

December 2016

# School News

Dear Parents,

What a fantastic term it has been here at school. All sorts of exciting things have been happening since our last newsletter, including the Year 5 & 6 residential trip to Condover Hall in Shropshire, a whole school colour topic for those of us who remained at school, the Acorn & Beech trip to Blenheim Palace, the KS2 international street food market, the KS1 Nordic Christmas Fair and so much more.

As always, the children have had plenty of opportunities to raise money for worthwhile causes, doing our bit to contribute to the welfare of all and, thanks to our amazing PTA, there have been great opportunities for children, parents and staff to come together, including Bonfire Night, the Christmas Bazaar and the Christmas Disco.

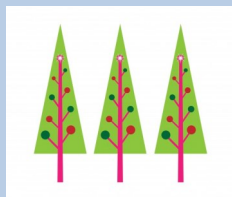
Next term looks set to be just as exciting as we move into 2017.

We say goodbye to Mrs Cook, who has had an association with the school for 20 years. We held a lovely assembly to say goodbye to her. The children did this by singing and performing dance moves that she had choreographed and by presenting her with lots of cards, pictures and flowers. We wish her well.

On behalf of all the staff here, I would like to wish all of you a peaceful and very merry Christmas.

With kind regards,

Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)



Best Class attendance this term:

Willow 98.4%



## Carol Service in Tadmarton



We had a lovely time in the beautiful St. Nicholas Church in Tadmarton when KS2 pupils gathered with staff, family and friends for an evening Carol Service. This featured carols and readings by pupils with a very active version of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and a truly memorable rendition of 'I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas'. Many thanks to Revd Hawkes for his blessing and to Mrs Hawkes for her much appreciated musical backing on the keyboard.

**Children return to school on Wednesday 4th January.**



Our volleyball team did a fantastic job of representing our school at the Warriner tournament.

**Well done, all of you!**



Christmas dinner was excellent. This was cooked in our kitchen by Freshstart, with a choice of turkey or butternut squash roll. The PTA provided Christmas crackers and school staff served the children before joining them to eat.



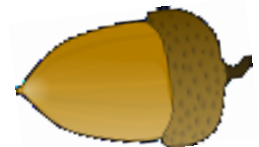
# Acorn Class News

Acorn class has been a busy place this term. We started the new term on Halloween where we read and retold the story of Room on a Broom by Julia Donaldson. Some children were able to sequence the pictures of the story and use them to retell the story to a friend. Other children found pictures which rhymed and put them into pairs.

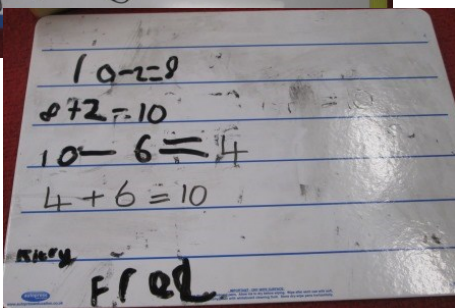
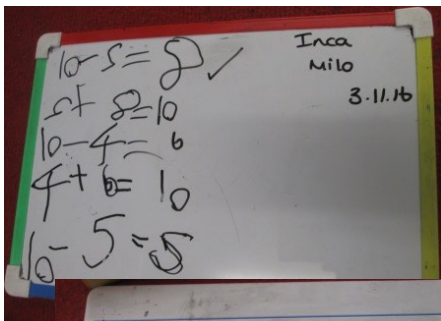


To make our fingers strong for writing we also played a game using pegs to catch spiders in a scary web!

We have also been busy exploring the large apparatus and using our bodies to crawl, slide and move in all directions. We were not allowed to touch the floor so passing each other was tricky, but we managed it!



We are all very excited about the launch of Total recall and are trying really hard to say numbers on more and one less up to 100 and number bonds to 10. If the children can manage these tasks with no hesitation they will be awarded a coloured badge. I wonder who will be the first recipient in Acorn class?



