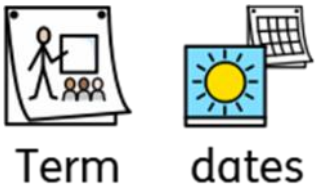
Reynalds Cross School newsletter

Kineton Green Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7ER

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

May 2023 edition



<u>TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2023</u>

<u>SUMMER 2023</u>

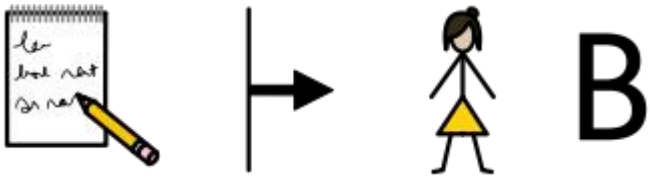
Half Term: Mon 29th May—Fri 2nd June 2023

TRAINING DAY: Monday 5th June 2023

Term Ends: Tuesday 25th July 2023

<u>TRAINING DAYS (pupils not in school)</u>

Message from Miss Brettell



Dear Parents and carers

Another super term at Reynalds Cross and as ever time really is flying! We continue to have some really good success stories with our pupils and it is so rewarding to see them flourish and feel safe and happy at school. Hopefully you will see some of the good news stories that we share on Dojo regularly such as the weekly “Stars of the week.”

Thank you for all of your messages of support regarding the recent death of one of our pupils. Pupils were able to celebrate the life of Alfie and I had great pride with joining some of our pupils at the funeral to pay our respects.

As we head into the Summer, the recent planters made by our pupils are really blooming. It did identify some keen gardeners within the recent groups. The pupils really enjoy creating them and as the weather improves they will flourish further.

I had the privilege of visiting some of our pupils at Dodford Farm residential this month. It was so lovely to see the pupils so confident and happy in a new environment. As always, huge thank you to the staff who supported this, gave up their time and enabled the trip to happen – Miss Townsend, Miss Semple, Miss Bev, Miss Abbie, Miss Roe, Miss Anita, Miss Emily and Miss Sally.

Well done to all the dedicated pupils that took part in sports day over the last couple of days. I think you will agree they all had a fabulous time and very much enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all the parents and carers that attended. Also, to Langley School pupils that attended and supported.

Thank you to those of you who completed the parent questionnaire earlier this term, we are addressing the feedback and working on areas for development.

Next term I will be setting up a Head teachers open office, giving parents/ carers an opportunity to talk with me, share ideas, give feedback etc. This will happen once a term and if successful we may look to increase. Please watch out for the date and further information.

Wishing you all a restful holiday and look forward to seeing all of the pupils back in school on Tuesday 6th June 2023.

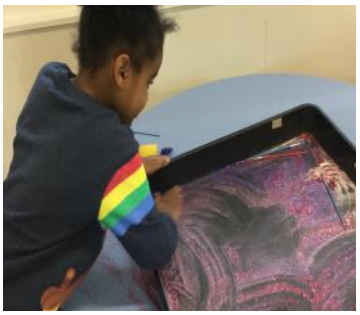
Thanks for your ongoing support.

Best Wishes.

Shooting stars

Animals

Shooting Stars have been having lots of fun learning all about animals! We have been very busy using all of our senses to develop our skills in communicating, sharing with our friends, understanding the world and mark making. We also had a great time celebrating the Coronation!



Sunshines

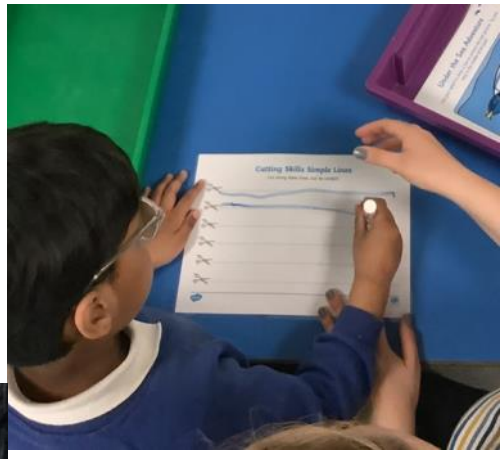
my community

This half term in My Community, Sunshines class have been learning about gardening. In our lessons we have planted sunflower seeds and have been watering them and watching

Planets

Writing

This half term, Planets Class have been working hard in Writing, practicing pen control and working on their fine motor skills. Pupils have had weekly Writing sessions where they have practiced using scissors, growing with independence each week. Planets have also engaged with activities which involve picking up small items with tweezers, and squeezing and rolling playdough. Well done Planets Class!



