

December 2017

# School News

Dear Parents,

We have had a fabulous Autumn Term here at school. Staff have been working hard to ensure that the children learn well, while enjoying their time at school, and the children have been working hard to be the best learners that they can be.

We have all been stretching our 'learning muscles' and developing our 'growth mindsets' and this has not just been recognised by us. This term, we invited other headteachers from the WMAT and some of our own governors into school to conduct a peer review of how things are going. One of their findings was that

*"there is a consistently high expectation in terms of learning behaviour throughout the school. This is characterised by children engaged, focused on the learning taking place and extremely articulate in their describing of what they are doing, why, and how they can improve it."*

We have also had lots of fun and done many things to ensure that the children experience breadth and balance in their learning, including a visit from a member of Team GB, a whole school trip to the pantomime in Chipping Norton, inclusion in an art exhibition at The Village Hall, Children Singing for Children, lots of outdoor learning and lots of sport.

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:

ACORN CLASS with **98%**



40 of our children have achieved a 100% attendance record for this academic year so far.

Very well done!

At the invitation of Beech and Acorn Classes, we were visited by the Mayor and Mayoress of Banbury. They were very gracious and, as well as spending much of the morning with our younger children, who were allowed to try on their golden chains of office, they came across to talk to the whole school about what



they do. As people local to Banbury all their lives, they had a lot of local knowledge and were able to answer questions from the children, such as "Why isn't the horse in the statue of 'the fine lady upon a white horse' white?"

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

*Reminder!*



There was a very seasonal feel to the end of term as thick snow fell in the Sibfords for the first time in a few years, forcing us to close until things improved.

A heart felt thank you to those of you who came along with shovels to help with the clear up.



## ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term we have been learning about 'People who help us'. We have been lucky enough to have many visitors who have taught us about their jobs and how they help people each day (See Beech class page for pictures). In Acorn class we have been learning about 'asking questions' and formulating questions in order to improve our knowledge. We have become very good at beginning questions with the words 'What, Where, Who, Why and How? We also were able to pretend being nurses, Mayors and Mayoresses, vets and opticians!



We have been learning about some celebrations and festivals which have taken place recently.



We made a Guy, glittery cup cakes and patterned pictures for Bonfire Night.



We made Pumpkin soup by peeling, chopping, stirring and blending the ingredients for Halloween. It was very tasty and all the children who tasted it said they would like some more!



**Cont...**

We have also been learning all about working together, solving problems and looking after our classroom and keeping it tidy so we feel proud to belong to Acorn class.



We have been practising our fine motor skills using whiteboard pens, coloured sand and even spider webs and pumpkins!



In science we have been learning about materials and their properties. We sorted materials and also used the computers to play matching games.



## SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS

The sponsored Sports for Schools gymnast event and fitness workshop raised an incredible £1,123, of which £536 is coming back into school to purchase new sports equipment.



**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY** raised an impressive £160 for Save the Children.

Thank you so much to all of you for your generosity.

## Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

**Primary school place – you must apply now**

If your child was born on or between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is 15 January 2018.

### Apply online at

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.



**Deadline for applications is 15 January 2018**

For help and information:

Web: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

Email: [admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 0345 241 2487



## BEECH CLASS NEWS



We had a fantastic first week back with our Cross Country at the Warriner. Everyone showed real determination and perseverance.

Beech class have had a brilliant half term with our topic 'People Who Help Us'. We have been learning about a whole range of different people and how they help us. We have had visitors almost every week giving great opportunities to develop our speaking and listening skills. We have really enjoyed writing instructions from 'How to clean our teeth' to 'How to escape from a desert island'.



The Mayor of Banbury



A teacher of the deaf.



A vet



An airline pilot



The Mayoress

We have been learning how to program Beebots using algorithms and linking that to our work on instructions in English.

We have been outside planting bulbs ready for the spring. We had to follow a set of instructions to know what to do. The instructions were in the wrong order so our first challenge was to re order them.