We have also been busy preparing for our Scandinavian Christmas market and the children have enjoyed using clay to roll and shape to make decorations and candle holders.



We squashed and squeezed and rolled the clay. Then we placed our candles on and used our fingers to shape the clay and make the holder.





# Beech Class News

I loved putting Miss Roseblade's wellies in the bucket of water! **Charlie Parker**

This has been a fantastic second term for Beech class. We have all thoroughly enjoyed the Wind in the Willows topic and all of the excitement that comes with the build up to Christmas. We have been investigating different materials in science and learning about their properties. We have tested which materials are waterproof and which are absorbent.



I like the tertiary colours best because they aren't as bold. **Oliver Mulley**

## ATTENDANCE INSERT ✓✗

**An impressive 42 children across the school have been awarded 100% attendance certificates for the Autumn term.**

We know that absence from school can have a significant impact on a child's learning. While it cannot always be avoided, if your child is unwell for instance, one of the best ways you can support your child's learning is to ensure that their attendance at school is as full as possible.

We all enjoyed learning about the different types of colours and we were inspired by Rothko, Mondrian and Klee to create our own pieces of art.

We used a mixture of all of our different masterpieces to brighten up our library, please come in and have a look!

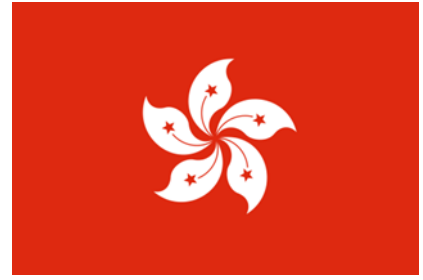


We have all really enjoyed using our Jolly Postman role play to practice weighing Christmas parcels, measuring different letters and using coins to pay for postage. We have also been able to practice our writing skills by, writing letters, cards and lists.



# Willow Class News

We have had such a fun packed term 2. We have absolutely loved learning about Hong Kong.



We had a visitor who came in and talked to us about Hong Kong, where he had lived for many years. He showed us money, told us amazing stories and finally, he showed us old photos of Hong Kong.

*"The old money was AMAZING. The pennies were so old and rusty. I loved looking at the Hong Kong notes".*

*Scarlett Ward*



We have been working extremely hard to plan and work out prices for our street food market. We loved finding traditional Hong Kong recipes to cook. This has been great fun!

**Marvellous maths:** This term we have been focusing on shapes, measuring shapes and different angles. Our favourite part of this topic was learning about angles.



## 'Our Working Board'

This board is where we record lots of our amazing and creative ideas.

*"Miss Grantham, you must mention about our angles lesson- it was amazing!"*



*Can you work out*



*which angles we are?*





### P.E.

We have continued to develop a range of skills in football this term, including heading and crossing the ball. In dance, the children have been learning to work as a team to create improvised dance routines and, most impressively, they have been learning to dance salsa under the careful instruction of their own class choreographers!



### Year 5 Science

Following on from the theme of Evolution and Inheritance, we have been studying the life cycles of a range of living things this term. We have been out hunting for seeds and looking at how different plants disperse them. This has included some memorable practical demonstrations of this, as well as pollination. We have also dissected tulips to look at the functions of their different parts, leading to the creation of a beautiful 3D flower display.

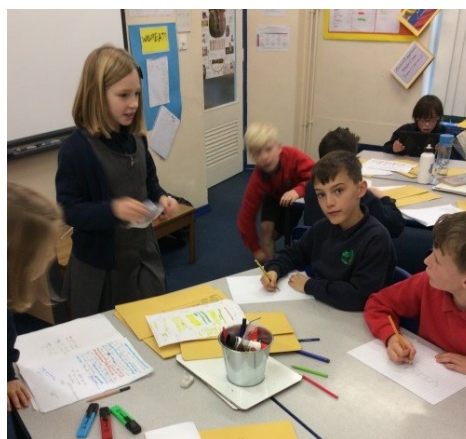


**Hola! Maple Class has been swept away by salsa fever and everything Venezuelan this term, which has been great fun to be a part of. It has certainly been a relentlessly busy and messy term!**

