyed practical activities, identifying where the puppy was using the prepositions in, on, under, over etc.

We have enjoyed learning about which animals make good pets and how to care for their needs. We used photos and symbols to help identify what sort of food they eat, where they sleep and what they like to do. We read the text, I want a Pet by Lauren Child and the children were able to use descriptive words to extend their sentences.

The children have also enjoyed the play therapy sessions delivered by the speech and language team. We hope you have a fantastic summer holiday!

WILLOW GROUP



Willow class have done amazingly this year and have progressed in all areas of the curriculum. The children have been working on the topic 'Pets' this term. In English, we have worked on adjectives and composing sentences, as well as practising our hand writing skills and letter formation. We learnt about opposites and the children really enjoyed singing and dancing to the different action songs. In Maths, we have been ordering numbers to 10, 20 and some have been working to 100. We have also been learning about time, did well with o'clock times. The children have done so well with sitting for circle times and have developed their listening skills and interaction with others. Willow class have enjoyed our weekly outings either to the park or learning how to use money in shops. They have progressed well with waiting and taking turns. Willow

class have developed their independent skills in cooking, fine motor tasks, music and PE sessions. It has been a pleasure working with all the individuals in the class and we wish them all the best in their new classes

BIRCH GROUP

Our topic on African animals has rounded off the year wonderfully for Birch group. In science we have studied various habitats and their creeping, crawling, swinging and sprinting inhabitants. We looked at rainforests, how they create their own weather systems and, with a practical investigation, the effects of deforestation on the lives of the rainforest dwellers. We studied the river Nile and its significance in the development of human evolution. Through the great migrations that occur across the African savannahs, we learned about how the food chain relies on creatures of all shapes and sizes. In English we learned about persuasive writing when discussing the practice of rhino poaching. Birch also worked on play scripts taking scenes from the Lion King and adapting them. We enjoyed African drumming in music and looked at some classic ingredients from across the continent in cooking. The trip to Whipsnade Zoo ignited further enthusiasm as the pupils could see up close many of the animals we had been studying. All members of Birch should be proud of the progress they have made this year. It has been a privilege to watch each of them grow and mature – and a lot of fun too!



REDWOOD GROUP



It has been another eventful and exciting term for Redwood group, we have done some fantastic activities to help us to get stuck into our *African Animals* topic. The highlight of the term has definitely been our yearly zoo trip, we all absolutely loved looking at all of the animals and this fitted into our African Animals topic so well. We even got to see a baby giraffe and zebra!

Redwood group had a great time getting creative and messy during arts week, we really enjoyed reading the story of the *Wizard of Oz* and recreating some of our favourite scenes. We made a fantastic scarecrow to enter the schools scarecrow competition and some of us were lucky enough to go to the theatre to see some of the upper school perform in their very own production.

Well done to all of Redwood group for your hard work this year, we wish you the best of luck in your new classes. Have a wonderful summer break Ruth, Dina, Amy and Wendy

POPLAR GROUP



Poplar class have had a very busy summer term. Our topic this term has been pets. We have been looking at what kinds of different pets there are, the different noises they make, what they eat, what equipment they may need and how to look after them. In literacy we have been looking at books which feature pets. We really enjoyed "I want a pet" and described all the different pets the child wanted to have in the book. We have also looked at riddles about pets, and got very good at listening to the clues and guessing what pet was being described. In maths we have been working on our counting and adding skills. We have also been working on prepositions and focusing on understanding words like in, on and under. The children enjoyed the quick fire games we did in circle time where they had to follow instructions focused on position words. They also enjoyed their work with teddy bears and placing them in, on and under various different objects. This term we went to

Whipsnade which the children really enjoyed. We saw lots of animals, while on the train and when walking. The children also enjoyed playing in the park at the end of the trip, narrowly missing the rain!

