

# Mabel Prichard School

## Weekly Newsletter



### Message from the Headteacher

#### 5th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Having promised I would report the results of our Mabel Prichard general election, we ended up with a very hung parliament, with the vote being shared across all parties. There are pictures later of each of the party stands where the students made excellent cases for why they should receive a vote. Unfortunately not all practice was in line with the electoral commission guidance, with LA Bronze offering biscuits to voters and Plaid Cymru promising free rice and chicken once a month. There were some excellent sensory experiences on offer with the Scottish National Party running a 'search for Nessie' in jelly and the Green Party offering a range of plants and natural materials to represent their cause. Overall the students had an excellent interactive sensory election, raising their awareness of the major parties and exploring the concept of choice.

Our summer festivals are now planned and you will see posters for each site later in the newsletter. All are welcome, and there will be music, ice creams, further refreshments and activities on each site. We are officially opening the mural on primary on 12th July, so all guests will have an opportunity to see the excellent painting by primary and secondary students and to meet the artist they worked with, Jon MacKay. Both festivals start at 1pm and both have a speech and language therapist stand where you can ask questions and find out more about the service and the support they offer.

We are very excited to have been awarded the SkillsBuilder Silver Award and should be receiving our certificate and badge for our letterhead in the coming weeks. This means we have been recognised for our practice in building learners' essential skills for life. The silver award is given when a school community demonstrates a sound knowledge of these skills and teaches them through multiple areas of the school's practice, including in the classroom environment, celebrating student achievement and in through the curriculum.

Can I remind you again that we are experiencing very high levels of illness at the moment and if your son or daughter is unwell it is really important you do not send them into school as we are trying to control the spread of infection on both sites.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone and we hope to see many of you at the festivals next week.

Best wishes

Lucy

#### Coming up:

Thursday 11th July  
Secondary Summer  
Festival  
&  
Speech & Language  
Drop In

Friday 12th July  
Primary Summer  
Festival  
&  
Speech &  
Language Drop In

Friday 19th July  
Break up for  
summer holidays  
1pm

Member of the



Artsmark  
Gold Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

# News from the Classrooms

## Blue Class

Blue Class have had a great last term. Our new story 'The Colour Monster', allowed us to work on our colour and emotion recognition. We have explored our feelings and why we might have them. The learners have thoroughly enjoyed our practical maths sessions and this term's topic of capacity has been particularly popular. This has involved lots of measuring using water and other substances.



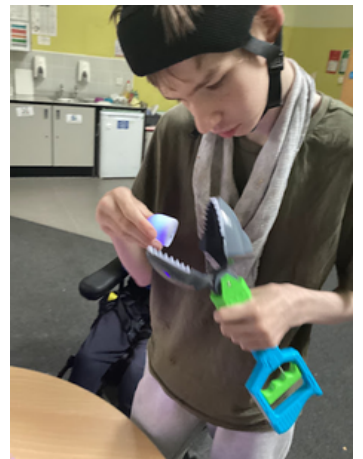
We have regular visits to Rosie's Cafe at secondary, some of us use the minibus while others walk, which has been great for physical development and learning about road safety. At secondary we have enjoyed exploring the new environment and interacting with the older learners.

This term we have started gardening and have been learning about how plants grow. We planted cress, watched it grow and remembered to water it. Once it was fully grown it was ready to harvest and eat and was delicious in sandwiches we made with cream cheese. There are definitely some budding farmers in Blue.



## Platinum Class

Platinum Class are continuing to enjoy stories. We particularly enjoy 'Too Much Talk', which involves lots of crazy actions and voices, sensory props and a chance to make the dog bark by pressing a switch. This is really building our anticipation skills and as we repeat this story, we are showing we know when our favourite parts are coming. Our weekly sensory story is called 'After the Party' and takes place on a beach. It is a wonderful opportunity to hear the sounds of the sea, sink our hands into the sand, taste the lemon slice, smell the suncream on our arms, whilst feeling the salty water spray and fan breeze on our faces.



We have been able to make a few trips out shopping recently, which has given us a chance to generalise our skills around choice-making and understanding communications in different places.



