



Acorn Class

Towers, Tunnels and Turrets

We have been learning about famous towers around the world. We used straws and playdough to create some of these towers, looking closely at a picture of our tower. We think they are all amazing (and so tall!!)

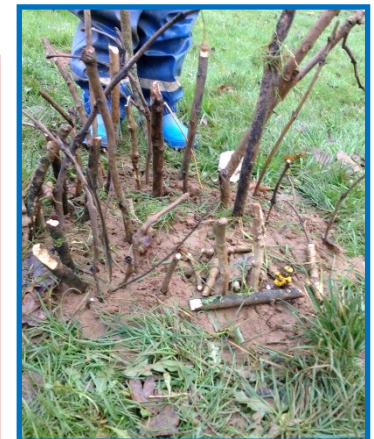
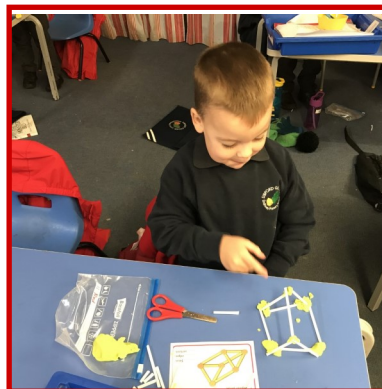


During Forest school we have been making tunnels using the 'play people'.

Can you spot them next to their tunnels?

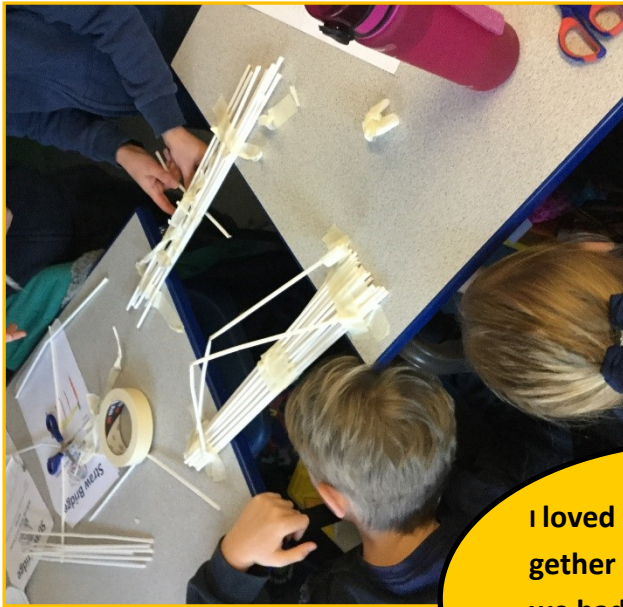


In maths our Little Acorns have been learning about addition, subtraction and 3D shape, all in a very practical way!

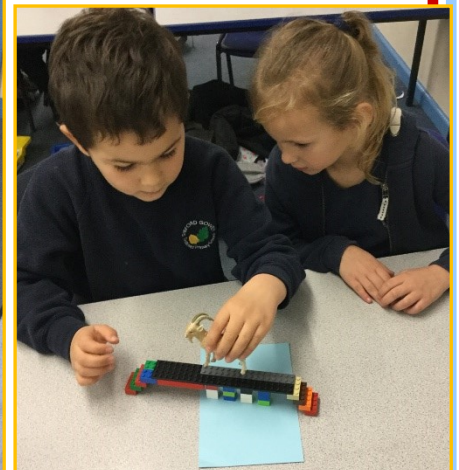


Beech Class

We have had a wonderfully busy time in Beech class learning all about towers, turrets, and tunnels. We have build and tested our own bridges to see how much weight they can hold, made our own tunnels and towers in forest school and worked together to make cardboard castles including all of the different features we have learnt about this term.