**Topic:** Our topic of Venezuela, as part of the KS2 theme of "Countries of the World", has involved virtually all areas of the curriculum this term. The children had to apply for jobs to work in their own Maple Class company, *Vibrant Venezuela*, which has been preparing to sell food, drink and clay beads for the Sibford International Food Fair. They have since been running this company by means of action plans and meetings, and they have involved themselves in all of this and more:

- Recipe research
- Trial and improvement of recipes
- Scaling up ingredients and creating shopping lists
- Sales forecasting
- Calculating cost prices and profit margins
- Designing clay beads
- Producing marketing materials
- Creating and learning dance routines
- Drawing a huge scale map of Venezuela
- Researching Venezuelan regions

It has been a very intense but highly productive experience!



**Maple  
Class  
News**

### English

We have continued with *The Red Pyramid* as a class reader, and children have been producing artwork of some of the characters for display. In Big Writing, the children have written application letters, promotional articles and even a poem about Mr Cameron's right shoe! The Grammar Game has become highly competitive - especially the weekly "Maple Class v Mr Cameron" competition...

**Maths:** As with most things this term, much of our maths work has been linked to preparations for the Food Fair. The children have been learning about fractions, decimals and percentages, as well as learning how to measure and draw angles. They've also really been getting the hang of quick-fire CLIC and doing very well in the weekly tests!





## Oak Class News

**Swimming:** This term Oak class have been swimming every week and have worked on improving their strokes, have learned about survival in the water and have prepared for the swimming gala in which a number of pupils from year 5 and 6 took part.

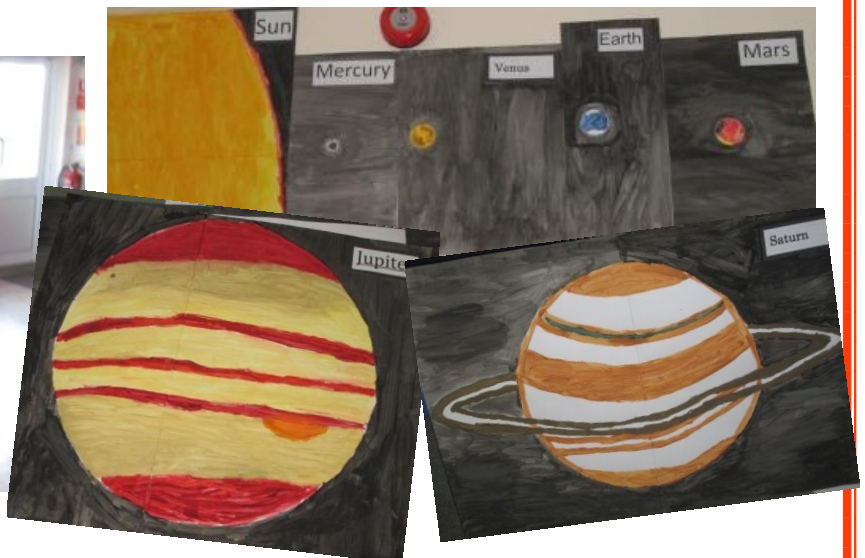


**English:** This term pupils have been looking at the features of play scripts and learned how to write their own play scripts and how to turn narrative text into play scripts. Pupils have also had the opportunity to rehearse and act out plays themselves.



In PE pupils have been developing their tag-rugby and basketball skills.

**Science:** In Science this term Year 6 have been learning about the Earth and the Solar system where the children found out why we have day and night, how the Earth rotates and how the axis of rotation itself rotates. They have also been carrying out research into topics of interest to them, namely: the Milky Way, the Big Bang and Asteroids, Meteorites and Shooting stars.