We have had some fantastic forest school sessions. We have even learnt how to use tarpaulin to build a shelter, which was perfect for one of our wetter afternoons. This provided an excellent link to our work on materials in science as we had to think about the properties of a selection of natural and man-made materials. We also all enjoyed a delicious hot chocolate to help us keep warm in the chilly weather.



## WILLOW CLASS NEWS

We have had a very exciting term and have really enjoyed learning about Germany and its traditional culture.

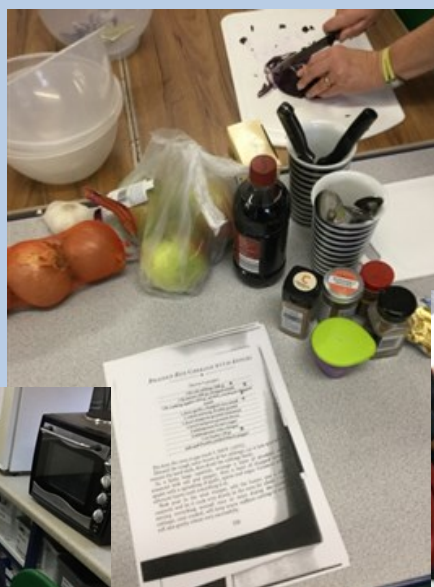


We used our collaboration skills to work together and build our map of Germany!



We are now 'atlas experts'.  
"Did you know France is next to Germany?"  
- Nancy

We have had a special focus on traditional German food. We have carried out lots of research and found some very yummy recipes- We even made our own menus and worked out the cost of ingredients!



"We made red cabbage- it was so yummy! I really enjoyed chopping the cabbage!" - Izzy



We have really enjoyed art this term; we have been creating our own pictures on canvas, inspired by the German artist, Josef Albers.



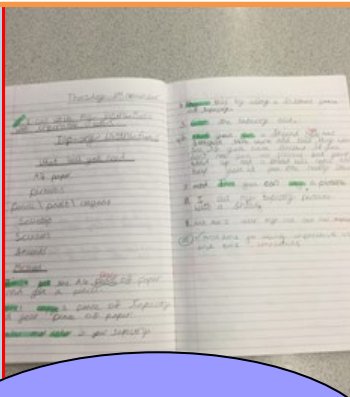


## WRITING

This term we have enjoyed writing in a range of different genres. One of our favourite parts of literacy this term was our 'editing tables'. We loved using the 'post-it' notes to highlight key features of our writing.

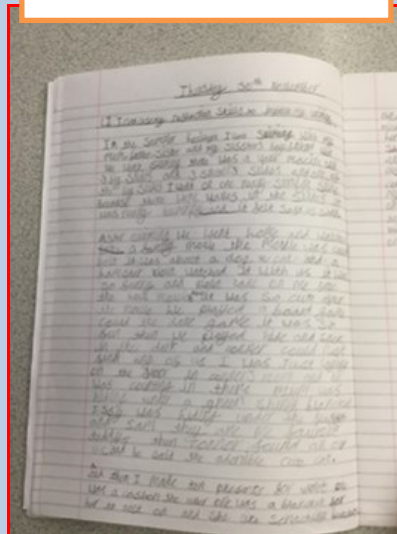


### Instruction Writing

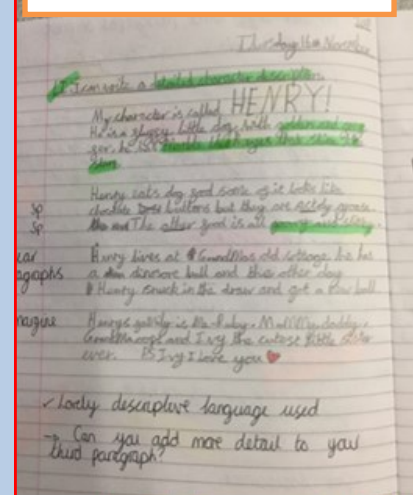


I loved looking back over my writing and seeing how far I've come.

