

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School

SCHOOL NEWS

December 2019

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

Christmas has arrived and holiday time is here. Although the Autumn term has been a particularly long one this year, it seems to have gone by very quickly—probably because we have all been having so much fun in school! Many of you will be aware from talking with your children, that we are introducing new topic themes across the school with some subtle changes in our approach to organising the curriculum. Once our review of the curriculum is complete, we will share more details with you through the school website. The following pages will give a glimpse of how much fun the children have been having with their classroom learning, as well as all the other curriculum enrichment activities that have been going on.

On behalf of myself and all the staff here,
I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Kind regards

Jane O'Sullivan



Best Class Attendance this term :

**Beech
&
Willow**

98%



An impressive 43 children have achieved 100% attendance for the academic year so far.

This is a very pleasing figure, particularly given the number of 'bugs' there have been about.

VERY WELL DONE!

Children return to school
on Tuesday 7th January



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Huge thanks to all those of you who braved the wind and rain to come along to the Carol Service at the church. Thanks to your generosity, £110 is making its way to Banbury where it will be used by Polly to provide warm food this Christmas time to some local homeless people. Small gestures can make a big difference, not least to the way people feel. Thank you.



ACORN CLASS NEWS

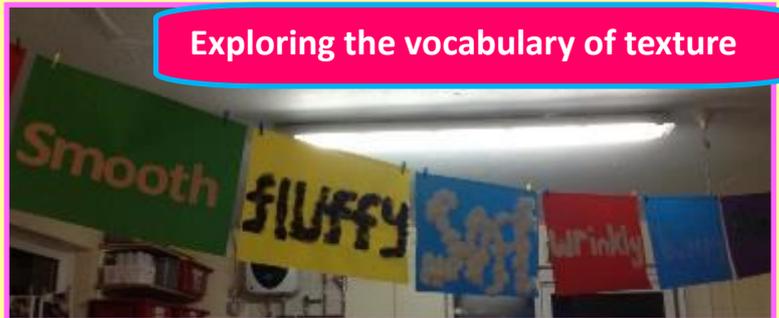
Our topic this term has been 'Muck, Mess and Mixtures'. The children have enjoyed listening to, acting out and making potions linked to our class book of 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.



The children have been investigating capacity and using balance scales to measure 'heavier & lighter' objects.

They have also been reading how many grams objects weigh using digital scales and digital scales.

Exploring the vocabulary of texture



What makes the best bubbles?

Washing up liquid	x	/	4/1
bubble bath			6
soup	x		5
shampoo			2
handwash			1
showergel			1

We made it and what changes we...



The children have brought in some home learning activities which they have enjoyed sharing with the class during show and tell.



BEECH CLASS NEWS

Beech class have had a brilliant half term with our topic 'Muck, Mess and Mixture'. We have been experimenting and creating with all sorts of different substances including food, soap, jelly and cornflour.



In science we experimented with different substances to see which would make the biggest bubbles!



We had a fantastic (if very chilly!) time at the Cross country, cheering on our friends and trying our best with running as quickly as we could.



We have been learning about weight and capacity. We practiced weighing different types of fruit using our balance scales. We measured out different quantities of liquids to create potions.



We have been using practical equipment, number lines and written methods to practice addition and subtraction.



We have been finding out about different food groups and what makes a healthy meal. We followed a recipe to make plush nuggets, then we wrote the recipe. The following week we created our own recipes!



After School Care Christmas Party



Pin the nose on the snowman

Lovely party food—pizza, scotch eggs, sausages, frazzles and much



We are very lucky to have Carol and Elizabeth, who work together so well to make After School Care safe, welcoming, creative and great fun for our children. They both love a party too, and what better excuse for a celebration than Christmas! The hall looked beautiful with fairy lights and Christmas trees and the children had a wonderful time.

Decorating Christmas biscuits



This is really good fun!



Penguin racing!

Musical chairs & dancing

ACORN & BEECH NATIVITY PERFORMANCE

The Acorn and Beech nativity performance was absolutely delightful. The children overcame their rehearsal nerves and spoke loudly and clearly to tell their very special version of the Christmas story to an audience of parents, grandparents, family and friends which filled our school hall. The children sang and danced beautifully and enthusiastically, with a very lovely solo performance from Ivy in the role of Mary. Very well done, everyone!



