

SCHOOL NEWS

www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

With the arrival of the Easter holiday, the academic year seems to be speeding by!

As you will be aware, we very sadly say good-bye to our dear Mrs Higley this term. Mrs Higley has taught every child in our school at some point and will be hugely missed both by children and colleagues. We wish her very well as she moves on and thank her for everything she has brought to us during her time here.

Despite the sadness that is inevitable when we have to say good-bye to valued colleagues, it has been a very positive half-term for our children, with all sorts of exciting things going on across the school, as the following pages show. Our school Improvement Partner spent some unannounced time talking with pupils on a recent visit and was very impressed with how very positive they are about all aspects of school life. Our children said: *"The teachers and pupils all get along well"*, *"Everyone gets a chance to represent the school in something"*, *"Our resources are good, including Forest School"*, *"We are lucky to have so much art and the displays are vibrant"*, *"One of the best things about school is the sport and PE lessons."*, *"We collaborate and don't leave anyone out"*, *"We are pushed, but not over pushed"*.

When we come back after Easter, it will be SATs half-term for our Y2 and Y6 pupils. Please support your child by ensuring that they complete any homework or revision which is set for the holiday, but do ensure that they get time to relax and have fun too. Full attendance in the run up to SATs is very important, not least in ensuring that your child feels confident that they have prepared for these national tests as thoroughly as they can.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Kind regards,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher.



Best Class Attendance this half term

OAK CLASS 98% 

Children return to school on Tuesday 23rd April



SINGING SUCCESS



Ava Lea-James recently took part in the Young Musician of the Year competition in Banbury and has been recognised for her singing talent. She was awarded the 'Fred Timms Trophy' for winning the Junior Singing section, and the 'Blue Coat Trophy' for gaining the highest mark in this competition for the Banbury area. We are very proud of her!

Easter Celebration

Many thanks to those of you who came along to share our Easter Celebration at the church in Sibford Gower. This was a wonderful venue to share some of the beautiful Easter themed art that our children have created.

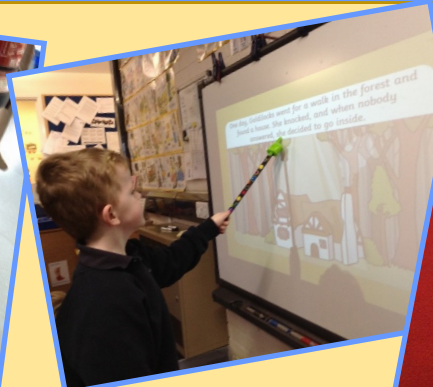


And to announce the lucky and talented winners of the Easter Egg competition. Very well done!

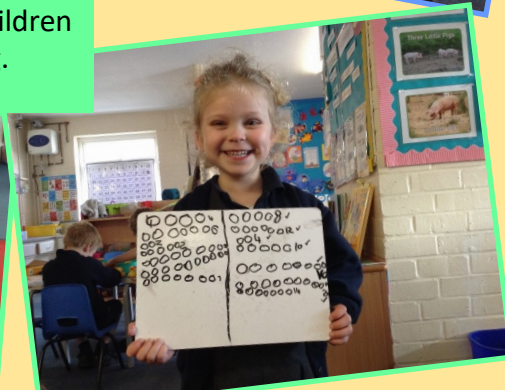


ACORN CLASS

Our topic this half term has been Traditional Tales. The children have been listening to different versions of each story, making puppets and using small world props to develop their story language.



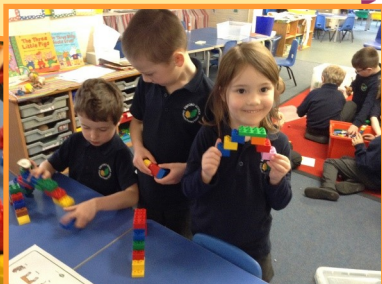
In maths the children have been learning about Doubles and Halves and solving problems using this information. The children have been using 'jottings' to explain what they are thinking.



In gymnastics the children have been working on 'Balances' and making sequences of movements which have also included jumps. the children have learnt to finish their work by stretching their arms in the air!



The children have been engineers and constructed bridges over our river and houses out of a range of materials. Will they be able to protect the Three Billy Goats Gruff from the troll?



