



SWIFTS & KINGFISHERS JOINT COLONY ANNUAL REPORT – 2024/2025

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

The sections are currently at 34 Beavers (a lower number reflecting the fact that we have lost leaders and haven't been able to operate at top capacity), 3 YL's and 6 leaders.

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 12 Beavers earn their **Chief Scout's Bronze Award** (which is the highest award you can gain whilst in Beavers) – 8 to Kingfishers and 4 to Swifts (with a few more on track at the end of this term!) Well done Beavers!

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

Geoff (Koala) joined Kingfishers as a leader at the start of Spring term and has proved to be an excellent and enthusiastic addition.

Kingfishers said goodbye to their Leader Sue (Squirrel) who left scouting at the end of Autumn Term and is sorely missed by her team and also Lee (Lion) who's child had finished at Beavers and so it was time for him to move on. Swifts also said goodbye to their leader Sarah (Phoenix) who has moved on now that her son has left Beavers for Cubs. The two sections have really felt the loss of their leaders and give them HUGE thanks for all the work and time they gave to their respective sections. Kingfishers also said goodbye to two amazing young leaders in Panda and Leopard, who worked their way from Beavers all the way up to Young Leaders and showed a huge amount of commitment in their sessions with Kingfishers. Swifts also said goodbye to YL's Goose, Harry and Nathan and thank them for their hard work!



Kirsty (Otter) is in the final stages of achieving her Nights Away Permit.

Some activities we've enjoyed:

- A space and dreams sleepover at the hut
- Beaver camp at Youlbury (particular thanks to Hayley for her hard work leading this)
- A litter pick in our local community to help earn our **Community Impact** badge
- A special visit from Hearing Dogs as part of our **Disability Awareness** badge
- Visiting Brickies Play Centre for our **Builder** Badge
- We learnt about Chinese New Year as part of our **My World** badge
- A visit from Animal Club to help us earn our **Animal Friend** badge
- Inviting our special people to Mothers Day Cafe
- Hikes at Hogwood and South Hill Park, and Swinley Forest later this term
- We've got greenfingering growing sunflowers for our **Gardener** badge
- Later this term we are looking forward to a train trip, footgolf and Katanuung!



All of these activities could only be achieved with the support of the Swifts and Kingfishers Leadership Team, Beaver parents, and also the amazing help of our wonderful Executive Committee – thanks everyone for all your hard work, support and always being on hand to help when asked.



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

Additionally Beavers prepare to say goodbye to Hayley (Duck) at the end of this term. We will miss her enthusiasm and hard work and wish her all the best!

Beavers are looking forward to welcoming at least three new leaders who are joining our sections in September - 2 of whom are coming from Squirrels.

Massive thanks also go to our leaders: Falcon, Duck, Robin, Otter, Koala and Dragon. Also, we must mention our amazingly helpful and enthusiastic Young Leaders Rabbit, our new YL Olly and Mackenzie – without you all Beavers would not happen!

Otter (Kirsty) and the Swifts & Kingfishers Leadership Team