I loved that we worked together to make our bridges we had to think carefully and be a good team. Esme

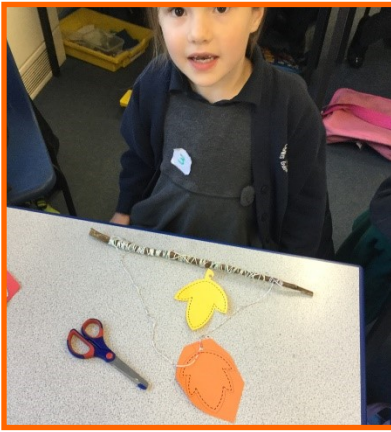


I love being outside during forest school and finding different interesting things.



I love looking for signs of different animals and noticing the different trees. Cecily





Thanksgiving

We are really lucky to have some children in school who have moved here from the USA and whose families offered to support all of their classmates in exploring one of the cultural traditions that is important to all Americans.—Thanksgiving Day



Huge thanks to parents Dr Muni Olia and Mrs Jules Gordon for all the thought, time and care they put into the activities and resources for the children. Beech Class had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day in school and learned a lot.



The children practised their cutting skills by cutting out Autumn leaf shapes to make thanksgiving mobiles.



Thanksgiving Day is an annual national holiday in the United States when families gather together to celebrate the harvest and the other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that the current celebration is modelled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the colonising Pilgrim Fathers' and the indigenous Wampanoag people. The feast they share nowadays would typically include turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes and cranberries (similar to our traditional Christmas lunch) and pumpkin pie.



Each child was given a 'gratitude book' as a gift. In it, the children are invited to write three good things about each day; things that went well, made them smile, or gave them a good feeling.





Mary and the angel Gabriel



Joseph and Mary



The donkey



The Inn Keepers



The Star

The children in Acorn & Beech classes created a Christmas nativity performance video to share with their families and their friends across the school. They look just lovely in their special costumes.



The shepherds and their sheep



And finally ... the wise men





Willow Class



Willow's Christmas Newsletter

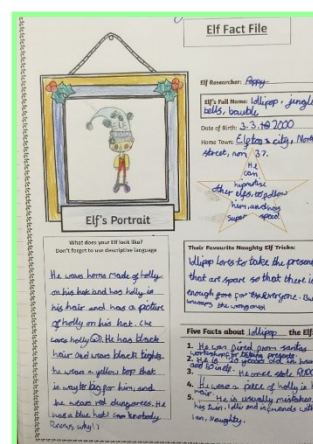
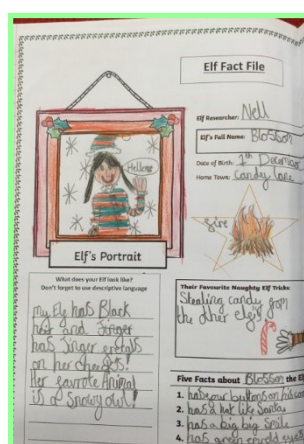
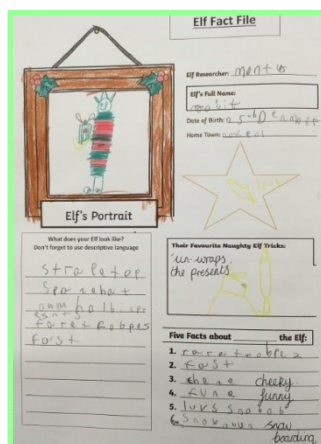
It has been a lovely term; full of learning, hard work, resilience and of course a few giggles along the way.

As I regularly update you on our weekly update I have decided to use this newsletter to show you all of the lovely, festive activities we have been experiencing and participating in.



Elf Fact Files

We have had a lovely morning in literacy creating our own 'Elf Fact File'. We enjoyed creating our Elves and coming up with festive names. We used our descriptive language and created detailed sentences to describe them. Don't they look great?



Christmas French

Although we haven't had French as a focus this term (that is next term for us), Mrs Perkins sent us a great French video and we learnt the words for Christmas Jumpers and refreshed our knowledge of colour vocabulary colours to help us describe our own jumpers.