BEECH CLASS



In Beech class we have been really inspired by the work of author Mairi Hedderwick this term. We have read plenty of Katie Morag stories, as well as poems and even a recipe! We transformed our classroom into the Isle of Struay and enjoyed taking it in turns to 'man' the village shop and post office.



Inspired by the beautiful illustrations in the Katie Morag books we have been experimenting with the wax relief technique in art. We have created beautiful landscapes which are on display alongside our wonderful poems. Please pop in and have a look.



In PE we have been busy balancing, stretching, jumping and rolling!



It has been fantastic to get back outside as part of our forest school sessions. We have been really *looking* at the area around us and noticing how much things have changed. We have looked up and seen new birds, looked around and seen new flowers and looked down and seen exciting insects. We looked very closely at a pair of birds nests that had been found and then experimented with different natural materials to try and make our own nests.



In maths we have been looking at measurement and have particularly enjoyed weighing. We put all of our weighing practice to good use when we followed a recipe from one of our favourite Katie Morag books to make porridges. We then practised our writing skills by writing out the recipe in our books.

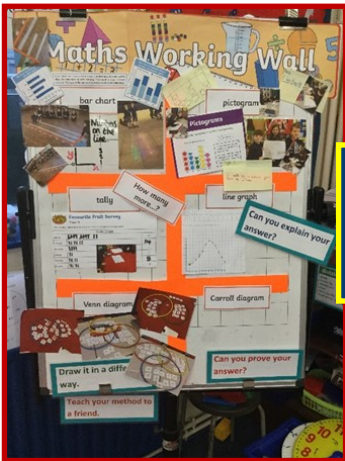
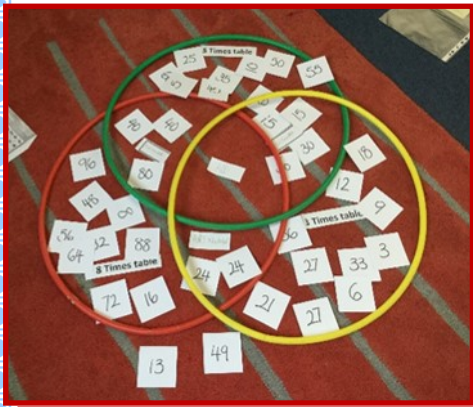


We absolutely loved Shakespeare week. We pretended we were the witches from Macbeth and learnt how to make potions which helped us to practice our capacity measuring skills. We read the scales carefully on the sides of the containers and measured out the correct amount of each ingredient. We read a version of A Midsummer Nights Dream and chose a character that we could like to be. We created crowns and thought about symmetry and pattern. As part of our learning in forest school we made our own wands so that we could cast spells.

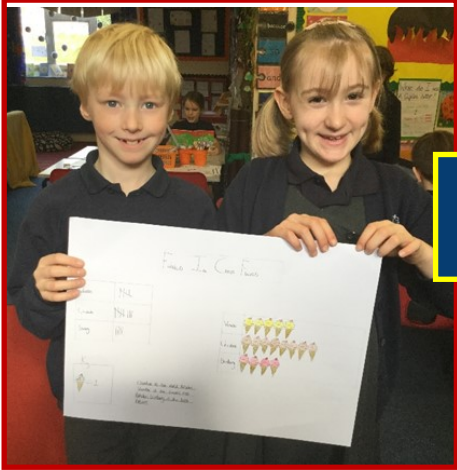


WILLOW CLASS

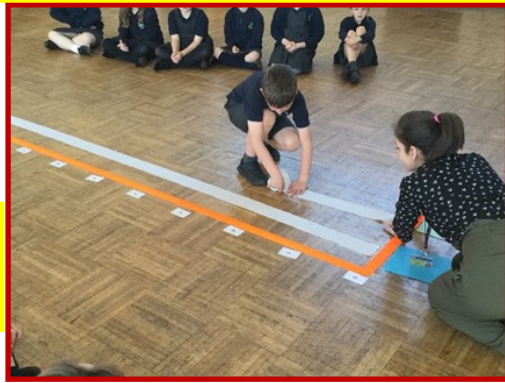
Marvellous Maths: We have been very busy this term. We have been working hard on data, statistics and time. We have stretched our learning muscles and been creative with our resources.



