

# Reynalds Cross School newsletter

Kineton Green Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7ER

Satellite Centre, Green Lane, Shirley, Solihull B90 1AE

October 2022 edition



Term



dates

## **TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2022/2023**

### **AUTUMN 2022**

**Term Starts: Monday 5th September 2022**

**TRAINING DAY: Monday 5th September**

**TRAINING DAYS: Thursday 20th October &  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

**Half Term: Mon 24th—Fri 28th October 2022**

**Term Ends: Fri 16th December 2022**



### **SPRING 2023**

**Term Starts: Tuesday 3rd January 2023**

**TRAINING DAY: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Half Term: Mon 20th—Fri 24th February 2023**

**Term Ends: Friday 31st March 2023**



### **SUMMER 2023**

**Term Starts Mon 17th April 2023**

**MAY DAY: Monday 1st May**

**Half Term: Mon 29th May—Fri 2nd June 2023**

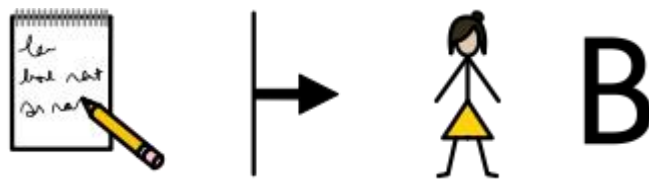
**TRAINING DAY: Monday 5th June 2023**

**Term Ends: Tuesday 25th July 2023**

***TRAINING DAYS (pupils not in school)***



# Message from Miss Brettell



It has been a very busy half term and it has been wonderful to see the pupils thriving and enjoying school, it makes us all very proud.

The new nursery and reception pupils have settled in really well to the Reynolds Cross Satellite Site and so have the older pupils who have transitioned from main site to our 14/19 provision over there.

We are always looking for ways to extend skills and also offer opportunities to our pupils, the 14/19 at Satellite have been learning to cook their own meals and if you are shopping in Touchwood you may come across them volunteering!

Swimming after school continues to be well attended by pupils and parents and is wonderful to see how much the pupils enjoy it and participate.



We hosted a travelling theatre company who performed "Sword in the Stone" for many of the lower school pupils and the singing and dancing was a great hit with our audience!!

Recently we had an open playground session on a Sunday and it was very well supported and the feedback from parents was that it was a great success. Look out for more open playground dates to follow!

To support parents and carers in their decisions for the future we held an excellent transition event which was attended by parents and providers of those pupils in year 11 and 14. Hopefully this gave further information and guidance into opportunities for our pupils' future choices. Thank you for attending the event and also thank you to the staff who worked hard at organising it.

At the end of this half term we do have to say goodbye and farewell to a few staff. Mr Drinkhall joined Reynolds Cross in 2014 as an NQT, he has taught mostly in upper school and developed some wonderful relationships with staff, pupils and parents. He will be moving on to a new role at Herewood College, we wish him well and he will be greatly missed.

Our Business Manager, Deb Jarvis joined us in 2017. She has overseen many major projects including securing the new Satellite site and the roof project at RX main site – these are but a few of many! We wish Deb well in her relocation to Somerset.

We will also be welcoming some new staff when we return – we have appointed Mr Chris Coombes as Class teacher in Mars. Miss Erin, Miss Lisa and Miss Serpil will join us as Personal support classroom assistants. We also have Miss Julie who is a qualified physio and has been supporting us with some additional swimming sessions.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you for your patience whilst we have had a new roof at the main site and new electronic gates at the Satellite site and at last we are very excited to showcase our new website which celebrates our pupils and our school. The link can be found here; <https://www.reynolds-cross.solihull.sch.uk/> so please take a look

Have a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.





## Shooting stars

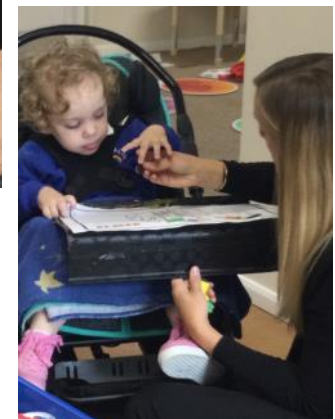


### Patterns

Shooting Stars have been busy settling into class. Our

topic is 'Patterns' which has been a theme through many of our activities, but particularly Art. The children have created their own artwork such as an Elmer picture. They have also explored prints and patterns in other media such as cornflour gloop, playdough, and with colouring materials.