Willow Class



The Snow Queen

We really enjoyed the Pantomime this year... *Oh yes we did!*

Although it was a different experience, we still really enjoyed it and loved being involved, singing and having a good boogie at the end! We made our props before hand and couldn't wait to show them during the performance.



This term in RE we have been looking at the subject

"Is light a good symbol for celebration?"

We looked and compared the Festivals of Light of three world religions, Diwali (Hinduism & Sikhism), Hanukkah (Judaism) and Advent (Christianity). Even though the beliefs underpinning each festival are very different, the children found there are many similarities in the way they are celebrated. For example, the sharing of a story, celebrations including food and presents, meeting with friends and family and the symbolism of LIGHT.

We have completed our work through discussion after watching videos from children of each religion talk about their celebrations and traditions, comic strips retelling the stories of Rama and Sita, Hanukkah and the Nativity, and looking at the symbolism of the Advent wreath and its candles.

We finished our term off with a wonderful morning filled with creating a fact file, art work and making Christingles. The children were all so engaged and excited with this topic and it has been a pleasure to see them making links between different religions and religious traditions.

I loved learning about Diwali and I really enjoyed learning about a new religion.
Poppy

I loved learning about the Nativity.
Thomas

I really enjoyed creating our very own prayers.
Martha



Willow Class



Photos of our Christingles



Advent Food Bank Collection

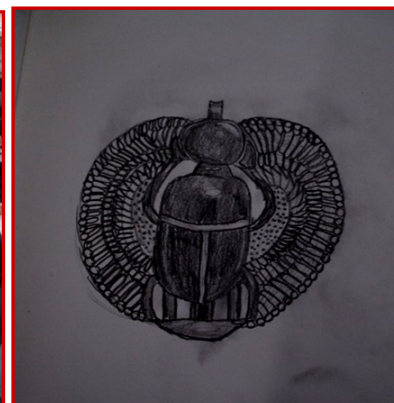
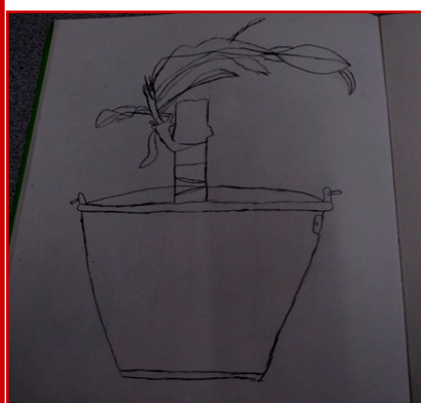
Thank you so much for the generous gifts of food you sent in. This is just a small selection of the items we have delivered to the Salvation Army

Oak Class

There is extra space given to Oak Class in this newsletter—all in the same curriculum area of Art & Design. They have done such great work in their art lessons that we felt it was worth sharing a selection with all of you.



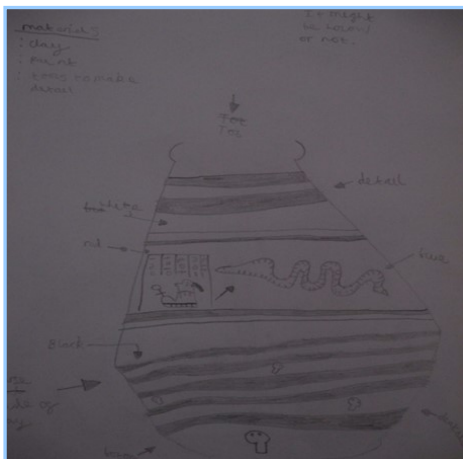
At our school, we believe that sketchbooks are a great way of exploring and developing our creative ideas. A sketchbook is much more than a book with blank paper in to draw on. A sketchbook can be used to develop all the strands of the National Curriculum expectations for Art. In Oak Class our aims for our sketchbooks include providing a record of our children's learning in art and to make our children more independent and confident artists. Throughout this term, all the children have taken ownership of their sketchbook and have thoroughly enjoyed using and adding to it in all aspects of the curriculum. It really has been a joy to see them immersed in so many projects. Have a look at some of the amazing pieces they have produced.



