

Beaver Colony's Report 2014/15

Ontario Colony has had consistently 16 children throughout the last year.

Activities

The Beavers have worked very hard this year and have earned several activity badges as well as working towards their staged Challenge badges.

This includes such badges as their Fitness, Global and Experiment Challenge badges, and other activity based badges such as Space, Communicator, Experiment, Hobbies and Collectors.

And more than have 5 beavers achieved their Bronze awards this year, and a big well done to them all!

Summer Term

In the summer term, the Beavers worked hard to gain their Outdoor Challenge badge, and this included a visit to Go Outdoors, where they tried with to Go Outdoors staff their hand at putting up tents, and a visit Stanton Park to take part in some nature activities with the Stanton park rangers.

Also for some parts of the Global challenge badge requirements, the Beavers worked hard to make both a musical instruments and learn a new song in preparation for the 2014 AGM.

Towards the end of the summer term, the colony travelled to 1st Stratton for a couple of evenings to take part in archery with another Beaver Colony.

And finally before we finished for the summer break, the Beavers took part in our annual Bowmoor fun day, where on the Friday night the Beavers camped out, and on the Saturday, they had the chance to take have a go at Kayaks and sailing, while enjoying the warm weather and local air display that was happening at Fairford airbase.

Winter Term

In the winter term, the Beavers worked hard to gain their Fitness challenge badge and for this, the Beavers took part in some agility games, learned all about their heart and what a heartbeat is. And for the health food part, despite the rain, a visit to ASDA was completed to allow the Beavers to identify healthy types of food followed by a well-earned ice-cream at the end. And on the following week the Beavers prepared a host of healthy meals including such menu items as "New York Bagels", "Tasmanian Devilled eggs" and a "Roman soldier salad"!

Also during this term the Beavers earned their Space activity badge where they learned all about the planets, and we had a planned visit from Swindon Star gazers, where they got the chance to learn other things about space, and the current mission to place a lander on a comet.

Finally at the end of the year, the Beavers visited the cinema to see Planes 2 as a Christmas treat.

Spring Term

Spring term was a very busy time where the Beavers worked very hard to gain their Experimental Challenge badge and their Friendship challenge badge and complete some of their Global challenge badge activities.

For the Experimental badge the Beavers took part experimenting with magnets, learning how a torch works, making slime (Which was very messy but enjoyed by all) and making a model volcano.

For the Friendship Challenge badge, we for the first time visited Swindon sorting office where we learned all about a postman does and what happens when a letter is posted. And the Beavers had a chance to post home a letter of their own. And for one of the Global challenge badge requirements, they planted a bulb as part of a mother's day present.

For the communication activity badge, for the first week the Beavers had great fun learning all about how to text, make a phone call. And for the second week they learned how to send messages using Morse code and other ways such semaphore flags!

Also for the first time we had a very successful hobbies and collectors night, where several of the Beavers did a show and tell either about their hobby or collection to earn this activity badge.

Lastly the spring term finished off with a messy activity, where the Beavers made chocolate nests for Easter

Leaders and assistants

Throughout the year, the section has been well supported by a great team of adults, and I would personally like to thank to the following for making the Beaver section what it is today.

Gerry Kane, Clair Dash, Bonnie Renard, Derek Smith, Richard Evans, Damian Axford, Jackie Stevens, Terry King and our two young Leaders Nick Wyatt and Tom Lawrence. And again I would like to say a big thank you to them for all their support, help, time and enthusiasm they have given this year.

Parents

Again I would like to say a big thank you from the Beaver leadership team to our regular parents who regularly help out, as without them some of these activities would not go ahead

THANK YOU

Alan Kelly