We have also noticed lots of interest in the books we have in class, with children frequently choosing to use these during choice sessions.







# Sunshines



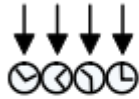
Colours

Sunshines class have settled back into school well this half term. In art, pupils have been exploring colours using their senses. Along with completing a range of art activities such as collaging, printing and painting, Sunshines class have been tasting different fruits of each colour of the week; lemon, strawberry, apple and blueberries.





## Planets



## Routines

Planets Class have worked very hard this half term, getting used to new routines and settling back into school after the summer holidays.

In Art, pupils have explored different colours, engaging their senses by touching, tasting and creating art work based on a selection of colourful fruit.

In Reading, pupils have engaged with the story Dear Zoo, listening and exploring props in the immersive classroom, as well as matching animals from the story with symbols and pictures.







# Rainbows

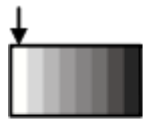


## Instruments

Rainbows class have settled in well this half term. In music, pupils have been exploring different instruments using their senses. Pupils have explored using percussion instruments such as shakers, drums and tambourines. Rainbows class have also enjoyed playing the keyboard, and listening to a saxophone, which Mr Perrins brought in.



# MOONBEAMS



Light

During art in 'MY world' sessions Moonbeams have been exploring a light box. We have been exploring sensory materials such as water, oil and food colouring and seeing what effects we can create on them. We have also used shapes to build towers and knock them down.







# Rockets



City



of Birmingham



Symphony Orchestra

This term we have been really lucky to have CBSO 'City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra' join us in class. The children have absolutely loved it!







# Comets



## Skills

Comets class have had a lovely first half term back at school . We focused on settling down and brushing up on the skills we learned before the summer break. We worked hard in all activities on our cognition and communication skills, as well as our independence, self-help and life skills.



# Galaxies



## Exploring

Galaxies have had a brilliant first half term at school and have all enjoyed exploring their new classroom and playground whilst getting to know their new class staff.

In phonics Galaxies have been learning about environmental sounds, with a particular focus on weather sounds. Pupils have enjoyed creating the sounds of rain, thunder and wind.





# Mercury class



Autumn



art

Mercury class have had a lovely first half term back at school. We all enjoyed autumn art for our display boards and have also completed lots of maths activities and become familiar with our topic of pattern.

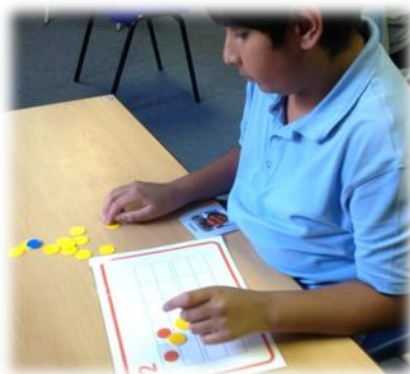




# Venus



This half term, Venus class have been helping to create art for our themed display boards. We have made Autumn art and Halloween crafts so far. We have also completed lots of Maths activities and become familiar with our topic story of Pitter Pattern. A great start to the new year.







Mars



Local area

This half term, we have been out on the minibus! We have been on round trips around the local area with the hope of building up towards heading out on trips before the end of the year. The whole class have found this a really calming experience and have loved watching the HS2 works.





Jupiter



Educational



visits

During this term we started our educational visits to Brueton Park and Morrisons. In Brueton Park we have been completing Autumn themed sensory treasure hunts. While at Morrisons we are learning about appropriate behaviour while out and find items on a shopping list.

At school during our weekly Engagement session we have been exploring the theme of patterns by reading the story Dog's Colourful Day by Emma Dodd. All the pupils enjoyed this sensory often messy session which is lots of fun! Jupiter class have worked hard on both their educational targets and life skills ☺

Have a lovely half term!



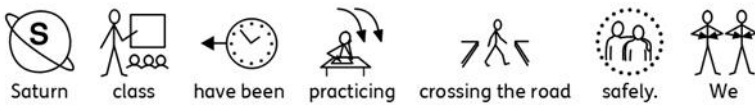




Saturn



Road safety



cross the road.





