



## SWIFTS & KINGFISHERS JOINT COLONY REPORT – 2021/2022

Swifts and Kingfishers Beavers at 1<sup>st</sup> Woosehill have, enjoyed a varied and of course fun set of activities over the past 12 months. Both colonies' numbers have swelled to 20 Beavers per section, with a healthy number of new recruits joining each term as spaces become available.

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, a Grand Prix adventure at Pinewood Raceway, a super exciting walk and play at the park in the dark and learning more about money as the Beavers completed their money skills badge for the first time since its introduction.

During the Spring term, we were the only Beaver colony in Wokingham district to secure a visit to the fire station, where the Beavers had an opportunity to try on firefighters' clothes and even have a practice putting out fires with the hose! The Beavers also worked together to build machines to help endangered animals (with junk modelling, donated a great deal to the foodbank following a visit from their team, helped our local community on a litter pick and of course welcomed mums into our famous Mother's Day Café.

Summer term is planned to be full of fun, including a rugby session delivered by a coach from Bracknell rugby club, the Beavers learning new life skills as they take a train journey as a colony, fruit picking at Grays Farm, learn about different countries during an International session, enhancing their bike riding skills and inviting dads in for a special Father's Day treat as we practice our camping skills. The term will end as the Beavers take to the water for Dragon Boat Racing.

As always, Beavers are rewarded for working towards a variety of badges which this year included: Camp Craft, Gardener, Builder, Sports, Money Skills, 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 reembarcking on camps in the coming terms 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, once again huge thanks to Group Scout Leader Amanda Parker and Executive Chair Nicky Roberts who have always been on hand to help when asked.

Massive thanks also go to our leaders, Penguin, Falcon, Owl, Squirrel, Robin, Fox, Tiger and Dragon as well as our fantastically helpful and enthusiastic Young Leaders Pigeon, Eagle, Crazy Goose, Hedgehog, Leopard and Panda— without you Beavers would not happen! A special mention is also due for Robin who is stepping down from her roles after nearly 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