***‘We loved creating our Venn diagram’ It was hard to complete it with three hoops but we persevered and did it!!’
Esme and Leila C***



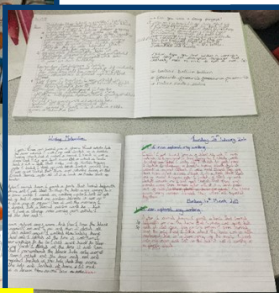
Top Tip: “Your numbers must be on the line!”
Fred Allen



We have had a wonderful time in literacy. We have really enjoyed our class book and created some brilliant writing. We have focused on speech and narratives this term. We loved using the story dice to help make our stories magnificent and wild!



Creating our wonderful sentences with speech!



This term we have connected our topic with PE...We have been exploring Mayan dance! This has been great fun and we learnt many movements, skills and positions.



Easter Art

We really enjoyed creating our 'Easter Art' for the Easter service. We used a range of cold and warm colours to create our beautiful 'eggs with a twist'.

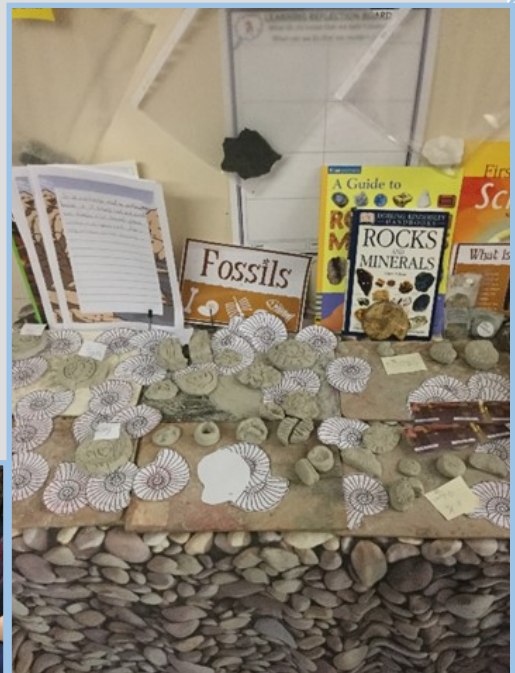


Super Science:

Rocks, Fossils and Soil

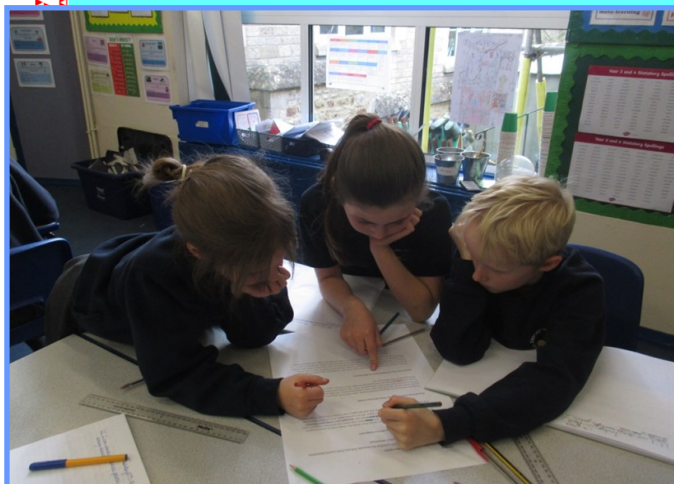
We have really enjoyed this terms science topic. We have explored and learnt lots.

- Different types of rocks (through chocolate!)
- Fossils (we even made our own out of clay)
- Fossilisation
- Mary Anning (We found out all sorts of interesting facts about her)
- Soil
- Different layers of soil



MAPLE & OAK CLASSES

We have had a very busy and productive term in Literacy. We were delighted with all the entries for the 500 word writing competition and were very impressed with the children's enthusiasm and commitment to writing their great stories. We have been doing lots of grammar and punctuation work this term which has fed into our various genre of writing. Our descriptive writing about a Mayan forest was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. The children were shown a picture of a Mayan forest and we played sounds that they might hear in that forest. This helped them to produce some outstanding writing.