**Mathematics:** In Maths this term we have been focussing on the four main operations and starting to apply them. This has proved useful for members of the class who have been working on the finances for our Mexican Street Market stall. We have also gone onto spatial topics and reinforced exactly what angles are a measure of.





## Whole School Colour Week

While years 5 & 6 were away at Condover Hall, the rest of us took part in a full week of lessons linked to the theme of colour, using the story 'The Day the Crayons Quit' as our inspiration. As well as colour linked writing, maths, science and outdoor learning, the children produced lots of vibrant art work, from giant crayons to vivid collages to delicate mobiles. We had great fun!





### **Science Day at Dr. Radcliffe's**

Thomas Platt and Isaac Morbey recently went to a Science Day at Dr. Radcliffe's Primary School. There were lots of other schools there such as Dr Radcliffe's themselves, Shenington, Bloxham, and a couple others.

The focus of the day was to have fun, learn some science and to build a vacuum cleaner out of a motor, wires, batteries, paper card, masking tape and a water bottle. The goal was to be able to use the vacuum tidy up confetti.

In the morning we discussed how the motors would work, how to use the batteries, how to use the wires, how to make a fan and finally what we would need to construct our vacuum. After lunch, we set to work making our vacuums; Isaac constructed the housing and Thomas assembled the motor and fan.



In the end, our team managed to get the vacuum to suck up some confetti, but we could have used a bit more time to improve the design and make the vacuum more effective. Isaac and Thomas enjoyed it so much they would like to go again next year!

This year we raised an amazing £107.77 during our Poppy Appeal.



Many thanks to all of you who made this possible.

### **WE ARE CHANGING OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM SUPPLIER.**

From January, we will have a new school uniform supplier. We will be moving to Cross Embroidery, who are based in Banbury. Cross Embroidery already provide uniform for The Warriner and so we hope this will make ordering more straightforward for some of our families.

Their contact details are available on the school website.

As well as supplying the sweatshirt and polo shirt that we are used to, Cross embroidery are also able to offer cardigans, two styles of zip-up fleece/jacket, a PE bag, P.E shorts and T-shirts, all embroidered with our new school logo.



### **SPORT AT SIBFORD**

Ros Kelling, our Sports coach, continues to do a fantastic job of helping us to further improve our PE provision within school. She has been working alongside Acorn and Beech staff, modelling effective practice and sharing all sorts of great ideas on how to make PE exciting. The wall bars have been out weekly, as our youngest children focus on developing their gymnastic skills. Ros has also been running a lunchtime Change4Life Club and an after-school multi-skills club. This will continue into next term.

The boys from Ignite sports have been working in KS2 on the same basis, focusing on outdoor sports such as Tag Rugby.

Our children have taken part in a number of sporting events including dodgeball, cross country and the swimming gala. Special congratulations for Scarlett Ward who has qualified for the Oxfordshire County Cross Country Final.







Acorn & Beech Class have spent time over the past week or so preparing for their Nordic Christmas Fair—making tree decorations from clay and gingerbread, printing their own lovely wrapping paper and making tea light holders. The Fair was set up in our newly re-roofed and decorated Acorn Conservatory and everything looked clean and fresh and very, very Christmassy!



The Noodle Bar



In contrast, the KS2 international street food fair was loud, hectic and fast, and also great fun. With flavours, sounds and dance moves from Hong Kong, Mexico and Venezuela, this was a truly international event. The turn-out was excellent and all the hard work really paid off.



The Venezuelan Kitchen





# Acorn and Beech Nativity

The children from Acorn and Beech Classes put on a gorgeous performance of 'Midwife Crisis' for their nativity this year. They looked wonderful (special thanks to Mrs Heather for all her hard work in wardrobe design) and acted, sang and danced really well.

Everyone played their part and we are very proud of all of them.