Neptune



City



of

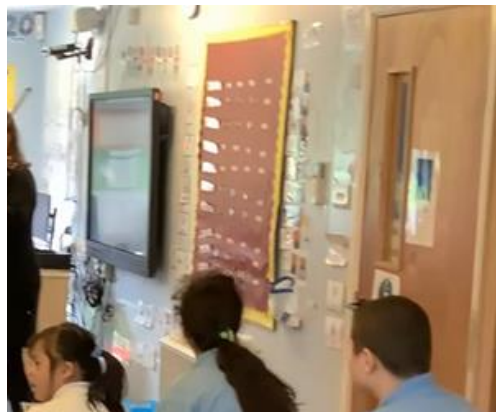
Birmingham



Symphony Orchestra

In the Autumn Term, Neptune Class are having some music sessions with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO).

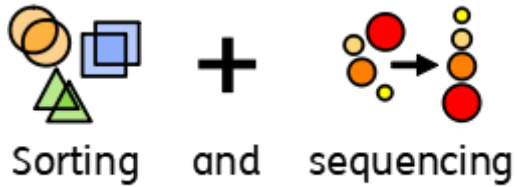
Pupils have listened to different pieces of classical music, had a go on some of the instruments and taken turns to conduct the musicians.



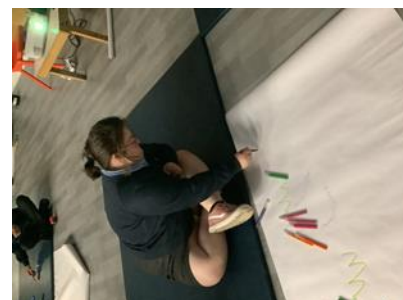
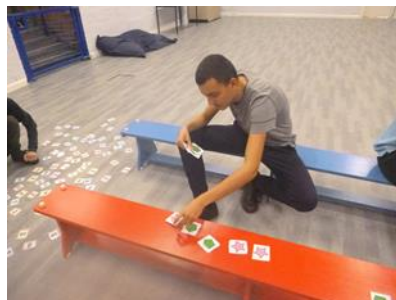
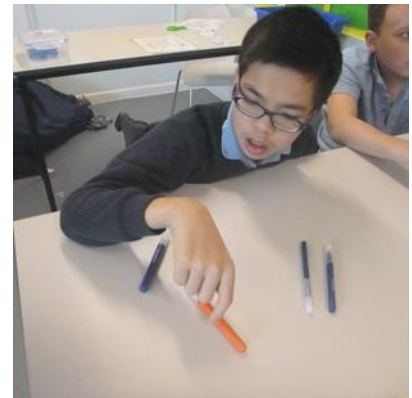
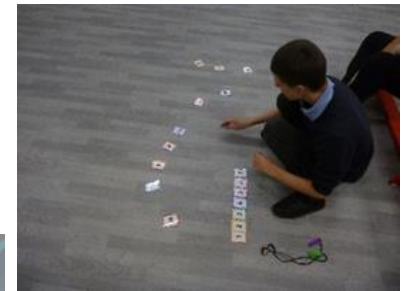




## Adventurer



As part of the ASDAN module sorting and sequencing the pupils in Adventurer class have been taking part in practical activities. We have had fun making number and picture patterns. Our favourite song is Go Noodle-Banana Banana Meatball.





Voyager



Work experience

Voyager have been working hard on their work experience tasks for Colebridge and Touchwood.

Teamwork on our production line making Junction boxes for Colebridge trust.

Shredding, delivering memos and refilling leaflet stands at Touchwood.





**Year 10 – 14 students**



### Students new to 14 – 19 stage and ASDAN Qualifications

Welcome to 5 students who have joined our 14-19 stage where they will start to build up credits towards ASDAN qualifications awarded when leaving school. This year there are 21 students in years 10 to 14 working across locations at either main site or satellite centre in Green Lane.



Some students are supported to use PECS (Picture exchange communication system) to make choices and communicate personal preferences. Information gained can be used towards asdan 'Developing independent living skills: having your say'.



Students practice chopping and cutting skills for lunch time at the satellite centre. The use of appropriate equipment and techniques is part of student learning in asdan unit 'Developing skills for the workplace: health and safety'.



Our 14-19 curriculum identifies skills we want students to learn then matches to qualifications available within ASDAN programmes at Entry 1, 2 or 3. This means students leave school with qualifications to prove skills mastered. Good for confidence and well-being as well as useful if moving on to other settings offering further qualifications.



## Family support update

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Transition Information Evening for Parents of pupils in Years 8-14 on 6<sup>th</sup> October. More parents attended than ever before, which was great. We hope everyone got the information they needed but should you need any further advice or help, please contact Janine, our Transition Family Support Worker via the support dojo.



It's lovely to be able to hold our family support events again and our first open playground took place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you to everyone who came along. We will be holding other events throughout the year, so please look out for future dates, which will be posted on Class Dojo.