Here are some examples of the children's amazing descriptive sentences:

'Thunder echoed the forest and electric blue bolts of lightening struck down on the tall trees, neon orange fire lit up their luscious green canopies'

'Hidden deep in the luxurious leaves of trees, a moss laden enchanting pyramid with bricks as delicate as dust, lay untouched for years'

'Sheets of crystal clear rain drops started to fall like angels for the sky that was grey and bleak'



In Art & Design lessons, Maple Class have designed and created their very own Mayan masks using a combination of papier mache and collage. To start these lessons, we looked at a selection of real Mayan masks, exploring what they were made of and the symbolism of different colours for the Mayan people. Despite the shared starting point and the common theme, the finished pieces are highly individual and look amazing. They are currently on display in the KS2 library.

Well done Maple Class! To see each of their beautiful designs, you can look on the photo gallery page of the school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/photo-gallery.html>

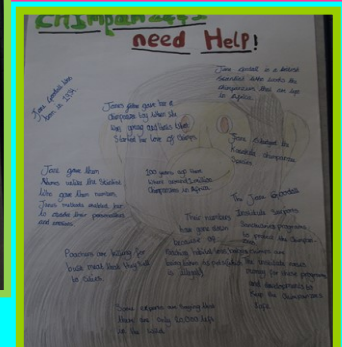
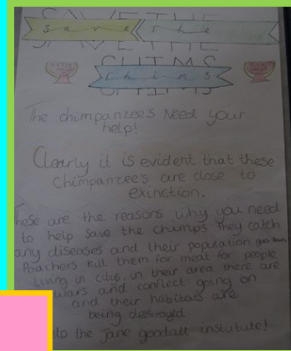
MAPLE & OAK CLASSES



In P.E. this term we have been focussing on Mayan Dance. It has been a great learning experience as we have linked the dance to our topic. The children have been using their imagination and interpretation of different aspects of Mayan life, e.g, architecture, agriculture and Mayan gods, to produce individual and group sequences which they then performed to the other members of the class.

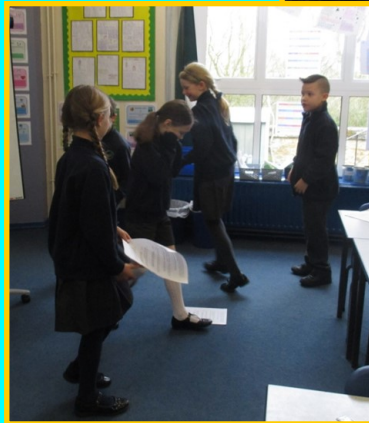


Jane Goodall is a British scientist. As part of our science lessons about living things and their habitats we have been researching her work and the children created an advert to ask people to help the Jane Goodall Institute save endangered chimpanzees. Linking to literacy, they had to think about what they knew about persuasive language and the features of a good advert.



Shakespeare week

Oak and Maple looked at Shakespeare's work with a particular focus on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The children did lots of drama, including hot seating of the different characters which they really enjoyed. They also explored Shakespearian language and how the English language has evolved and changed over time. We also had great fun making up our own Shakespearian insults and adding them to our performances!



Author Visit

On Wednesday 27th March, year 5&6 were lucky enough to be invited to an author visit at Sibford School.

Carnegie nominated author, adventurer and award winning Director/Cameraman Matt Dickinson showed the children dramatic images from Everest, Antarctica, Africa, Central Asia and the Arctic, bringing his intrepid adventures alive. He shared how these experiences have inspired his writing. The children loved it!