UNS

This term UNS have focused on applying the skills we have been learning to practical activities. The students have spent time in the independent flat completing a range of life skills including making the bed, hoovering, cleaning the kitchen and bathroom and a range of kitchen activities. Throughout the term visiting a range of supermarkets and purchasing items needed for our food technology lessons. The pupils have compiled their shopping lists then located the items in the shop before using the self-service check outs.

We have visited the allotments to find out more about growing plants and producing food items. The students have been lucky enough to harvest rhubarb and broad beans as well as supporting with the general care of a range of vegetables that are still growing. During this project the pupils have been working collaboratively to complete a range of tasks such as digging, re-potting and watering the plants.



USS

We've had a lovely summer term in USS. Our plants have grown well - we have 16 tomato plants, grown from seed, in our poly tunnel at Hazeley. In cooking we have been using the new food tech room, which has helped us to work more independently. We have made scones this half term and a mince or apple pie. Last half term the students made their own 'pot noodle' dishes from dried noodles, spices and julienne vegetables - much healthier and tastier than the shop bought ones. We have been following the women's world cup and our English and humanities lessons have been based on this. We are avidly following a story, written by Roy of the Rovers author Tom Palmer. We get 3 weekly chapters, written just after the England games are played. The class vote and send the author ideas to shape what happens next in the story. In maths we've studied statistics, the class are really good at this and have collected interesting data, presenting it in a variety of ways. We all hope you have a lovely summer break when it comes - thank you as ever for all your support this year. Best wishes USS



UDF

UDF have been working on Film Genres in English. This has, for obvious reasons been very popular amongst the pupils. We have been looking at the various genres of films and looking at the features and similarities. Humanities has taken us to the Great Barrier Reef and the coastline of Great Britain as we learn about fragile environments far and near. In Food Technology we have been handling knives, learning how to use them safely and the different kinds of cut for vegetables. Our Enterprise project has been to create a presentation on autism which others would be able to enjoy and also learn something about the teenage experience of someone living with autism. This has already been quite a cathartic journey. Those that took part in the Wizard of Oz benefitted from the whole experience. They have grown in confidence and shown their ability. As the academic year comes to a close I would like to share that teaching UDF has been a great privilege. As many will now move on to the Sixth Form and a couple further afield they can look back on this year and hold their heads high.



USA

Group USA have been working gaining more work experience to prepare learners for adulthood. We focused on growing and caring for plants and worked on the Manor fields allotment throughout the term.

Opportunities were created for learners to recognise their achievements in relation to growing and caring for plants and to follow basic safety rules.

Group USA learners also took part in various activities and celebrations including The Wizard of Oz production and the scarecrow competition where we were judged the winners from Upper school.

The Summer term has been very busy but we have enjoyed every minute of it.



UKL

UKL have had a fantastic and busy summer term! We started our new enterprise business – Luscious Lunches, supported brilliantly by the staff team at Hazely site! The students have had experience of different roles, such as stock checking, kitchen management, food preparation and customer communication. After shopping for the items, the students used their food technology skills and amazing teamwork to complete each order.

We have also enjoyed English, where we have been learning about film genres. The students have sorted DVDs, described characters and settings, designed new films and much more! Maths lessons have been all about shape and geometry; we particularly enjoyed our shape hunts around school. In humanities, we have learnt about fragile environments, in particular rainforests and how they are being destroyed. We really enjoyed watching drone footage of Milton Keynes to compare it to other environments, such as the Arctic and the deserts. We were also challenged with weeding and replanting the overgrown allotment which gave us lots of understanding for our science topic of plant care.

It has been a great term; Natasha has really enjoyed getting to know everyone! We hope you all have a brilliant summer! From all of us in UKL.



UJP

In Maths this term, UJP have been focusing on Shape, Space and Measure. The students have also been collecting data and creating tables, charts and graph to present information. The students have been able to link this topic with their enterprise project 'Midweek Munch'. The students have been working really hard with this project as they have worked together to produce menus, create logos and posters. They have made and delivered hot drinks and cakes to the staff in school, collecting money and gathering feedback. The overall response from the staff has been very positive and the students have been very proud of their achievements.



