



SWIFTS & KINGFISHERS JOINT COLONY REPORT – 2020/2021

Swifts and Kingfishers Beavers at 1st Woosehill have, despite the restrictions, enjoyed a varied and of course fun set of activities over the past 12 months. Both colonies' numbers dipped significantly through the course of the pandemic, but numbers are now growing, to 15 Swifts and 12 Kingfishers and plans to expand back up to pre-pandemic numbers of 20 per colony in the next term or so.

To ensure all Beavers are getting the same opportunities and experiences, the colonies combined resources for two terms of Zoom meetings and following a return to face to face in April 2021 have once again adopted the practice of mirroring the same programme each term. Activities for Beavers in the Autumn term included playing Zoom Guess Who as we embarked on our Teamwork badge, a virtual visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind as part of our disability awareness and building junk models from home to complete the Builder Badge.

The Spring term saw a virtual visit to the fire station, accompanied by the Hawks Cub pack, having a go at the Highland fling from the comfort of home and racing one another over the internet as we practiced using chopsticks as part of our Chinese New Year celebrations. We were even treated to video footage of a flight over the African Savannah from our very own Beaver Leader ex pilot, Penguin!

Summer term saw the return to face to face for our Beavers, many of who had never experienced Beavers in person before. Our action-packed sessions have seen the Beavers make bug hotels, get sporty and active, plant pumpkins, learn how to put up (and take down) tents and will conclude with a highly anticipated trip up the Thames via Katananu at the end of term.

As always, Beavers are rewarded for working towards a variety of badges which this year included: Camp Craft, Gardener, Builder, Health and Fitness, Space, Animal Friend: Activity badges. Hike, Air Activities and Time on the Water: Staged badges; and My World, My Outdoors and Teamwork badges: Challenge Badges.

We look forward to embarking on camps when restrictions allow and have a number of enthusiastic Beavers who are keen and excited to experience camping, many for the first time.

All of these activities could only be achieved with the support of the Swifts and Kingfishers Leadership Team and also the amazing help of our wonderful Executive Committee - our Group Scout Leader Amanda Parker and Executive Chair Nicky Roberts have between them attended every Beaver Face to Face meeting in 2021 to ensure the meetings can take place whilst our new leaders learn the ropes.

Massive thanks also go to our new and enthusiastic recruits Penguin, Falcon, Squirrel, Robin and Fox as well as our fantastic Young Leaders – without you Beavers would not happen! A special mention is also due for Otter and Mouse who are stepping down from their roles 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.

Swifts & Kingfishers