Finally, with the cost of living crisis affecting us all as we approach Christmas, we would like to offer the opportunity for parents/carers to be able to purchase (for a small donation) good quality toys/gifts/books, that people no longer need.

To enable this to happen, we are asking parents, family members, friends and staff to donate any good condition (i.e. no broken/missing parts/ripped pages) items to school by 4<sup>th</sup> November, marked for the attention of Family Support.

If anyone has any links with organisations/businesses who may be willing to help by donating items, please let Family Support know.

More details about the sale event to purchase items will follow in due course.

Many thanks for your support  
Anna, Janine and Hannah



# Introducing

## CHAMPS

Children's Health and Mental Provision support

Meet your reps



**Based at main site**

### **Katrina Thompson**

I have worked at Reynolds Cross since 2011. I started as a volunteer when my son Daniel had a placement here, so I know personally and professionally the difficulties you and your children face, as well as the family unit. From my first day I absolutely loved it. I decided this was what I wanted to do, so I then became a student in school for 2 years, whilst attending college, where I obtained a Specialist Diploma in Teaching and Learning. As a CHAMP Matt and I not only want to support and help your children, but we also want to involve parents and carers, so that collectively we can offer the whole family support, and ideas to make a difference to your children's well-being and mental health.



Hi I'm Matt and I've worked at Reynolds Cross since December 2015, after 4 years on check in at the airport. My brother attended the school from when he was 4-18, I started after he had left, and have enjoyed working in a variety of classes and with different age ranges.

I'm aware both from home and school, the many challenges families can face, and supporting your children to feel content, appreciated and valued within school is really important to us.

There is a huge variety of needs within Reynolds Cross, and we are keen to provide the supporting, caring environment that our pupils thrive in. Through the different activities and themes we are aiming to celebrate the achievements of all pupils at both sites, as well as supporting you, the families, at the same time.

I know that Katrina and I are excited about starting CHAMPS, and feel free to drop us an email.

Matt 😊

At Reynolds Cross we like to provide our pupils with an environment where they feel safe, happy and included. We recognise that for our pupils to be receptive to learning they first need to feel happy and valued. We want to increase our pupil's involvement with what happens within school, but also to provide parents and carers with a directory of recommended places you can visit. We will have a termly theme, which can be as simple as trying something new or being charitable. We will take photos and log their success and celebrate what they have done on our weekly assemblies. We will also share these in our newsletters. We have lots of ideas, and Matt and I are very excited to get started after October half term. We will have a dedicated email address so you will be able to contact us directly. Next terms theme...**BEING BRAVE**

# WE NEED YOUR HELP

One of our families are in need of a double buggy with the seats one in front of the other, similar to the photo below. If anybody has one they no longer need and are able to donate please can you let the office know. Many thanks.





## Willows Sensory Service

### WHO ARE SESSIONS FOR

Aimed at people with PMLD/SLD  
Any age welcome



### WHERE WE ARE

## Willows Sensory Service

Manager : Sarah Hall  
73 Binley Close,  
Shirley,  
Solihull,  
B90 2RB

Tel 0781 454 1575 or e-mail  
[Willowssensory@virginmedia.com](mailto:Willowssensory@virginmedia.com)

[Willows sensory on Facebook and Instagram](#)

Not far from Bills Wood and Shirley Park if  
you wanted to make a day of it.

## Willows Sensory Service

### WHAT WE DO



#### Services

-Sensory drama where we go on a sensory journey with light effects, things to feel, see, smell and taste with music and a theme to bring it all together eg the seaside

-Sensory exploration sessions for individuals using interactive approaches

-Sessions are planned for individuals  
-Zoom sessions available too.

-Sensory Room for hire –ideal for a family

-Full Body Aromatherapy Massage, Thai seated back massage, Indian head massage and reflexology.

-Dates and times negotiable: teacher training days, holidays, bank holidays  
-Consultancy and training

-Contact us for further details



## Willows Sensory Service

### WHO WE ARE

-Qualified, experienced staff

-We are a special school teacher and NNEB with lots of special education experience who have set up a private business working from home

-You can also book massage or reflexology or a mixture of sensory and complementary therapy.

-Prices  
£35 an hour  
£20 for 30 minutes  
£10 for 15 minutes  
Hire of room is £10 an hour.

-Please contact us to book a session or if you have any queries



# Stars of Fame

## W/c 5th September

Sunshine's star of the week is Lennox for having a good first week back in school and for having kind hands.