### Reflection Writing



### Character Description

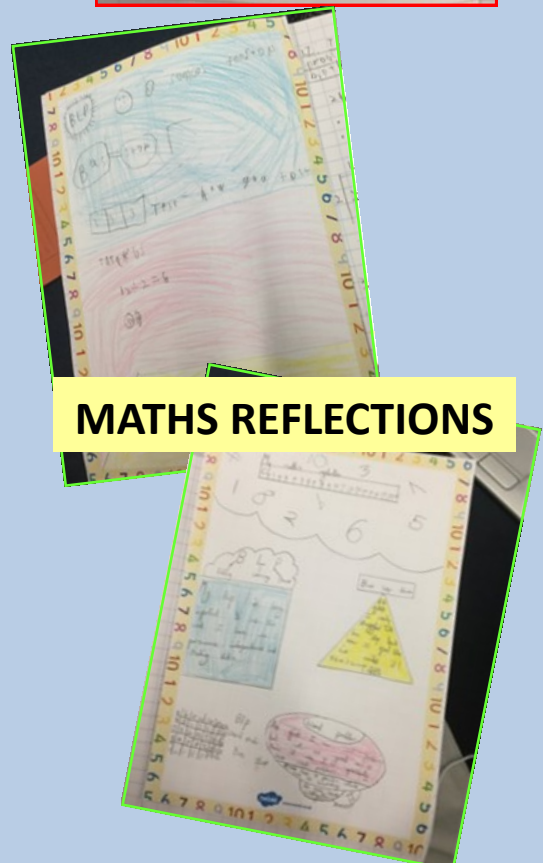


## Super Science

We have really enjoyed our science topic this term... what kind of diet is healthy for humans, and BONES! We learnt about what makes a balanced diet and tasted a range of fruit and vegetables. YUM! We also learnt a fantastic song to help us remember the bones in our body. (Bones Bones Bones- I'm sure your child can sign the rest)



## MATHS REFLECTIONS



## MAPLE CLASS NEWS



One of the highlights of this term was the 'Children singing for children' which took place at the beginning of November. It was an amazing experience for the children and they did so well.

We have had another busy term in Maple class and there has been lots of fun and learning. Our topic focus has been 'France' and we have done a lot of research about the different regions, we have studied the artist Monet and had great fun baking some French bread which was a huge success...and very tasty.



Hockey has been our focus in P.E this term. We were lucky enough to have a visit from two Banbury Hockey club coaches. They took a session with Maple class and were very impressed with the skills the children already had. We appear to have some budding hockey players.

Imagining a life in the trenches to inspire diary writing.



We have been doing lots of Drama and 'talk for writing' to immerse the children in into their Big Write topics each week. The children have been so enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed it.

## OAK CLASS NEWS

**ITALY** Oak class have been learning about Italian culture. We looked at the physical features of Italy and then went on to plan and subsequently make our own authentic Italian Pizzas, inspired by ingredients typical of a chosen region. We used our Maths skills to discuss the perfect ratio of water to flour in Pizza dough and to measure out our ingredients.