KS2- Homework Celebration

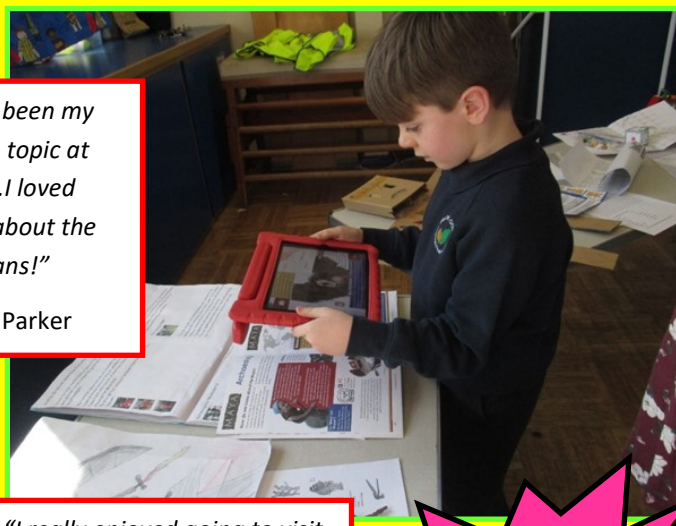


A huge thank you to everyone who came to our 'Homework Celebration'. What a great afternoon filled with wonderful, imaginative and yummy creations.



"This has been my favourite topic at school...I loved learning about the Mayans!"

Charlie Parker



"I really enjoyed going to visit the Roald Dahl museum!"

Olivia Taylor

Thank you for all your support.



On March 8th, we marked International Women's Day across the school. This began with a whole school assembly sharing and celebrating the achievements, courage and dignity of some well-known women. When asked about their own inspirational female role models, it was lovely that many of the children talked about their own mothers as role models and shared some of the inspiring things they have achieved.

International Men's Day is coming up on 19th November, followed by International Children's Day on 20th November.

Sibford Gower Sport

UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	YEARS	VENUE
9 th May	Tennis	Years 3 and 4	Banbury West End Tennis Club
17 th May	Cricket	Years 5 and 6	Sibford School
23 rd May	Quad Kids	KS2	The Warriner School

These events may change and more events may be added- you will be notified of any changes.



We have taken advantage of a very exciting opportunity next term. We will be welcoming 'Chance to Shine' cricket coaches into school once a week to coach and teach cricket.

What an amazing experience for our children!

Sports Leaders



Our fabulous sports leaders have been working very hard. They have created new games for lunch times and have even decided to award a 'sport star of the week' (what a lovely idea!).



A HUGE well done to our 'high five' team! They came fourth in the tournament and played extremely well as a team. They showed great sportsmanship and team work throughout.

World Book Day



World Book Day was great fun and the children all looked amazing in costumes related to both fiction and non-fiction favourites. Following a whole school assembly and story session, younger and older children paired up as 'reading buddies', sharing favourite books and reading with each other. What a lovely way to spend the morning!



To view these pictures again and see many more, please look in the Photo Gallery pages on the school website.

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/whole-school-events--->



Freshstart Golden Ticket Competition Winners



KS1



Overall Winner



KS2

Reading Week was well attended and it was lovely to see so many of you coming into school to share books with the children.



The PTA have had a busy term! We started off with The Table Top Sale in early March which raised £438. This was superbly organised by Issi George & Lynn Lloyd Thomas and ran very smoothly thanks to all our very kind volunteers. The weather was kind to us and we even had keen bargain hunters queuing up at the door to be the first in! Straight after the Table Top Sale was a clothing collection for Rags2Riches which made us £65. Thanks to Lynn Lloyd Thomas for once again arranging this. Finally at the end of March we had the raucous Race Night! Thanks to Emma Coventry, Sue Rowley & Kate Allen for putting on such a fun evening. Special thanks to all of the race sponsors, Baz & Dave for making a delicious curry, Gavin for keeping things on track and finally everyone else for coming along and placing your bets! You raised £1000 for school. Plans are underway for our Summer Event. More details will follow next term. Our next PTA meeting is on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30pm in the Key Stage 1 staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Please let me know if you have any ideas for future PTA events or fundraising, however big or small. (Shelleywisner@yahoo.com)

Thank you to all our volunteers and for your continued support for the PTA.
Have a lovely Easter
Shelley Dawson & Sarah Garstin (PTA Chair)





The Bells Are Ringing...

Our school bell had been silenced since the Old School roof was replaced last summer. Governor Fred Inn's persistence in getting this sorted out has now paid off and, following two Saturday mornings spent at school with the roofers and Fred's expert knowledge, the reason for the issue was identified and rectified and our school bell is working once again.

The ringing of the bell is now going to become a Year 6 privilege and we will be training our bell monitors in how to ring the bell properly so that no unnecessary strain is put on the bell chain. We know they will take this responsibility seriously and the sound of the bell will be heard across the village as the new term starts. **Thank you, Fred!**

...thanks to the persistence of long-standing school governor, Fred Inns.

