



Dear Parents,

The new academic year has begun with an incredibly busy term. Our children have already been involved in all sorts of exciting and interesting activities to support and enrich their learning. It is only possible to mention a few of these in the newsletter but our website is regularly updated with photos and information, so keep looking! Although we have had an incredibly positive start to the term, I do also have to announce the sad news that two members of our teaching staff will be moving on at the end of December.

Having started her teaching career here as an NQT, Miss Farrant has been offered a position at a larger school which promises different opportunities and challenges. This move is a career opportunity which also fits with her personal plans. She will be leaving us at Christmas to take up her new role at Kingsthorpe Grove Primary School in Northampton. During her time here, she has developed strong bonds with pupils, parents and staff, and will be greatly missed. I am sure she will continue to inspire pupils in her new role and we extend our best wishes to her at this exciting time.

Mrs Ocana Gil will also be leaving us at Christmas because her temporary contract to see us through the first two terms comes to an end. She has put a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm into her work here and has been a committed member of the Sibford Gower team. We all wish her well in the next stage of her teaching career.

As soon as we have appointed new teachers for Beech and Maple classes, I will let you know.

In the meanwhile, I send you all best wishes for a great holiday whatever your plans. Children and staff are definitely ready for a hard-earned rest. See you all in term 2.

Kind regards,
Jane O'Sullivan
Headteacher



A big thank you to those of you who were able to join us for our Harvest Festival Celebration. It was wonderful to see the church so full. The children performed beautifully and every one of them was able to make a contribution to this very special occasion. I was able to pass on some lovely messages from parents and grandparents to our staff about how much you enjoyed it.

A huge thank you also, for the generous donations of food and money to the Banbury Food Bank. It is important that the children had the opportunity to give in such a practical way to a very worthwhile local cause.



Best Class attendance this term - Beech **98.3%**

Every class achieved at least 97 % so well done to all of you.



Willow Class

This term we have been learning about the Stone Age. We made our very own Stonehenge from juice cartons, newspaper and an enormous amount of glue. We had a great time dressing up as Stone Age people on topic day. We made Stone Age menus, games from sticks and stones, word searches, board games and more. In the afternoon we gathered sticks, leaves, seeds and berries to make a stone age mobile.



"It was epic when we dressed up as stone age people and it was so much fun!" Tom Rowley

"On topic day I dressed up as a cave girl. Miss Allen took a photo of me. I pretended to kill Tom, but I had to steal his spear!" Bethany

We have also been learning about nutrition, skeletons and muscles in science, inverse operations, column addition and subtraction in maths and we have made our carpet area into a cave with hanging vines and cave paintings! And to top it all off we have turned into poets.

The Lone Dog

I'm a quiet dog, a kind dog, a small dog, a yellow and white dog.

I'm a going on a walk dog, a jumping up on people dog, a not like injections dog, a running off dog.

I'm a brave dog, a not like mice dog, a not like cats dog, I am a soft dog.

George

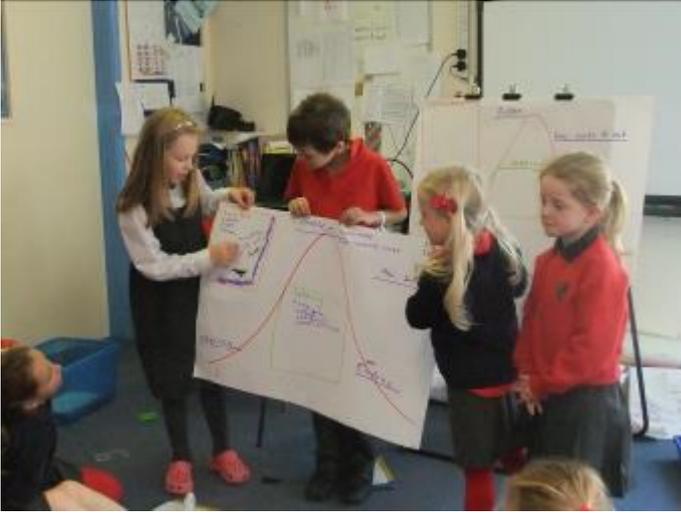
The Adjective Locust

I'm a spiky legged locust, a stripy eyed locust,

A brown and green locust, an antennae headed locust.

Andre

BEECH CLASS



The children in Beech Class have certainly been amazing this first term of the year. With our topic on 'Special People' the children have looked at how fantastic their Mums and Dads are, together with studying those special people in our community who help us, inspired by visits from two of our parents; Mr Bishop, a fire-fighter and Mrs Herd, a doctor. They have been busy translating all their thoughts into descriptive and information writing. Of course, Super-heroes had to enter into such a topic and the children have learned how to structure their adventure stories by working together to make story mountains.

Our topic extended into science and DT with the children finding out all sorts of amazing things about our bodies and how humans grow. In art and ICT we looked at various styles of portraiture including Archimboldi's vegetable portraiture. In history the children have begun to compare the present and the recent past by looking at birthday parties, as well as the significance of important figures such as William Caxton and the introduction of printing to England. They have celebrated harvest time in music and Diwali by making lamps. They are continuing to develop their skills in coordination, balance and agility in PE and have taken part in our school partnership Multi-Skills event and a Cross-County competition. The children have all shown us how very special they indeed are!