OAK ART DAY

In Oak Class, we had an Art day based on Ancient Egypt. The children had a choice of two activities to do throughout the day, clay work or papyrus paper artwork. The children were able to choose what subject they wanted to focus on and re-create. We started the day doing the research and planning which would enable us to carry out our project.

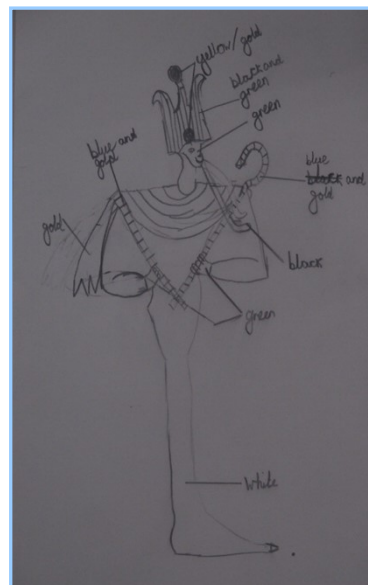




The plans the children produced were very detailed and included instructions and relevant colours that they would need to paint their project once completed. They all picked a variety of different things from Canopic jars to jewellery.

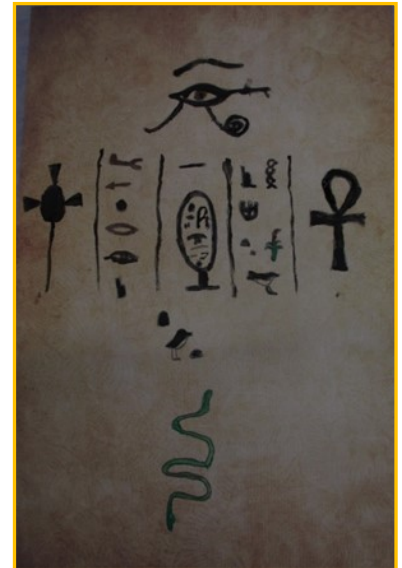
The next stage was either drafting their chosen design onto the papyrus paper or starting to mould their clay.

The children experienced using many different tools to help them build, manipulate and create effects with their chosen design.



The children worked so hard and were so immersed in their creativity, it really was a joy to see. Their finished pieces were inspired and I am so proud of them all.





A message from the Headteacher in hieroglyphics



excellent oak children



Fabulous Freshstart

Laura, our Freshstart chef, has been working really hard in our kitchen all term to provide the children with a healthy, warming meal as the weather turns colder.

These are currently being delivered to the children's classrooms—a bit like getting a lunchtime takeaway!!



Our children say:

Although I really like the sausage plait, I like the roast dinners best. The school potatoes are delicious!

The school dinners are really yummy...they're just REALLY good!

Theo C



I like the sausage plait. It's got pastry which I like. It's like a really big sausage roll! - Sidney

The Freshstart meals are very good every day of the week, and wonderfully warming in the colder weather, but everyone loves the Christmas Dinner. Laura and Emma did a wonderful job of cooking for us all on Christmas Jumper Day and PTA provided the crackers to make it extra special. Thank you all!



Vegetarian or with turkey



If you don't usually book a Freshstart meal for your child but would like to start, you can find all the details you need under the Information and news tab on our school website or by following this link

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/school-meals.html>

Remember, school meals are provided free for children in Acorn and Beech classes.

WOODLAND TRUST

Forest School Leader, Mrs Williams, has developed links with The Woodland trust to support our school love of outdoor learning. As part of The Big Climate Fightback project, which aims to plant 50 million more trees nationwide, the Trust are gifting trees and hedgerow saplings to organisations that sign up to support. We recently received our



delivery of saplings and the children have been up to the Big Field with these to fill in the gaps in our hedgerow— doing our bit to help the environment and making our grounds more secure at the same time!



