

# Newsletter



Dear Parent(s)/Carers,

September through to December is our longest term. As we reach the start of our well-deserved Christmas break, the whole school community can reflect on the progress we have made and be justifiably proud. It is a privilege to lead on the development of this new school. We have had much to deal with but the resilience of the students, staff and parents has been there for all to see.

Over the last two weeks we have had visitors to school looking at the quality of our education. Croydon's School Improvement Partner spent a morning in classes looking at the learning of the students and then we had some long meetings with the DfE who looked at our self-evaluation and development plans. I wanted to share some of their many positive comments,

- Pupils in each class were happy, engaging purposefully in the range of activities on offer.
- Positive relationships exist between teachers, support staff and pupils reflecting their knowledge and familiarity with needs and personalities of each child.
- Learning activities modified and differentiated to meet the varied needs of children in each class.
- Children were observed in activities to support learning and development across core and curriculum subjects including music, art, early literacy and mathematics
- Use of visual prompts and signing to support communication and simple decision making: as required children had access to personal communication books
- Drawing on personal interests to provide meaningful and accessible contexts for learning
- Effective deployment and partnership with support staff to support 1:1 and paired work
- The school's development priorities are iterated in a clear school development plan, are informed by rigorous and credible self-evaluation and are underpinned by the school's values
- The school aspires to become the 'flagship ASD provider'.

These reports were so well received and I know that we can only go from strength to strength. 2021 is simply going to be amazing for our school !

So to finish, I wish you a very Merry Christmas. Stay safe and enjoy the precious moments together with your families. School resumes on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 8.40.

Until then, with very warm wishes

John Reilly  
Principal  
Addington Valley Academy

# Beach Class

Beach class wish you all a Very Merry Christmas! We have all been working incredibly hard this half term as well as having a lot of fun. The Covid break meant that we had to settle in twice but we have been so impressed by the resilience shown by the Beach students.

Our topic has been Festivals, Memories and Celebrations and we have done lots of work around Diwali and Christmas. Alongside these topics we have been working especially hard on our communication skills and developing the use of PECS in the class room and at snack and lunch time - our students can tell us more of what they want and need every day and as such we've seen a really positive upturn in engagement across the class.

*Here are some highlights of the half term.*

Jaydon working hard with the support of Luke to create a hand tree to celebrate the holiday season



Cordell has spent time working on identifying different colours with the help of a block board



Marcel has been working on his fine motor skills with the help of a latches board.

To celebrate the holiday seasons Jaydon is helping to illustrate a nativity story



Michael has enjoyed his music time this term, Here he is practicing his bongo skills



Beach class worked as a team to create a holiday tree, here we see Pouvoir adding to the class tree.

Apollos has worked hard on his numeracy this term, here Apollos is working on a number matching caterpillar.



# Bluebell Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very Merry Christmas! It's been a great half term and we are so proud of our Bluebellers who have made excellent progress despite all the Covid interruptions. We have all made wonderful strides but especially in communication and working together and alongside each other. We have been learning all about Festivals, Memories and Celebrations and I think you can see from the pictures that we are certainly getting into the Christmas Spirit!



Asher, Stephen and Sean are getting messy and working on some art. It's lovely to see all three students working alongside each other so beautifully.



Aiden and Kobe are reading and listening at story time with Cherelle. Great effort from both and again, wonderful to see our students working together!

Stephen is doing some brilliant independent maths here.



Claudia is exploring her creative side at a music workshop.



and Liam being very helpful as Santa's Helper!

# Orchid Class

What a fantastic term in Orchid Class! We have had great fun getting to know each other and completing some fun activities along the way.



We have begun to use iPads and laptops during our lessons to raise levels of engagement. Chloe enjoyed using her coin skills to play games on the iPad where she made amounts using coins. Sydney also enjoyed using the laptops to complete some research about penguins with Natacha after reading a story about them.



On Tuesday afternoons, we have some messy play! This allows the children to explore different textures and build a tolerance to these, whilst building fine motor skills along the way. Joshua really enjoyed mark-making and playing in our flour tray.

We also have been practising our cookery skills and made some Pizza to eat during our Friday golden time. Brendan really enjoyed making (and eating!) our pitta bread pizza and did fantastic listening and following of our verbal instruction.



The past few weeks we have been getting into the Christmas spirit! We have enjoyed listening to Christmas music whilst doing some of our work and reading Christmas stories. After we read the nativity, Zuriel did great work on making a lovely nativity scene with all the main characters in it. Hayden also did great work helping Ailis wrap some boxes to go beneath our class tree as our Christmas presents!



We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. We are all very excited to see you all again in 2021 ~ Ashton, Ailis, Natacha and Princess (Orchid Class Team).

