

SWIFTS & KINGFISHERS JOINT COLONY REPORT – 2017/18

Swifts and Kingfishers Beavers at 1st Woosehill have, as ever, enjoyed an action packed, varied and of course fun set of activities over the past 12 months. Swifts have continued to run at full capacity (20 Beavers) throughout the year. Unfortunately, Kingfishers, once again, have entered turbulent times, with numbers reducing from a full house (20 Beavers) at the start of the year, to ten Beavers in the summer term, as their Leadership Team moves on. Thankfully a number of parents of existing and potential new Beavers have expressed an interest in taking on the running of Kingfishers and we are hopeful that we will be firing on all cylinders (and capacity) at the conclusion of next year!

To ensure all Beavers are getting the same opportunities and experiences, both Colonies have mirrored the same programme each term. Activities for Beavers in the Autumn term included becoming scientists as we took a trip to the Lookout Discovery Centre, learning more about technology at the Apple Centre in Reading, becoming the next generation of David Bailey's as we learnt more about photography, scaling the heights of the climbing wall, Halloween fun and a hike to Wokingham.

During the Spring term, we visited the fire station, built machines to help endangered animals (with junk modelling), had a fantastic tour of Morrisons and learnt about a number of faiths. The Beavers also raised money for the Ollie Young Foundation by helping out around the home and of course welcomed mums into our famous Mother's Day Café.

Summer term saw the Beavers becoming knights and princesses for St George's Day, learn about different countries during an International session, try their hand at tag rugby, abseiling and taekwondo, enhancing their bike riding skills and inviting dads in for a special Father's Day treat as we practiced out camping skills..

As always, Beavers are rewarded for working towards a variety of badges which this year included: Photography, Digital Citizen, Creative, Faith, Communicator, Global, Experiment, Cycling, Camp Craft and International Activity badges; Hike, Communicator and Time on the Water. Staged badges; and Adventure, My Skills and Personal Challenge badges.

At other times in the year the Colonies combined for a Christmas Party, Easter Egg Hunt at Dinton Pastures and katanuing.

The Beavers are very excited about our planned Beaver Camp at Yolbury Scout Camp this summer, ahead of returning for the Autumn term. Beavers will sleep in 5-man bell tents and try their hand at five different activities, including zip wire, archery, 3G swing, crate stacking and fire lighting. They will also have all the usual delights of dinner, hot chocolate and songs around the campfire followed by breakfast and more activities the following day. If they have any spare time there will be a visit to the shop on site for tuck, games in the woods and lots of fun in the tents.

All of these activities could only be achieved with the support of the Swifts and Kingfishers Leadership Team. Thanks go to Pingu, Kes, Heba, Fruit Bat, Fox, Squirrel, Starfish and the Young Leaders – without you Beavers would not happen! A special mention is also due for Lion, who will leave her role as BSL after two years with Beavers – thank you for all the hard work, love and care you gave the youngsters. As always, our challenge next year is to attract newcomers to the Leadership team to assist us in providing a safe and stimulating environment in which Beavers can have fun, learn new skills.

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