Rainbows

Science

Rainbows class have had a very fun first half of the summer term. In science, pupils have been learning about pushes and pulls, which meant lots of opportunities for fun activities practicing pushing and pulling! We also had a really exciting visit from the fire service, who let us have turns at using the hose! Well done, Rainbows!

Moonbeams

My learning

This term in My Learning our Math's focus is space and shape. Over the past half term pupils have taken part in a variety of sensory activities that has enabled them to engage in this topic and develop their understanding. We have explored the shape of various instruments, pressed shapes into playdough, felt the texture of sensory shapes and used shapes to create art work.

Rockets

This term we have been on our first school trip to Dodford Farm. Some of the pupils stayed over for two nights and some of the pupils visited for the day.

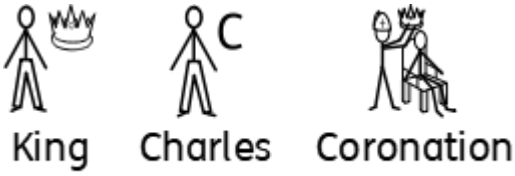
It was a wonderful experience for pupils and staff!

Comets

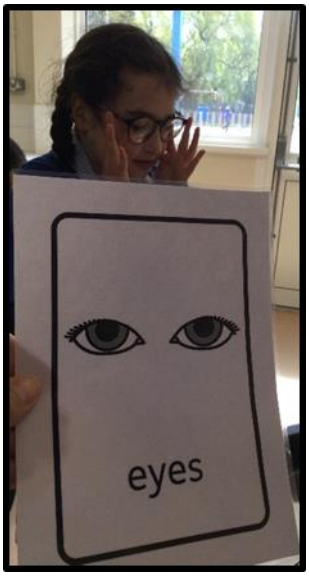
Science

In the summer term we have been exploring magnetic forces in our science lessons. We were looking out for materials that would attract magnets.

Galaxies



This half term Galaxies celebrated the coronation of King Charles. We loved the coronation photo booth! Galaxies have also been learning about facial features this half term. We have used mirrors to point out facial features, crated faces with Mr Potato Head and completed lottos.



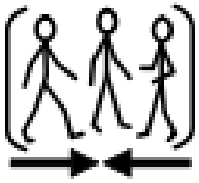
Mercury class

Communication skills

Mercury class *have enjoyed this half term. We all worked hard on communication skills including literacy and PECS.*

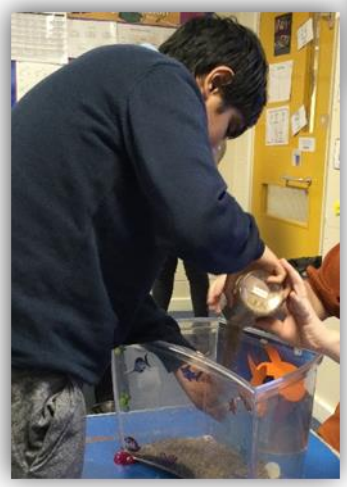
Pupils continued to focus on developing life skills and communication skills.

Venus



Events

This half term, Venus have been celebrating events with themed days in school. We have also been learning how to take care of animals and the different things they need.



Mars

Being safe

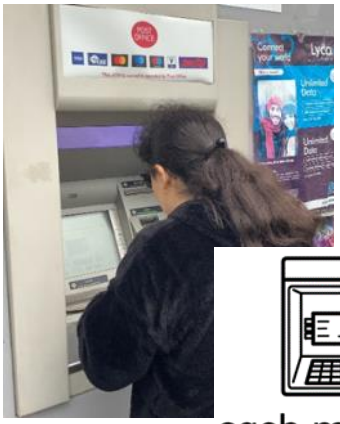
During the summer term Mars class have being visiting Sheldon Country Park. We have enjoyed seeing the animals and continued to develop our being safe in the community skills.

Jupiter

My community

This half term, in my Community, Jupiter class have been visiting Sheldon Country Park. We have been learning about farm animals and posing for photos ☺

Saturn



cash machines

bus stops

post box

Neptune

In Computing this term Neptune
Class have been finding out about the
Kings Coronation. They also
completed Coronation crafts - making
crowns and had fun at the
Coronation Disco.

The Link

In myself and others The Link have been talking about

important people. We have been remembering our

friend Alfie who sadly died.

Alfie made us laugh.

Alfie was cool

Alfie Loved Formula 1.

Alfie loved American food and drink

Alfie Loved pie splats.

Alfie Archer 22nd March 2009 – 6th April 2023

Adventurer

CakeAway

Adventurer class have been taking part in a mini-enterprise project. We have been making tray bakes and cookies to raise money for prom. Thank you for your orders so far! We are hoping to get selling again after half term with lots of delicious cakes on offer!