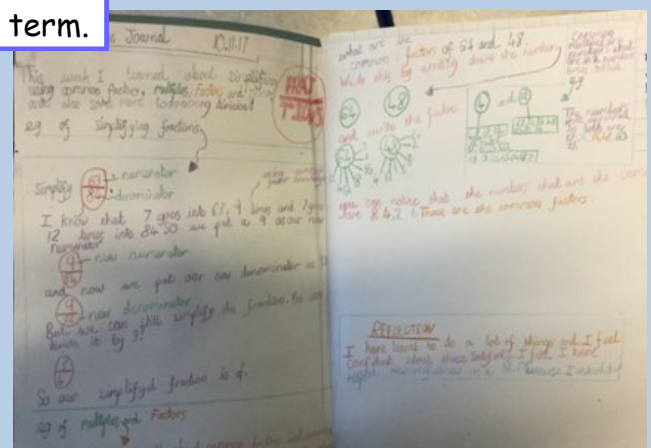
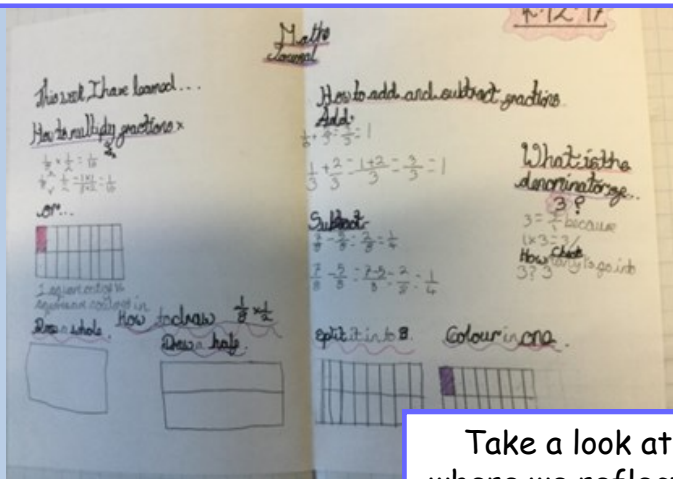
**Writing** Linking with our Italian Topic, we wrote our own newspaper reports about an Earthquake in Italy. To help us to plan our articles, we created our own television news programme complete with interviews with rescuers and witnesses - this was to help us get to grips with direct and reported speech! We studied Romeo and Juliet and investigated the friendship between Mercutio, Benvolio and Romeo. We wrote our own version of Prince Escalus's speech intended to stop a fight between the Capulets and Montagues.



Thomas Arnaboldi wrote:

*"You pitiful cowards! You're ripping up the streets - throw your sharp weapons of steel down! Give peace to Verona! Are you listening? Do you care? Are you aware of the madness you have caused? If this rivalry continues you will die! Now be off, you disloyal ratcatchers!"*

**Maths** Oak class have mastered fractions this term.



Take a look at these wonderful Maths journal entries, where we reflect and demonstrate our learning each week.

## GOVERNOR'S CORNER

Members of our Governing Body have been involved in our life in school in all sorts of ways. We have held three meetings in school so far this academic year and governors have also taken part in role specific training.



They have supported in the background, reviewing policy documents, supporting with the headteacher's performance management and many other things related to the strategic leadership of our school. They have also made a number of visits into school. Governor Paul Manthorpe has visited classrooms four times already this year, twice to look at the ways in which we support children with Special Educational needs, once to focus on Building Learning Power across the school and once to talk about his work as a teacher of the deaf, supporting with our younger children's topic work on People who Help Us. Governors Sue Cook and Warwick Knowles spent a morning in school taking part in the Peer Review process alongside headteachers from other WMAT schools, and were joined later in the day by governor Emma Coventry who will be focusing on Early Years over the course of this year, as well as continuing to support us with all the 'extra' she brings to school as a parent volunteer and a member of our PTA.

## Our International Focus

We have been exploring aspects of our life as global citizens in a number of ways at school.

Thanks to Mrs Perkins, we have been awarded an introductory level International Schools Award. All the teachers & pupils contributed towards this, but Mrs Perkins took a leading role and organised all the evidence for our application, in her role as MFL co-ordinator.

Miss Grantham has co-ordinated our Global Learning Partnership work across the school.

While class teachers have been raising the profile of current affairs through watching Newsround and reading First News with the children, she has been leading a weekly assembly focusing on key topical issues such as the impact of Global Warming, with a focus on developing the children's understanding of how our responses to such matters might link to key British Values such as Tolerance and Democracy.



