



SWIFTS & KINGFISHERS JOINT COLONY REPORT – 2018/19



The last 12 months have been full of new challenges and fun activities for the children, adults and Leaders at Swifts and Kingfishers Beavers at 1st Woosehill. While Swifts has run at full capacity (20 Beavers) throughout, Kingfishers weathered the turbulent waters of a change in leadership with reduced numbers early in the year and is now back up to a full house.

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 going on a hike at California Country Park, learning emergency first aid, dressing up for Halloween, looking at the night sky with the Reading Astronomical Society, making sausages at Lockkeys Farm and enjoying a visit to Brickies Lego Workshop.

During the Spring term, we learned about animals at Pets at Home, hiked to Wokingham to deliver donations to the Foodbank, had a visit from the police (complete with police van), did some healthy cooking and opened our doors to treat the mums to a cuppa and a cake at the famous Mothers Day Café.

Summer term saw the Beavers go on a hike and enjoy a picnic at the Lookout, visit Henry Street Graden Centre to learn about plants, learn magic tricks with Fred in The Shed, learn about health and fitness with a sporty session and invite dads in for a special Father's Day treat and a taste of Beaver fun and games.

As always, Beavers are rewarded for working towards a variety of badges which this year included: Disability Awareness, Explore, Space, Animal Friend, Cook, Safety, Camp Craft, Gardener and Health & Fitness Activity badges; Hike, Emergency Aid, Air Activities and Night Away Staged badges; and Teamwork, My World and Outdoors Challenge badges.

At other times in the year the Colonies combined for a Christmas Party, Sno Tubing at the John Nike Centre and will be Dragonboat Racing at the end of the Summer term.

The highlight of the year for many, however, came at the start of the Autumn term with a joint camp held at Youlbury. Twenty four Beavers spent the weekend camping and tackling such adventurous activities as the zip wire, 3G swing, archery, crate stacking and fire lighting. Saturday was topped off with a heart spaghetti Bolognese followed by a campfire and hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows. The next day, bacon sandwiches set the youngsters up for another morning of activities before being picked up tired and happy by their parents. We are now in a flurry of planning a return to Youlbury in September with another group of eager Beavers!

All of these activities could only be achieved with the support of the Swifts and Kingfishers Leadership Team. Thanks go to all helpers, including those that take on their Parent Rota duties with enthusiasm – without you Beavers would not happen! 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.

Swifts & Kingfishers