Voyager

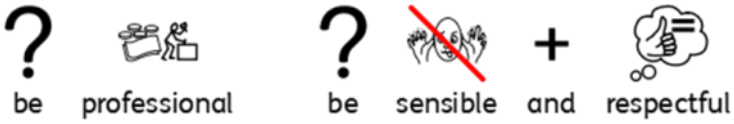
My future

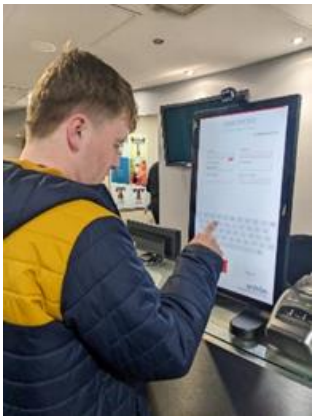
Voyager have been working hard in My Future.

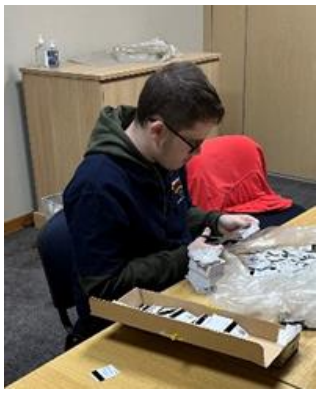
Each week students take part in work experience for the Colebridge trust or Touchwood.

There are lots of things to remember when we do work experience.

We must:

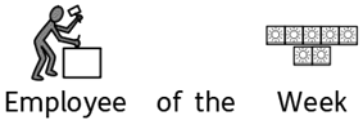






We have recently introduced an ***Employee of the Week*** award.

This is given to someone who has worked really hard during work experience.



TOUCHWOOD

ASDAN Registered Centre

Reynalds Cross school is a registered centre for delivering ASDAN qualifications.

Our 14-19 curriculum (Years 11-14) focus is working in partnership with parents to prepare students for life after leaving school. Students are encouraged to become as independent as possible, developing life skills and understanding to become more confident and skilled.

Two of this year's ASDAN units 'Developing community participation skills: personal enrichment' and 'Getting on with people' at Entry 1 are examples. Units focus on supporting students to try different activities whilst developing and practising ways to communicate about their likes and needs.

Pupils practice using pedestrian crossing whilst on community visit to Queen Alexander College with friends from Satellite centre.

Fun on a trip to the park and in school, sharing activities and turn taking with a friend.

Family support update

Open playground

Our open playground session took place on Saturday 20th May, the sun shone, and everyone had a great time. Unfortunately, out of the 19 families who had booked to attend, only 9 came along. We know that plans can change and that, although you have booked onto a session, you may not be able to attend. Can we please ask that if this happens, you let us know via a Dojo message before the start of the session if possible? For all sessions, we have to plan who will staff it and also cover associated costs for opening school etc. and with notice of reduced numbers, we can adapt accordingly to prevent extra costs which are not needed. If we have an event planned, we will ensure we check Dojo regularly, even at the weekend. Many thanks for your support.

Our next event will be our Garden Party which is planned for Saturday 1st July 2023 from 12-3pm. More details will follow, via Class Dojo, after the half term holiday.

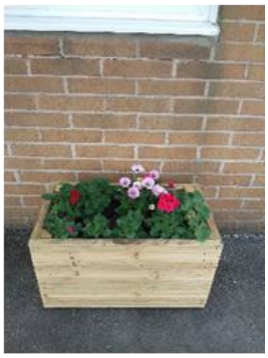
Anna, Janine and Hannah

Key Stage 3 Volunteering Day

On Tuesday 9th May our Key Stage 3 students took part in our first volunteering day. Everyone joined a choosing session before the day and selected their first and second choice from gardening, sorting charity shop donations and litter picking in the park next to school.

We'd like to thank Chris Dunster for providing the litter pick equipment and joining the group on the

Also, special thanks to Stephen Bellion for purchasing and donating the 2 large planters for the front of school and to Carl Monk who made and donated the 4 smaller planters. The front of school is now looking lovely and will soon be in full bloom.



The House Garden

House garden

The garden is slowly recovering from quite a harsh winter. Not all our plants survived but our friendly robin is alive and well. In fact she has become positively affectionate over time and will sometimes linger on my hand to check out the food on offer. She even posed for my Christmas card photos.

A less cute but quite important creature in our garden is the bumblebee. They are very efficient pollinators and it's good to have them in the garden.