WILLOW CLASS NEWS

We have really enjoyed our topic this term. We have learnt many few facts, produced fantastic volcanoes and created brilliant eruption stories!



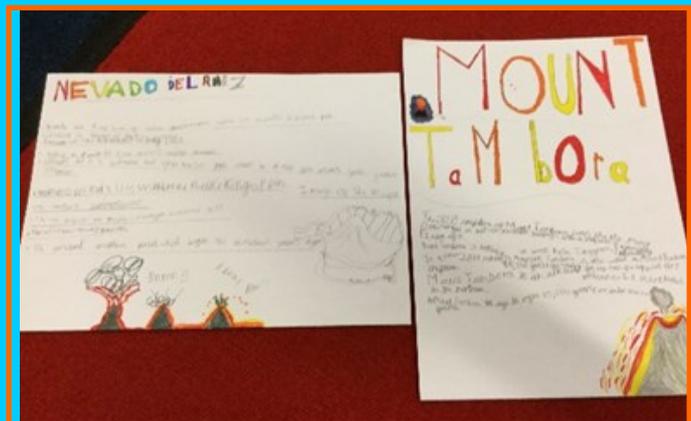
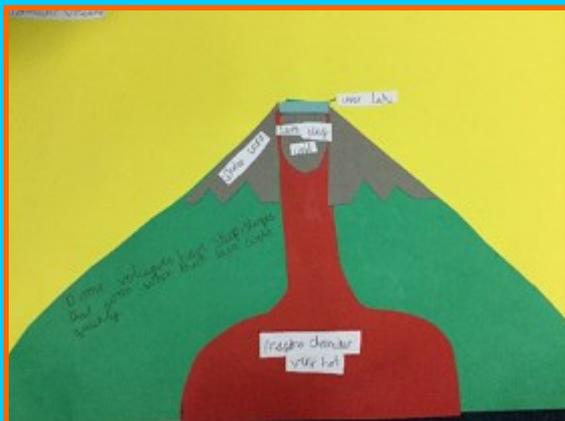
Volcano Day



We have been learning about Mount Vesuvius (Pompeii) this term. We have really enjoyed learning about this volcano eruption and the science behind it.

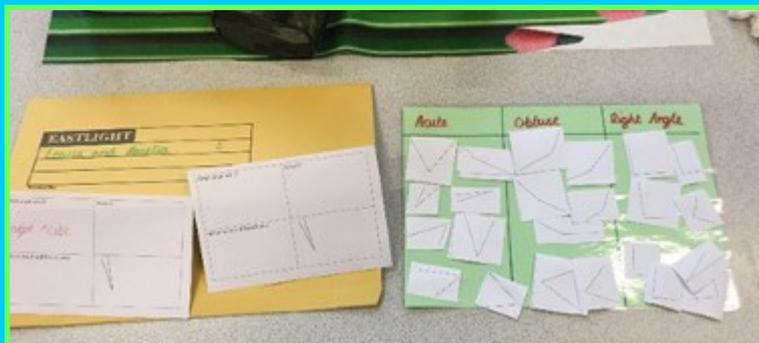
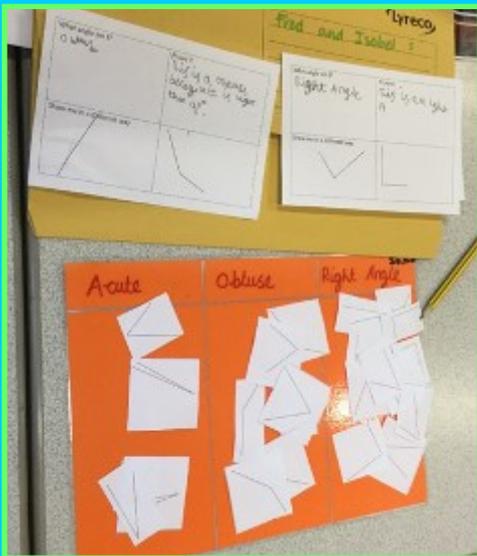
We created our very own stories based on this topic (Which was great fun!). To help us with our stories we used a lot of role-play and digital media to support and inspire us for our stories. Below is an example of an opening paragraph that we created!