The students have also enjoyed Arts week this term where the performance of 'The Wizard of Oz' was another huge success. They were able to join in with the fun activities going on throughout the school giving them an opportunity to interact with peers and enjoy different experiences including dancing and making a scarecrow. The students in UJP have all worked so hard and they have been a pleasure to teach this year. I hope the summer holidays are enjoyed by you all! From Jamie and the UJP Team.

SIXTH FORM

The students have given me a very warm welcome this half term and have been a great help in helping me settle into the department. The students have been sharing their navigation skills and guiding me round Milton Keynes. This term we have been working on our cooking skills and learning to follow a method. The students have shown great maturity in remembering their ingredients each week and the end results have been fantastic.

We wish our leavers Sam, Jake, Jason and Dean all the best in their new adventures.

Rebecca Brown and the Sixth Form Team

A few students have written a few words to sum up their half term and what they have enjoyed.

This year I have enjoyed many things that have been offered but the definite highlight was introducing the year 13's into sixth form. For the current year 13's I wish you the best of luck in year 14 as I go onto Mk College. – Sam

This half term we have been cooking, I have made cherry pie and chocolate chip cookies which I have enjoyed and done well. – Kristian

I like going to Tesa for work experience, helping them to pack tape. I like helping Ken at the allotment. – Jake

I have enjoyed the enterprise project and made a Brexit themed bird box. – Owen



Special Education Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service For advice and/or support, please contact:

Advice Line: 01908 254518

Email: mksendias@milton-keynes.gov.uk Web: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mksendias

IMPORTANT NOTICE — IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL OR NOT ABLE TO COME TO SCHOOL

School makes a lot of additional demands upon your child. If they are not well, they are unable to cope with the demands of a school day which can delay them getting better. In fairness to other children and staff, please keep your child at home if you suspect they are unwell.

Children with diarrhoea and/or sickness are asked to stay at home for 48 hours to help them get better and prevent the spread of the infection. This is in line with Local Authority guidelines.

If your child has transport it is your responsibility to phone and cancel the transport arrangements for the duration of the absence.



If your child has to miss school through illness/medical appointment / other reason, please let the school know as soon as possible with the reason that your child is absent by contacting the site that they are based at — Lower School on 01908 646119, Main Site 01908 563885, Sixth Form 01908 379208. If the school is not informed, you will receive a phone-call/text asking you to contact us and inform us of the reason of absence. We will continue to try to contact you to obtain the reason of the absence of the pupil, so please remember to contact us first.

TERM DATES 2019—2020

	OPEN FOR PUPILS MORNING OF:	CLOSES FOR PUPILS AT END OF AFTERNOON ON:	STAFF TRAINING DAYS – NO PUPILS	Holidays
AUTUMN TERM 2019	Tuesday 3 September 2019	Thursday 24 October 2019	Monday 2 September 2019 Friday 25 October 2019	Half Term Monday 28 October 2019 – Friday 1 November 2019
	Monday 4 November 2019	Friday 20 December 2019		Christmas Break Monday 23 December 2019 – Friday 3 January 2020
SPRING TERM 2020	Tuesday 7 January 2020	Friday 14 February 2020	Monday 6 January 2020	Half Term Monday 17 February 2020 – Friday 21 February 2020
	Monday 24 February 2020	Friday 3 April 2020		Easter Monday 6 April 2020 – Friday 17 April 2020
SUMMER TERM 2020	Monday 20 April 2020	Friday 22 May 2020	Friday 8 May – Bank Holiday – No School	Half Term Monday 25 May 2020 – Friday 29 May 2019
	Monday 1 June 2020	Friday 17 July 2020	Monday 6 July 2020 Monday 20 July 2020	Summer Break Monday 20 July 2020