## WOMBAT UPDATE

The Wombats School Council have now met to review their Hot Spots and Grot Spots. Much was achieved over the course of the last academic year and the positives in our school environment definitely now outweigh the negatives. However, there is still much to be done.

Although Wombats haven't yet agreed all their priorities for the coming year, they have identified some. Expect to experience the smell of fresh paint and the sound of happy teachers as they enjoy a break in the newly re-furbished staff room we are all looking forward to. Town Estates have agreed to help fund this, but it was a Wombat idea.

Thank you Wombats for recognising that our teachers need looking after too!



# KS1 NATIVITY



Our young cast had to walk through the snow, but the show must go on...



There is room at the inn for the weary traveller !



The children from Acorn & Beech Classes performed a beautiful nativity in celebration of Christmas. They performed for the whole school, parents and our friends from the Ark Nursery. The children sang and danced beautifully and looked absolutely enchanting in their costumes.

A special mention for Ava, as the star who tried so very, very hard to shine, and to Flora and Poppy for their lovely singing solos. Thank you to all of our staff who worked so hard to make this the special performance it was.

Absolutely delightful!



# Sibford Sport

Another busy, yet brilliant term for sport. We have entered into many events and had some fantastic results.

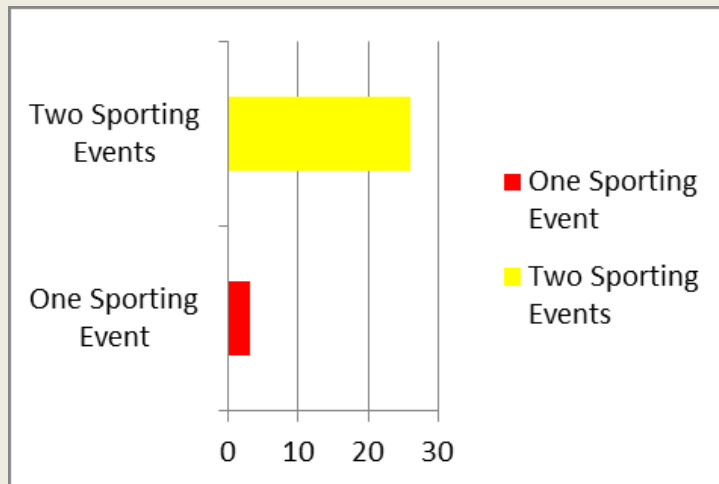
## KS1:

3 children have attended one sporting event this year.

26 children have attended two sporting events this year

**"I loved the dancing,  
we had so much fun!"**

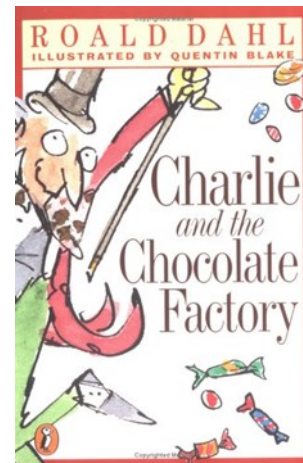
**Amelia Mulley**



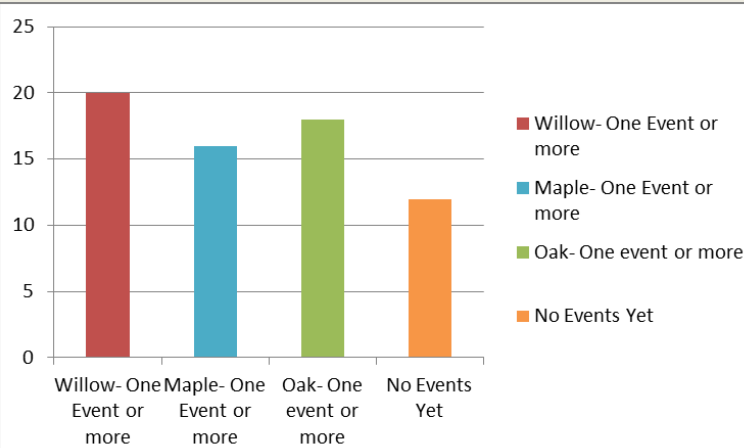
## KS1

Ks1 children have been very busy this term- they have had a dance festival and a multi skills competition.