I heard a faint rumble... I did not know what it was. Half an hour later, the ground started shaking violently. Suddenly, I shivered but I did not know why. Smash! My cup of tea crashed onto the floor. I looked out of my window with fright and saw a cloud of steam leaving the mountain through a crack that was not there yesterday. When I went outside, I could smell toxic gas. Next, I glimpsed lava oozing slowly over the crater. White smoke emerged surrounding the volcano's mouth. Weirdly the volcano appeared to be growing taller! The large pond outside in the garden showed signs of bubbling and felt warm. I noticed also that the ground beneath my feet felt hot!



Maths- We have been super busy in maths this term. We have been learning about 'Grid Method', 'Bus Stop Method' and 'Shape'!

One of our favourite lessons was learning about angles! We enjoyed acting them about and playing guess who! (Please ask your children about the Angle Family !)



"I loved learning about the Angles Family and putting the angles in the correct column!"

Fred Allen



Orienteering- PE!

We have LOVED PE this term! We have been using our map skills and teamwork skills to follow the map to fitness!

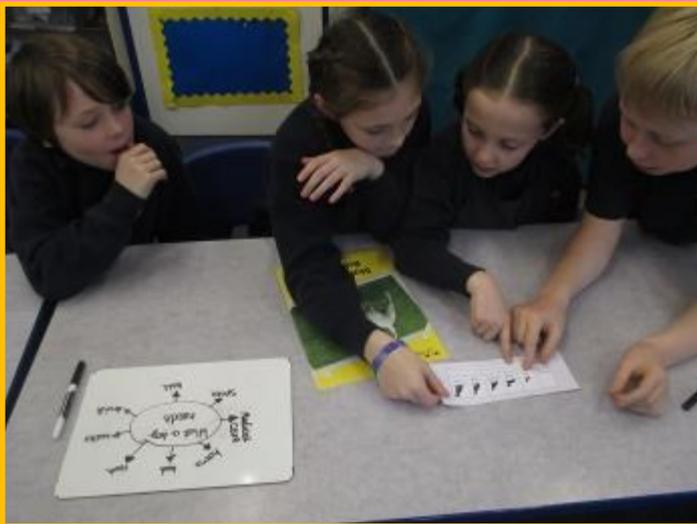
Cross Country Excel-

Their brilliant performances in the NOSSP KS2 cross country running event hosted by Sibford School this term meant that three of our pupils, Aimee White, Flora Ransom and Ollie Lloyd Thomas, qualified for the NOSSP finals. Ollie went on to secure a place at the County Finals, coming a very impressive

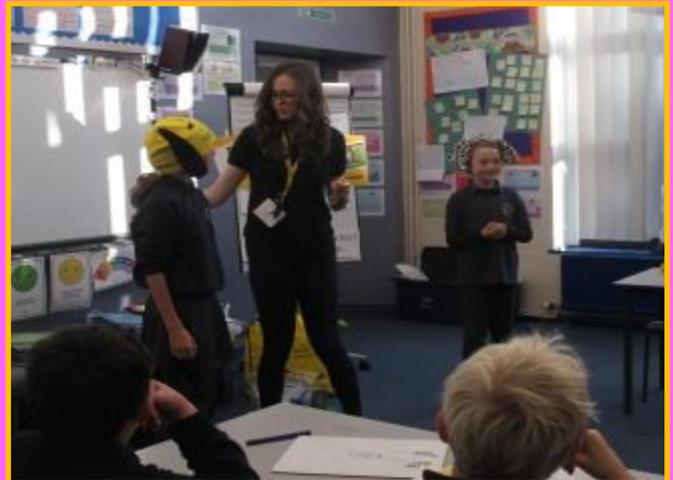
Super Singing



Arabella Argyros-Farrell gave a brilliant performance in her Grade 2 singing examination. Her hard work and talent was rewarded with a well-deserved Distinction. Very well done, Arabella!



We were lucky enough to welcome a very special visitor from the Dogs Trust into school. She led a special assembly on dog safety and then ran a class workshop on the theme of responsible dog ownership. We talked about suitable food, exercise and keeping our dogs healthy.



We put our entrepreneurial hats on to produce a product to sell at this year's Christmas fair. We had to research our market, work out our profit and loss margins, cost the ingredients and then used our mathematical skills to weigh and measure them. Once we had produced our cookies in a year we took time to evaluate the whole project before they were ready for the market.