With the school Christmas service scheduled for Wednesday 10th December, it gives us an opportunity for the Mums and Teachers choir (Sibford Songbirds) to perform again.

If you are interested, please meet on Wednesday 5th November 7.45pm in Willow classroom (KS2) - and lets enjoy meeting - and singing!!



Maple Class

We have had a busy half term in Maple Class! Our topic has been the Vikings and we have been busy learning about who they are and where they came from. In Literacy we have been writing time travel stories that take us back into the Viking times. We have been studying the book 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and comparing Michael's adventures to those of our time travelling characters. We have also been making Viking helmets and designing Viking armour ready for our Viking day next term! In maths we have been improving our calculation skills and we can now answer complicated addition, subtraction and multiplication problems – division to come soon! In PE we have been working on our football skills, and have enjoyed learning the songs for the Young Voices concert through dance!



THANK YOU PTA

The PTA have generously provided school with 2 digital cameras, one for each Key Stage, 2 ipad minis for EYF\$ assessment and a promise to pay for some new imusical nstruments. Lots of other exciting things are under discussion and we will keep you informed as they happen.

Academy Update

Many schools in Oxfordshire and across the country are converting to Academy status and, as many of you will know, the governors of our school are continuing to explore this option in partnership with other schools locally. Academies are state schools which receive their funding directly from the government and are no longer maintained by the local authority.

We are working with The Warriner School, Hornton Primary School, Wroxton Church of England Primary School and Bishop Carpenter Church of England Primary School to develop proposals for a multi-academy trust. This is a model of academy status in which the schools would create a company to be responsible for all five schools, so that we could work more closely together and support each other. Each school would still remain an individual school with its own governors focused on the needs of its pupils and the community it serves.

At this stage we are developing detailed proposals, including how the governance will operate and what support systems we will need to have in place. Headteachers are working together on developing our plans for the ways in which we can work together to support improved outcomes for children and ensure that our schools continue to move forwards. When our proposals have been more fully developed we will consult staff, parents and other members of the local communities in more detail about what this will entail.

Super Acorn Superheroes

For the grand finale of their Special People topic, all the children in Acorn Class came in on the last day of term dressed as superheroes. They shared their special super powers with the whole school.

Very well done!



Bonfire Night & Fireworks
Saturday 9th November
Gates open at 5 pm

Star gazing event is on 26th November from 4pm.

Children and families welcome.

Adults will be responsible for their children unless they are normally in ASC.

PTA are kindly providing refreshments.

Fingers crossed for fine weather and clear skies.



Oak Class



Literacy - we have been studying War Horse by Michael Morpurgo and using the story line to write our own story with a historical WW1 setting with a dog as the main protagonist. We have almost finished our stories and will be illustrating them in the first week back.

Numeracy - Our focus in numeracy has been the 4 key operations (multiplication, division, addition and subtraction). We have put our knowledge and skills to the test running a fair ground activity. We found it quite challenging knowing which operation to use.

Science - We have come to the end of our first topic Earth and Space. We are currently listening to everyone's learning logs and even got to try some space ice cream!

Topic - Our Anglo-Saxon topic culminated with Anglo-Saxon day where we dressed up as Anglo-Saxon warriors and put our helmets, shields and weapons to the test in 'warrior school' on the big field.



Sports News!

What a busy term for Sports!

Children from years 1 and 2 had the opportunity to attend a Multiskills festival at the Warriner School where they were able to develop their skills in throwing, catching and jumping. A fun time enjoyed by all!

We then had Eve, Amadea, Cicely, Thomas G, Tom R, Alex, Fred, Isaac, Owen, Gemma, Max, Satu and Elliott from Years 3-6 attend the annual triathlon at Sibford School, which involved swimming, cycling and running either as a team (years 3-4) or individually (year 5/6) We had a brilliant morning with fantastic performances from all! Special mention to Max Lloyd-Thomas who won the year 5 boys event!



Next came the year 3/4 football tournament again at Sibford School. We were able to take 27 children in 3 teams. We had a very fun afternoon with lots of cheering and our A team came first in their league, and



Last week children from the year 5/6 Tag Rugby Club competed in the Warriner Family Tag Rugby Tournament held on the Warriner sports pitches. We had been training hard for this after school and our hard work paid off! Out of 16 teams our teams came 1st and 3rd! A wonderful achievement for all!



This week 36 children from years 1-4 competed in the Cross Country event again at the Warriner. We had a brilliant time with year 1/2 children running 800m and year 3/4 children running 1600m – a whole mile! Special mention to Tolly Patrick who came 1st in the year 1/2 boys race, Thea Ransom who came 7th in the year 3/4 girls race, and Tom Rowley, Tom Wood and Ben Lloyd-Thomas who finished 2nd, 9th and 10th in the year 3/4 boys race! All 5 of these children have made it through to the North Oxfordshire Finals which are to be held in November!

Coming Up Next Term... more Cross country & Year 3/4 Dodgeball!