It's been great to have classes down right through the winter – including the Reynalds Cross ECO Group. They have helped with various tasks including planting, tidying up and watering. This summer I'm hoping to grow potatoes, broad beans, spring onions, peas and strawberries. The main project though is to create a sensory area from the potato patch. This idea came from Gardeners World at the NEC. Close to where the Reynalds Cross wheelbarrow was basking in admiration was a sensory garden named: *"To Anchor a Wild World."*

This Beautiful Border will showcase the benefits of sensory planting for a child with Autism, providing a safe retreat with calming plants. Outer areas will be planted with an orderly theme to symbolise the importance of routine. Using scent, sound and touch, this garden will create stability and security: an anchor in a wild world.

So that's quite a challenge to put together. Notcutts have been approached for a quote to provide the plants and compost, but have not responded as yet. However, FORCS have kindly offered funding and I am hopeful we shall have a lovely sensory area this summer.

Jaguar Land Rover volunteers recently made a splendid job of planting up the patch of ground on the left at the front of the house. This was no easy feat given it was hard and stony and it really has made a big difference.

The nature reserve has been full of birdsong and wildlife as usual this spring. One notable visitor spotted for the first time recently was a kingfisher – which plopped into the water just in front of a bemused heron. Kingfishers are vulnerable to hard winters and pollution so this was really encouraging to see.

One item we are always short of is compost, which oddly has become more expensive recently. One large bag of it will disappear in the large beds we have.

Special thanks to Cara and Tom for their help in the past year.

Stars of Fame

21/04/2023

Moonbeams- Louie for brilliant symbol recognition in sensory story, labelling the animals he was exploring.

Neptune class are all stars this week for being fantastic supportive friends to each other this week.

Rockets class- Zain- For a fantastic first week back, being calm and settling back into routine well!

Rainbows - Mason for having a fantastic first week back!

Sunshines- Henry for fantastic engagement in our lesson about firefighters and for a great week overall!

Mars- Abhijan-This week Abhijan has been continuing to tolerate wearing his glasses. He is now wearing them several times a day and is able to keep them on for the length of different short activities. He can tolerate his glasses for up to 5 minutes at different times across the day.

28/04/2023

Moonbeams- Rupa for engaging in all activities with confidence and enthusiasm.

Rockets- Shijie for having a fantastic week in class, working hard and lots of great listening!

Mars class star of the week is Mahira. Mahira has done really well with her physio this week. With the Easter break she hasn't used these for a little while, she has tolerated this well and engaged in learning activities whilst using physio equipment including using her walker for longer than normal periods.

Stars of Fame

05/05/2023

Neptune star of the week is Ryan for being a good friend on the playground.

Sunshine's star of the week is Daniyal. Daniyal has been so engaged in his lessons this week, participating in Maths recognising hidden 2D shapes and bucket activities. We have heard Daniyal's voice lots this week too!

Moonbeams- Amelia great interaction with staff and peers, gaining attention with vocalisations, eye contact and a big smile.

Venus star of the week is Ibrahim for a lovely positive week with super listening.

Star of the week for Rainbows this week is Aaron, for really engaging in the maths session, and for having a great week!

12/05/2023

Lennox is star of the week in Sunshines class Lennox has made really sensible choices this week and has filled his sticker chart every day - well done!

Moonbeams- Harvey for great work with his physio, using his stander each day happily for an hour as well as moving around the classroom with confidence and speed when crawling and/or bottom shuffling.

Adventurer- Lauren for great physio
Jeevan for Maths work

Stars of Fame

19/05/2023

Moonbeams- Henry for initiating activities with adults and gaining the attention of his friends in class.

Neptune Class are all stars this week for fabulous engagement in the sensology session with their friends in Jupiter class.

Yusuf is Mars class star of the week for making sensible choices and accepting changes within the classroom.

Sunshine's star of the week is Leo -
Leo has communicated amazingly this week. He has used his PECS symbols and found his teachers to communicate his wants and needs.

26/05/2023

Moonbeams- Aryan—initiating interactions with adults and peers around the whole school community.

Neptune class Star - Neptune Class, your teachers are so incredibly proud of you all for being such good, kind friends to each other.

Shooting stars- Oliver- Helping with tidy up routines
Jasmine- Working hard exchanging symbols for puzzle pieces
Ethan B- Great effort in music

The star of the week in Mars class is Sienna for being more accepting of group activities in different areas of school.

Mercury's star of the week is Albert for being focused during lessons all week

Star of the week for Sunshines - Auley for having a really fantastic week in school, being independent with personal care and having dry days without wearing his nappy – well done Auley!

Supernova classes

Congratulations to the classes below for achieving 100% attendance for the week.

W/C 15th May 2023

- Voyager
- Saturn
- Mercury
- Galaxies
- Moonbeams
- Sunshines

W/C 22nd May 2023

- Mercury
- Rainbows
- Planets
- Saturn