Governors Corner

Our school governors have been working as hard as ever to support our school over the last half-term. Chair of Governors, Paul Manthorpe, has been in for a morning visiting KS2 classrooms with a focus on reading and writing. Paul wrote,

“In all year groups the pupils were focussed and able to explain what they were expected to do, how they were going to do it, and also how it tied in with previous work. They were also able to say what this work was leading to. Each classroom was vibrant with the pupils’ involvement in their work. In all, an impressive and very enjoyable visit – thank you.”

Governor Sue Cook also visited the school, spending an afternoon with our older pupils and sharing some really beautiful photographs of her recent trip to the Galapagos islands and talking about her visits to both polar regions. This greatly enriched the themed learning that the children have been doing this term. Sue wrote,

“I was surprised and impressed with how well the children seemed to have prepared for the subject under discussion. Many of them already had a good knowledge of explorers such as Ernest Shackleton and Captain Cook and the differences between the two Poles. There was enthusiastic interest shown in everything I told them and intelligent questions a-plenty.

I had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with an intelligent, lively and appreciative young audience.”



Dear Parents and Carers

This term has seen some changes to the people on the Governing Body but we have all been busy supporting the school. Alex has been in to conduct the annual Safeguarding Audit, Sarah regularly looks at the school’s financial reports, while Sue has been in to talk to Years 5 & 6 about her trips to both the Arctic and the South Pole as part of their Frozen Kingdom project. She has also attended an Early Years Foundation Stage training day for Governors as our EYFS Governor. I have visited the school to look at the WMAT’s Reading and Writing strategy and the Pupil Premium strategy in action. Both of these strategies were introduced to all of the governors in the WMAT schools at our Governor Training this term, which was both interesting and informative. We also looked at Data Protection and what we needed to know about GDPR in our roles helping the school. We have also attended the many school events that make up the varied and exciting life of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School.

Please accept our best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Kind regards

PTA News

We have had a very busy term with all our fundraising! After half term we kicked off with the annual **Bonfire & Firework Night**. There was such a team spirit and the evening was full of smiles and laughter as well as all the whizz, pop, bang of the fireworks! We made a very respectable £771 in profit despite it being the wettest bonfire night in years. A really huge thank you to everyone who was involved in the planning and to everyone who volunteered their time before, during and after the event. It really was a memorable evening! BFN Committee you are stars!

This term the children have been making lots of festive things including designing their own **Christmas cards**. The PTA really love this particular fundraiser - the children's designs make such special cards. Hopefully lots of you put in orders and have been busy sending them out. I have been enjoying my tea in my new Christmas mug! A very big thank you to all teaching staff for making time to complete the designs in class.

All the children also drew a self portrait and these have all been printed onto a **tea towel** - the result is wonderful and a lovely souvenir to keep and use. We haven't done this fundraiser in a long while so it will be interesting to see how these are received by you all.

Our **Rags2Riches** collection in November raised £102 in funds. Please make a note of the following collection dates 11th March & 26th June and look out for collection bags next year.

School Disco

Thursday 23 January

Tony's amazing disco is returning! Sweet stall & lucky dip, tattoos, games, snacks & lots of fun! More details to follow in the New Year. If you would like to be involved with this event please contact alextait164@hotmail.com

Next PTA meeting

Tuesday 14th January 3.10pm in Willow Class (children are welcome) - we will be discussing fundraising ideas for the rest of the academic year so please come.

We need you!

Our wonderful Treasurer Vanessa Mulley is stepping down at the end of July and so we need to find a replacement. We would like someone to come forward as soon as possible as this gives them a chance to shadow Vanessa and really get an idea of what the role involves. No experience is necessary - good team spirit essential and an idea of numbers a bonus! Please email veemulley@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested in finding out more.

Easy Fundraising - Do you shop online?

A quick note on how you can raise free donations for the school if you shop online. Easy Fundraising is a bit like a cash back website. If you shop online and go via the easy fundraising website to your chosen online shop, complete your purchase and then Easy Fundraising will donate a percentage of your purchase to our school. Please take a look at the website easyfundraising.org.uk to register and get shopping!

**Thank you for your continued support with
all our fundraising.**

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas

Shelley Dawson (Chair) & The PTA Committee

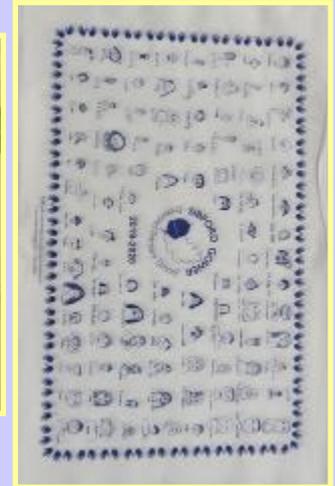


CHRISTMAS ENTERPRISE FAIR



The Christmas Enterprise Fair was a huge success. This event was very well attended—we couldn't have fitted any more people in the school hall!