If you want to find out more about The Woodland Trust and their excellent work, take a look at their website.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



As always, children and staff marked Armistice Day with a 2-minute silence. They took part in classroom activities exploring this too, creating some striking artwork.



P.T.A News

Even though we haven't been able to hold all the usual fundraising events this term, our P.T.A has continued to enrich the lives of our children. They did organised the Cauliflower Cards project which are children always get very excited about. The wrapping paper some parents ordered this year is beautiful!

On Christmas Jumper Day they provided the christmas crackers for the children to pull during the Freshstart Christmas Lunch.

They also paid for the virtual pantomime performance of The Snow Queen by the fabulous Image Musical Theatre which the children were able to watch and take part in from their classrooms.

You can find out information on the PTA link on the school website and you can follow us on:

facebook@sibfordgowerprimaryschoolPTA



If you would like to join the committee or attend the next meeting, please email Ali Smith at

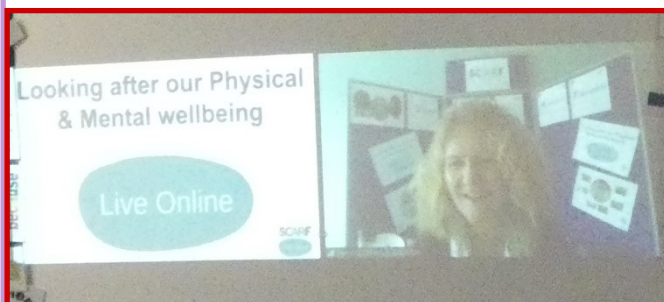
seaecho10@gmail.com.

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Life Education

SCARF



Maria from SCARF ran online workshops focused on themes such as 'wellbeing' with the children in Years 1 to 6. The next day she emailed to say, "Can I just say, that even through zoom, the relationships that your staff and pupils have is so evident and the atmosphere in your school absolutely come through. It was a pleasure to be with you."





A Letter from our Chair of Governors, Mr Paul Manthorpe



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and all of your loved ones are safe and well.

Once again it is difficult to sum up a time for our school that has not had the usual milestones of Bonfire Night, Parents' Evenings, Harvest Festival – let alone the daily rituals of meeting and chatting outside the school gate.

It has been a worrying period for us all – parents, carers, staff and governors but especially for our children who are having to deal with all of the changes and restrictions without necessarily understanding why they are there. To this end it has been vital that their school has continued as normally as possible and we owe a huge debt of thanks to all of the staff for ensuring this and for continuing to keep our children safe.

As governors we have been meeting and discussing with Jane and the staff how they are coping with the changes and how to move forward to improve the learning of our children. Obviously our physical visits into the school, which are part of the highlights of the governor role, are having to be done 'virtually' at the moment. Unfortunately one of the governors, Sarah Coe, has decided to resign from our Academy Committee (the 'new' name for Board of Governors) after serving our School community so well as the Finance Governor. This leaves another gap on our Committee when we already have several available positions for governors.

Please can I ask all of you to consider becoming a governor, this is a great opportunity for you to give back to the school. Alternatively you may know of someone in either our school or local community who might be sufficiently interested to volunteer – we meet six times a year, with three training sessions, and visits into the school. I can reassure anyone considering volunteering that, although it is quite a commitment in terms of time, it is still an incredibly rewarding opportunity to be involved with the growth and improvement of our school.

If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering to help please contact me via the school office or Catherine Musgrove, Clerk to WMAT, at c.musgrove@warriner.oxon.sch.uk – we would both be delighted to tell you more about the role.

Seasons Greetings to you all and best wishes for the new Year from all of the Governors.



Even when the teachers have had to self-isolate, they have continued working with the children at school. You can see Miss Roseblade teaching this small group about telling the time from her conservatory at home...and they are completely absorbed in their learning. The wonders of modern technology!

Merry Christmas everyone!