



SWIFTS & KINGFISHERS JOINT COLONY REPORT – 2015/16

Swifts and Kingfishers Beavers at 1st 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 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 going on a hike at California Country Park, learning how to press apples and drink the juice, had a visit from the police (and locked the Beavers in the back of the van!), played Tag rugby, became Superheroes for the day and enjoyed an exciting time at Sno Tubing.

During the Spring term we became boffins during a Science Evening, boogied around with some Streetdancing, visited the fire station, had a Chinese Night, welcomed a Water Aid visitor and opened our doors to treat the mums to a cuppa and a cake at the famous Mothers Day Café.

Summer term saw the Beavers try Footgolf for the first time, learn about different countries during an International session, practice camp craft, go katakanuing, visit the Baptist Church in Wokingham, and visit and raise money for the animal rescue centre, DBARC.

As always, Beavers are rewarded for working with a variety of badges which this year included: Photography, Digital Citizen, Creative, Faith, Communicator, Global, Experiment, Camp Craft and International Activity badges; Hike, Communicator, Nights Away and Time on the Water Staged badges; and Adventure, My Skills and Personal Challenge badges.

A highlight of the close links between the two Beaver colonies was our joint Sleepover this summer. Thirty Beavers (our largest number ever to sign up for the 24-hour adventure) signed up for our "I'm A Beaver Get Me Out Of Here!" Camp and spent the night under canvas at Paddicks Patch in Woodley. They enjoyed a packed day of activities making catapults, cork hats and woggles, enjoyed an assault course in the woods, went on a hike, learnt how to make a fire with a flint and steel and went through Bushtucker Trials such as eating crickets and mealworms around the camp fire! At others 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, Badger, Lion, Fruit Bat, Fox, Squirrel, Starfish and the Young Leaders – without you Beavers would not happen! Once again, 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, and ensure a smooth succession of Leaders for the future.

Pingu & Captain