The children planned, costed, made and sold items. All the items for sale were of impressively high quality and each class making a clear profit of about £100 to spend on something for their class. **AMAZING!**



The PTA run stalls, including the chocolate and gift tombolas, the Christmas Raffle, tea towel stall and the refreshments made an impressive £509.50— Thank you so much PTA for organising the event.



The CLIC SARGENT stall raised a wonderful £46.30 to add to our running fund-raising total for this brilliant organisation. More news to follow soon!



The Fabulous FRESHSTART Christmas Lunch

Huge thanks to Carrie and Emma Cran for the Freshstart Christmas lunch which was exceptionally good this year. PTA provided the crackers containing some exceptionally bad jokes, and school staff served the children before sitting down to eat together.



Freshstart work really hard to provide excellent meals everyday which are made from high quality, fresh produce. They really do offer excellent value for money and, as those of you who spoke to the Freshstart area manager during this terms Parents' Evenings, they are very interested in any feedback from children and parents which will help them make their offer even better in terms of providing healthy balanced meals which the children look forward to eating.



Events in the Wider Community

We always encourage our children to take part in positive opportunities that come their way, whether in school or not. Lots of our children like to join in community events with a large number of pupils (and ex-pupils) regularly taking part in the brilliant Epwell Drama productions—this terms' Bussy Malone was a huge success.!



Every year, we also take a choir of children down to the Village Hall to sing to the members and guests of the Fielding Day Centre, which is a lunch Club for the elderly, at their Christmas lunch. Both children and staff love to do this and it has become a much-welcomed Christmas tradition for us.

The Christmas carol concert meant it was time for us to say a very fond farewell to Reverend Ronald Hawkes. Ronald has been a regular visitor in school for years, leading assemblies for the children and welcoming us into church for different services. It is sad for us to have to say goodbye, even though we wish him well. We collected some words from the children and then presented them to him in a frame as a parting gift.

Reverend Ronald, we will always remember you and we will miss you. Thank you for coming into our school in your time. We learn loads of stuff from you. I'm going to really, really miss you because you did really, really good assemblies. Thank you for being our vicar. I will miss you so much at Youth Club. Thank you for all of the messy churches and the assemblies you have done. I am happy because you make me laugh. I will miss you because you make me happy when I am sad. Thank you for being an amazing vicar and being very kind. I will miss you because you are a really good person for history.

Thank you for making me laugh. I will miss you because you have taught us lots in assembly. Thank you for being our vicar; we will miss you. I like it when you do all the festivals at the church because you make them fun. I will miss you because I like your funny songs. I will miss you so much and I wish you could stay. I like you because you always speak about God. I will miss you because I loved Youth Club. I am going to miss you because you are the best reverend of them all. I will miss you because you made me believe in God. Thank you for Youth Club. I will miss you because I like it when you do assemblies.

I am going to miss you because you made me laugh in assembly. I am going to miss learning from you. I liked it when we did Harvest Assembly. I really liked it when you came to our school because I found you interesting. I really enjoy it when you do your assemblies and I think you are really funny. I always like it when you come into our school and tell us jokes and do prayers and teach us songs, and I love it when we do youth club. I love it when you do the assemblies at school: it's so much fun – I hope you settle in nicely at your new home.

I like your sense of humour. I loved doing messy church and I loved being able to get as mucky as I wanted. I love the way you greet everyone and your personality. I like how you are so nice and kind towards everyone and I am so sad that you are leaving. All of your assemblies were absolutely amazing – I loved them all. I like your interesting assemblies about God. I loved messy church and all the great stuff you do. I like how you congratulate everything, not just what you thought was the best thing in your services. I loved you coming to our school with loads of jokes to tell and very good speeches. I love your stories, especially the one about the dog and you where you have to get in the stream to rescue him. You have a great sense of humour and are very kind- thank you! I will miss you very much – I have known you for a long time and it's sad to see you go. I have heard you will be moving to Yorkshire near here my grandparents live – best wishes and love. Let God always be with you.

With love from the children of Sibford Gower Primary School

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!