



SWIFTS COLONY REPORT – 2013/2014

What a great year of fun, activities and new experiences we have enjoyed! We have run at full capacity (20-21 Beaver) throughout the year and waved goodbye to Dewey as she left after many valuable years with Swifts. As new arrivals, two Young Leaders – Jonah Humphreys (Skipper) and Fraser May (Rico) – have joined since the Autumn to help guide our Beavers.

Autumn term highlights included a camp fire and a night hike, a visit to Wokingham Fire Station, a Charity Fun Night for local organisation Crossroads that helps carers that are children and Beavers were put through their drill paces by two Gurkha soldiers.

During the Spring term we were busy preparing for our performance of The Gruffalo at the first 1st Woosehill Gang Show followed by a special treat session at Kids n Action fun centre. We also had Science Night led by Skipper and Rico with lots of crazy experiments, a visit by an RAF fighter pilot and learnt all about the Jewish faith complete with freshly made Latkes.

Summer term saw us experience some exciting new activities such as Pond Dipping at Dinton Pastures, making sausages (and taking them home for tea!) at Lockys Farm Shop, going on a scavenger hunt and challenging the dads to a football match for Father's Day.

We also opened our doors twice this year for the very popular Beaver Swifts Café where Beavers prepared and served special treats for grandparents in September and mums for Mothers Day in March. Apparently the tea and cakes are excellent!

Swifts have also had some fun-packed get-togethers with Kingfishers throughout the year. We had a wet and wild time at our Olympics last summer, a festive trip to the Panto (oh no you didn't!), an egg-citing time on an Easter Egg Hunt and our Robin Hood Camp – the first time 1st Woosehill Beavers have slept outside under canvas! Our intrepid campers experienced archery, made bows and arrows and leather wrist bands, mastered knots, tackled an assault course, cooked on a camp fire, and went on a Bat Walk – all in 24-hours!

All these activities have meant that we have completed a lot of badges this year including the Creative and Promise challenge badges and Fitness, Faith, Imagination and Information Technology! Beavers were also encouraged to work towards individual badges such as Swimming and Hobby and new additions to the range, Collector and Sports. Our Camp also meant that participants gained the newly-launched Camp Craft badge.

Our challenge now is to put together a programme for the coming year that matches the imagination and fun-factors of the last 12 months – watch this space!

Pingu, Dewey, Skipper and Rico