



## SWIFTS & KINGFISHERS JOINT COLONY REPORT – 2014/15

Swifts and Kingfishers Beavers at 1<sup>st</sup> Woosehill can look back on another exciting year of Scouting activities – both traditional and new thanks to the introduction of some contemporary badges. Both Colonies have run at full capacity (20-21 Beavers each) and, to ensure all Beavers are getting the same opportunities and experiences, they have followed the same programme each term.

Activities for Beavers in the Autumn term included pasta making (and taking the results home for tea!), a trip to Pets at Home to find out about the animals there, two sessions learning about the challenges that face those with disabilities, a visit from the Reading Astrological Society to learn about the solar system, a camp fire and a night hike and an action-packed trip to Laserquest.

During the Spring term we made some tyre planters that resulted in a lovely daffodil display, welcomed the Animal Man and his furry, scaly and prickly friends, visited Tesco's to learn how food goes from 'Farm to Fork', got active with a Tae Kwon Do session, experienced cooking on a camp fire, raced each other at the Pinewood Raceway Scalextric track and opened our doors to treat the mums to a cuppa and a cake at the Mothers Day Café.

Summer term got the Beavers out and about orienteering at Dinton Pastures, fruit picking at Grays Farm, learning about bike maintenance and cycling and taking part in the joint Beaver Olympics. Inside the Hut they cooked a three-course meal, learnt circus skills and honed their outdoor skills.

As always, Beavers are rewarded for working with a variety of badges which this year included: Disability Awareness\*, Space\*, Cyclist\*, Gardener\*, Animal Friend, Safety, Explore and Cook Activity badges; Emergency Aid, Air Activity and Navigator\* Staged badges; and Friendship, Global and Outdoors Challenge badges (the latter being our first new shape badge). \* *new badges*

The close links between the two Beaver colonies has resulted in the groups getting together regularly for fun and games, most notably the Jungle Book Sleepover this summer. Twenty one Beavers spent the night under canvas in the Scout Hut grounds having first had a packed day of activities making blow pipes, snakes, animal masks and tails, enjoyed a giant inflatable Jungle Gym, held scorpions, snakes and tarantulas with the Animal Man and had a BBQ and camp fire. At other times in the year the groups combined for an Easter Egg Hunt, Beaver Olympics, Christmas Party and our traditional outing to the Panto at South Hill Park.

All of these activities could only be achieved with the support and ideas of the Swifts and Kingfishers Leadership Team. Our thanks go to Dewey, Lion, Fruit Bat, Fox, Squirrel, Bubbles, Starfish and the Young Leaders – without you Beavers would not happen! Our challenge in the coming 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, have exciting experiences and prepare them for Cubs and beyond.

### **Pingu & Captain**