



## SWIFTS & KINGFISHERS JOINT COLONY ANNUAL REPORT – 2023/2024

It's been another busy but fun year for the Beaver Scout Groups!

We have grown both sections to 39 Beavers, 5 Young Leaders and 8 Leaders across both groups.

The Beavers' leadership teams continue to provide a broad range of activities based around traditional Scouting skills and values. To ensure all Beavers are getting the same opportunities and experiences, both Colonies have mirrored the same programme each term. We try to offer a wide variety of activities to suit all of the children; to keep them engaged, safe, try new skills and experiences and most of all have **FUN!**

The parent rota has worked really well and we have appreciated all their help, particularly with camp fire preparations, hikes and other fun filled sessions!



We have seen 6 earn their **Chief Scout's Bronze Award** (which is the highest award you can gain whilst in Beavers) – 3 from both groups. Well done goes to Joe, Reuben, Leo, Malo, Sam and Daniel. We hope you enjoy Cubs!

### What have we been up to in the last 12 months?

Lee (aka Lion) joined the Kingfishers in June 2023.

Swifts said farewell to Emily Mason who has been the Swifts Leader for many years. She has decided to take a well earned break to spend more time with her family now her boys are more grown up. Thank you for all of her hard work and dedication she has given to Beavers and the 1<sup>st</sup> Woosehill Group.

Since Emily's departure Swifts have recruited 3 new leaders. Hayley and Suteja are new to our Scouting family and Sarah is an experienced Beavers and Cubs Leader.



### Activities we've enjoyed:

- Learning more about money as the Beavers completed their **money skills badge**
- Visiting The Lookout Discovery Centre
- Whizzing around the Grand Prix Scalextric car racing circuit at Pinewood Raceway
- A hike in the dark to the park learning all about the **Green Cross Code** and **Road Safety**
- Being Mad Scientists for the evening to earn the **Experiments** badge
- We had camp fires, cooking on the fire and practiced our campfire singing
- Being Secret Agents to earn the **Communicator** and part of the **Skills badge**
- Learning **Global Issues** during our Water Water Everywhere session
- Had an exciting visit to **The Archaeology Department, University of Reading**
- The Beavers worked together to build machines to help endangered animals (with junk modelling)
- Welcomed mums into our famous Mother's Day Café for tea and cake!
- **Spring Hike** to donate items for the **Food Bank** and **Summer 2024** around TRL, Crowthorne
- Rugby session delivered by coaches from Bracknell Rugby Club
- Earning the **International badge** learning all about 4 other countries
- Trip to Theale Fire Station to learn all about **Safety** and even shoot the fireman's hose!
- Inviting their dads in for a Fathers' Day Session to learn knots and other camp crafts
- Enhancing their bike riding skills, to earn the **Cycling Badge**
- Disc Golf at Dinton Pastures, to gain their **Sports badge** and the **Teamwork badge**
- The term will end as the Beavers take to the water for Dragon Boat Racing





We look forward to reembaring on camps or hut sleep overs in the coming terms as a number of enthusiastic Beavers 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 – thanks everyone for all your hard work, support and always been on hand to help when asked.

*Thank You...*

**Massive thanks** also go to our leaders: Falcon, Duck, Robin, Squirrel, Otter, Lion and Dragon. Also, we must mention our amazingly helpful and enthusiastic Young Leaders Crazy Goose, Leopard, Panda, Rosy and Harry – without you Beavers would not happen!

A special mention is also due for Dragon (Helen) who is stepping down from her roles once the term finishes after yet another year as a Beaver Leader, plus many years with the 1<sup>st</sup> Woosehill Group thank you for all the hard work, love and care you gave the youngsters.

**Phoenix (Sarah) and the Swifts & Kingfishers Leadership Team**