*Sibford Gower Primary School PTA –  
Committed to supporting the School to enrich and enhance our Children's experience*



*Dear Parents,*

*We have had a great start to the academic year and my thanks to you all for your continued support for our School's PTA. Whether you have emailed us with new ideas, attended a PTA meeting, attended an event, given us an unwanted cuddly toy, bought a raffle ticket or given us a bag of unwanted clothes for the bag2school collection – THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!*

*We have had two big events this term; our wonderful bonfire night on 5<sup>th</sup> November which raised a fantastic £1800, and our 'new' Christmas Fair on 24<sup>th</sup> November which has, so far, raised in the region of £2000 and as we are still selling some items we can't provide an exact figure at the moment.*

*Another fun event was the school disco last week, the children danced the night away! We had a new DJ this year, Tony Cran, who is a parent from Acorn class and we have received some lovely comments from the children about how much they enjoyed themselves.*

*So far this year we have made the following purchases:*

*A new camera for school, so every class now has their own*

*We have paid for the buses to transport our children on their annual pantomime trip*

*We have paid for 15 fleece lined raincoats for our children to wear when they are away at school sports events*

*We bought the Christmas crackers for the children's Christmas lunch*

*We are in the process of buying a welly boot store to be used on KS2 side*

*We are in the process of buying a standalone cooker to help deliver the technology curriculum*

*We have created a PTA hub in the KS1 foyer to help keep you informed about PTA matters which we hope you will find useful over the coming months.*

*Please pop the following 2017 dates into your diary:*

*PTA meeting – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January (if you can't make it but would like to be involved in some way please email me)*

*Jumble Sale – 21<sup>st</sup> January (please save us any clothes, toys and bric-a-brac if you have a pre/post Christmas clear out!)*

*Bag2school Collection – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January*

*Art Fair – 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March*

*We always welcome new ideas and any feedback, so please do contact me on [andrea.rutledge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrea.rutledge@hotmail.co.uk).*

*Wishing you a lovely Christmas and a very happy new year.*

*Best wishes*

*Andrea*

*PTA Chair*

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**

Governors have already met three times this year. The full governing body met earlier this term, as did the FP&P (Finance, Premises & Personnel) and Data and Curriculum committees. Governors have provided support and challenge to the school through these meetings and with individual governor visits into school. Julian Ransom, Chair of governors, has had regular meetings with Jane O'Sullivan. Nicky Sena Cullen has spent a morning in school observing maths lessons, and Paul Manthorpe has been in to discuss provision for our SEN children. If you would like to know more about the work of the governing body please do contact Julian on 01295 788 550 or [jwaransom@gmail.com](mailto:jwaransom@gmail.com).





# WORLDWIDE MUSIC

This term, the children in maple and oak have been looking at music inspired from traditions from both North and South America.

WE LEARNED THE SONG 'WORLD UNITE' AND LOOKED AT HOW THE MUSIC WAS STRUCTURED. DURING THE SYNCOPATED (OFF BEAT) SONG CHORUS WE ADDED A 'BODY BEAT' AND MAPLE CLASS CHOSE ACTIONS TO MATCH THE LYRICS.



THEN CAME THE TRICKY BIT - FIRST LEARNING A NEW BODY BEAT FOR THE INSTRUMENTAL VERSES AND THEN APPLYING OUR NEW SKILLS TO A CUP RHYTHM - IT WAS HARD BUT WE CRACKED IT!



THE CHILDREN IN WILLOW CLASS HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT MUSIC FROM CHINA AND CREATING THEIR OWN USING THE PENTATONIC SCALE (WITH A LITTLE BIT OF HELP FROM PENTATONIC PANDA!). THEY PLAYED PENTATONIC SCALES ON BOOMWHACKERS, GLOCKS AND KEYBOARDS. WE THEN LOOKED AT 'BRICK WALLS', LISTENED AND MATCHED THE PITCH WE HEARD AND THEN CREATED OUR OWN PENTATONIC WALLS FOR A WHOLE CLASS COMPOSITION.

**WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