Cycle Road Safety Training

Huge thanks are due to our Cycle Road Safety trainers. Trained volunteers, Mrs Lloyd-Thomas, Mrs Shaw, Mrs Argyros-Farrell and Mr Boyles were to be seen out and about on the roads around the village running the Cycle Road Safety Course for Year 5 pupils this term.

Thanks to these four generous volunteers, all the children were successful.

There will be further Cycle Road Safety opportunities for Y5 and Y6 pupils during the summer term.



EASTER READING CHALLENGE

The reading challenge is back!



We challenge you to read every day during the Easter holidays. Each time you read you should colour in one of your book worms. Every child who completes all 'reads' will get a special certificate and will be entered into the 'prize draw'. **You must show evidence**- Comments in your homework book, parent comments and the books you have read.

Parents: We don't mind what they read - school or home books, magazines, newspapers, comics or internet articles - just keep them reading! If your child reads with somebody else, then record that too, **any reading counts!**

Have a lovely break- Happy Reading!

AN UPDATE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents and Carers

The Governors have been busy this term with meetings, visits to the school, training at the Warriner and of course, Parents' Evenings.

We have had two meetings of the Local Governing Body (LGB) where we have looked at many aspects of the school – data, finances, curriculum, staffing, etc. We have also met to look at the Vision for the school as this is one area of school life that we needed to be more aware of and involved with. It is also an area of the School's Development Plan as well as being a focus for all the LGBs in the Warriner MAT.

This term, various governors have visited the school to look at their particular areas of responsibility. Alex Greenhalgh has completed his annual Safeguarding Audit in his role as Lead Safeguarding Governor and has praised the school for its strong result, Sue Cook has been in Willow Class to listen to some of the pupils read, Fred Inns has made several visits to oversee the repair of the old school bell, Sarah Coe has been scrutinising the school's monthly finance reports, and Emma Coventry has been liaising with Lauren Grantham on the school Sport achievements and the School Sports Premium funding. Sarah Garstin and Paul Manthorpe have been regular visitors and Frazer Argyros-Farrell has been advising the school on some insurance technicalities.

We have also attended a training session at the Warriner, with the Directors and other LGBs in the Warriner MAT, on Ofsted's New Framework in readiness for its implementation in September 2019.

The Parents' Evenings were a great opportunity to meet you all and for you to be able to put faces to the names of the Governors. The feedback from you was positive and so it is something that we would like to repeat – although we are aware that the most positive comments were about the delicious cake donated by parent and Breakfast Club lead, Claire Evans!

We would also like to thank you for taking the time to fill out The Parents and Carers survey – this is a vital way for us to collect additional information and to hear the voices of you all. We and the staff, will take some time to look at your responses and respond to these, including the constructive comments that some of you have made.

We hope that you have an enjoyable, relaxing and chocolate-filled Easter.

Thank you all for your support.

Paul Manthorpe



After School Care

We have had a busy half-term at A.S.C taking part in lots of activities, indoors and outside.



We celebrated...

St. David's Day with a daffodil colouring competition

	KS1	KS2
1 st	Henry Boyles	Harry Allen
2 nd	Amber Steenkamp	Rosie Parish

St Patrick's Day with a clover leaf finger painting competition

Winners	Alex Rubino	Jacob Herd
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Easter with an egg decorating competition

Winners	Thomas Fovargue	Lucy Spann
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On Shrove Tuesday, we enjoyed pancakes topped with lemon of Golden Syrup.

On Mothering Sunday, we made decorated hanging hearts for our special people. We also planted sweetpeas and decorated Easter Eggs and Easter baskets.



It has been lovely to welcome the warmer, drier weather an get out into the sunshine and fresh air. Whether we are playing or talking with our friends



.... Or just hanging about !



Carol and Paula work really hard to make sure that ASC is good fun, coming up with all sorts of ideas for play and craft activities, and just spending time with us.

Anyone can come along to After School Care as long as they are registered with us. Please look on the Wraparound Care page of the school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/after-school-care.html> for terms and conditions.

Have a lovely holiday !