Noah in Voyager for having a great first week back and working hard.

Planets Stars of the Week are Frazer, Zac, Ibrahim and Ali-Abbas for coming back to school so brilliantly and doing very good listening this week.

Neptune Class are all stars this week for settling in so well and making new pupils and staff welcome in Neptune Class.

All of Adventurer class for such a great week and settling so well!

Mars Class – Abhijan for a very settled week in his new class

Rockets - Zain for a big smile on his face every morning this week

## W/c 12th September

Moonbeams star of the week- Ben for working hard in all areas of school life. Ben has settled well, is trying hard with all his physio and is enthusiastic to join in all lessons.

Neptune star of the week is Kai for engaging so well with our new English topic and for helping his friends by collecting leaflets from the local area to use in our work.

Comets star of the week is Mario for settling in to his new class.

Zac is Star of the Week in Planets for brilliant listening, following instructions and communicating. Also, for great turn taking when sharing his hoop.

Adventurer star is Lauren for remembering a long music sequence.

Voyagers star is Harry for settling in well at Satellite Centre.

Star of the Week for Venus: Dexter for amazing work this week!

Our star of the week in Rainbows class this week is Jacob.

Sunshines star is Henry - For having a fantastic two weeks in school and excellent counting and number recognition in maths.

Galaxies star of the week is Calvin for settling back into school well and for doing good waiting. Well done, Calvin!





# Stars of Fame

## W/c 19th September

Moonbeams- Finn for using his new work chair and stander each day happily.

Sunshine's- Daniyal - For fantastic talking in group time.

Neptune star of the week is Samhita for great communication this week.

Stars for Adventurer-

Long for cooking skills

Genevieve for being kind to friends and great maths work.

Voyager- Arthur for being helpful and holding door open for staff.

Hannah for following instructions and be a great help in the kitchen.

Galaxies star of the week is Ruby for super talking. Well done, Ruby!

Jupiter - Oliver for good effort in swimming this week.

Comets is Ignas for independent mark making.

## W/c 26th September

Neptune star of the week is Callum for fabulous work in English groups.

Louie for his efforts in using a variety of communication skills to gain the attention of his peers and staff in Moonbeams.

Sunshines star of the week is Max for fantastic eating and making good choices in the classroom.

Mars Class – Abhijan – tidying up independently after an activity.

Venus- Ibrahim for independently exploring the pool.

Jupiter star is Cameron.



# Stars of Fame

## W/c 3rd October

**Moonbeams** star of the week is Henry for engaging in activities on the playground as well as following instructions well.

**Neptune's** star of the week is Chloe for great talking and working hard this week

**Jupiter's** star of the week is Harry for showing a preference between a choice of object and symbols.

**Mars's** star of the week is Ibrahim for coping with lots of changes through the week.

**Mercury's** star of the week is Faraz for excellent communication in his PECS sessions.

**Venus's** star of the week is Ujan for accepting change to his routine really well.

**Galaxies** star of the week is Calvin for his good looking at symbols and lovely interactions with class adults.

**Voyager's** star of the week is Arthur for being a fantastic help in cooking sessions.

**Adventurer's** star of the week is Joe for good communication.

**Sunshine's** star of the week is Zachary for his excellent singing and joining in with actions and signs to familiar songs.

**Shooting stars** has 3 stars of the week:

Robyn- Great communication

Enayah- Great symbol exchange

Oliver- Using the more symbol

## W/c 10th October

Shooting Stars:

Hunter-Great attitude to school and joining in lots of activities

Louis-Great attitude to school and joining in lots of activities

Adventurer- Genevieve for excellent swimming

Neptune- Joshua for showing staff how to use the toaster correctly

Moonbeams- Amelia for engaging in all lessons with a smile and enthusiasm

Planets- Saurjyesh for great swimming this week. Saurjyesh did good listening when it was time to leave the swimming pool and go back to Planets Class. Saurjyesh has also worked hard in communication this week.

Sunshine's- Maxwell for fantastic engagement on the playground, peddling the tricycles and exploring playground toys.

Galaxies- Ezmai for independently requesting to go the toilet. Well done Ezmai!

Rainbows- Max for his fantastic singing during morning songs.

Jupiter- Harry for another wonderful week. Independent walking in the park and making clear choices and showing preferences.

Mars- Sienna for accepting new support staff

Rockets- Lucio for verbalising new words

Voyager- Robbie for trying new things, coping well with changes and making good choices.