Please visit us at our 'Under the Sea' sensory experience tent at Secondary Site Summer Festival next week. It will be a wonderful experience.



HEADTEACHER'S  
**AWARDS**  
AWARDED FOR AIMING HIGH





## Elections



## Summer Festivals

### Secondary Summer Festival

1pm

Secondary Site

Thursday 11th July



### Primary Summer Festival

1pm

Primary Site

Friday 12th July



## Skills Builder Focus: Aiming High

This term our Skills Builder Focus is 'Aiming High'. Everyone can Aim High, we all have strengths and areas to develop. Aiming High is about having clear goals that are relevant and important to you.

With two weeks of term left everyone's minds are beginning to look to the summer holidays. Now is a great time to think about not only the summer holidays but of the future too. What would we like to achieve in the coming months or even just over the summer holidays? When thinking about the summer holidays, consider what a successful summer holiday will look like? How will you achieve this and what might you need?

The Skills Builder Homezone has some great skills challenges for families that you might like to consider exploring over the summer holidays. They can be found at [Skills Builder Homezone](#).

We would love to see anything you do at home with your son or daughter that shows their success so please continue to share on Class Dojo.



## SEND Oxfordshire Conversations for Parents and Carers

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/send-oxfordshire-conversations-for-parents-and-carers-july-2024>

Oxfordshire County Council are bringing together parents and carers of children and young people with SEND across Oxfordshire and representatives from the SEND local area, including the county council, NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board and the Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum in order to share a brief update on the overall progress they are making to improve SEND services and put a spotlight on:

- Listening to the voice and views of SEND children and young people.
- Their work with mainstream schools to develop enhanced support for SEND.
- Progress they are making to improve the timeliness of education and health care (EHC) needs assessments.

Throughout the events, there will be opportunities for attendees to ask questions and provide feedback. There are 2 sessions taking place on 1st July from 12:00-13:30 or 19:30-21:00. Booking closes on 28th June. Parents and carers also have the opportunity to complete a [survey](#).



# Upcoming Autism-friendly Openings at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Autism-Friendly Openings coming up at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History between now and the end of the Summer Holidays.



Saturday 6th July, 9am - 10am  
Saturday 3rd August, 9am - 10am  
Friday 23rd August, 9am - 10am

The sessions are free but booking is required which can be done via the [website](#).

## Short Breaks

Please find below links to the July Short Breaks newsletters.

Short Breaks Update for Families with Disabled Children and Young People

Welcome to the July Short Breaks Update...

Lots going on again this month - Thomley Festival, Science Day, Have a Go Day, fundraisers, museums, Play & Activity Days, sports, cinema...

Also some training & webinars...

What's in this edition...

Short Breaks Update for Families with Disabled Children and Young People

PARENT CARER SUPPORT GROUPS

Oxfordshire

\*\* Please check in with groups direct to ensure that they're running before you try to attend \*\*

[Short Breaks Update for Families with Disabled Children and Young People March 24](#)

[Short Breaks update - Parent/Carer Support Groups](#)

## Keeping Safe Online

A photograph of a young girl with long red hair taking a selfie with a smartphone.

**Keeping children safe online**

Learn more about children's online safety. Advice and support to help you learn about staying safe online as a family.

NSPCC

A photograph of a family (mother and two children) lying on the floor looking at a tablet together.

**Homepage**

Working with online safety experts, we're here to provide parents & carers with guidance, advice and support to keep children safe online

Internet Matters

[Internet Matters](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[Safer Internet](#)

[ThinkuKnow](#)

[Childnet](#)

A photograph of a young child sitting on a couch, wearing headphones and using a tablet.

**Parents & carers**

Advice for parents and carers to help support children and young people in their safe and responsible use of the internet.

Childnet

The logo for the UK Safer Internet Centre, featuring a stylized orange figure inside a circle.

**Parents and Carers**

Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online

UK Safer Internet Centre

The logo for CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) featuring the letters 'CEOP' in a stylized font.

**Parents and carers | CEOP Education**

Access information and resources for parents and carers on keeping your child safer online including...

ceopeducation.co.uk