Year 1 and 2 girls had a fabulous time at the dance festival. They created three dances to go with the story; Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

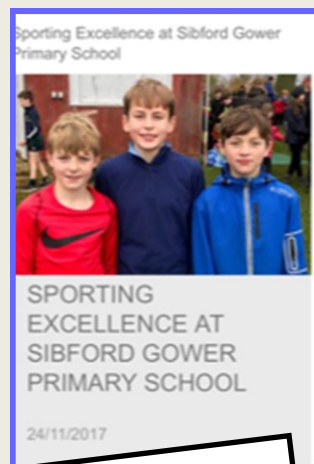


**KS2:** It has been a very busy term for our KS2 children- we have participated in swimming events, cross country and made it to two finals (which we also won!)



These statistics are brilliant- the children have really enjoyed participating in a range of sporting events already, and can't wait to complete some more. By the end of this school year ALL children will have participated in a sporting event.

Their motivation, determination and sportsmanship are qualities they should all be very proud of! We are certainly very proud of them!



**Our Cross Country  
finalists...  
Well done boys!**

## Up Coming Events

**Enrichment &  
Challenge Athletics  
30/01/18**

**Hockey- 23/02/18**

**Girls Football  
Festival- 19/03/18**

**Netball- TBC**

# **Fabulous Forest School**

This term we have had a wonderful time during Forest School. We have been using a range of tools to create some magical items.



I loved making a Christmas tree with Miss Grantham. We even made apple baubles!

Nancy

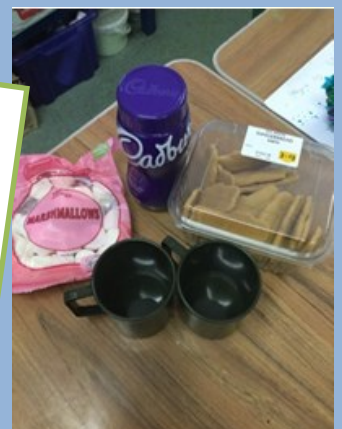


Our Tree Cookies!



I have really enjoyed making dens this term- ours was so cool!

Jacob



Due to the snowy weather we didn't get to have our full day of Forest school, so we brought Forest School to us inside. We had a wonderful time and created lots of Forest School themed pieces.

This November, we invited a top international gymnast into school to deliver an inspirational assembly and deliver a whole school sponsored work-out workshop in which all the children participated. Team GB gymnast, Dominic Cunningham wowed us all with his incredible physical agility and strength and his gymnastic ability. Following the workshop, the children had an opportunity to ask Dominic questions and to see a real Olympic Torch.



### Sibford Gower Primary School PTA

*Committed to supporting the School to enrich and enhance our Children's experience*

*Dear Parents,*

*Thank you for your continued support of the PTA, we have had another busy half term.*

*Our bonfire night on 4<sup>th</sup> November was a very successful evening. A special thank you to Claire Evans who organised the event this year, and also to Chris Cullen for arranging and coordinating the fireworks – which received excellent comments. Thank you to all the parent and staff helpers too.*

*We held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Fair on 23<sup>rd</sup> November which kicked off Christmas very nicely. We had more stalls this year selling wonderful products and there was also a lot to entertain the children too. A very big thank you to the Christmas Fair organising committee and all the parent helpers on the day. We raised in the region of £850 which is absolutely brilliant.*

*Another fun event was the Children's school disco last week, and they certainly danced the night away! The DJ was Tony Cran of Pulsation Roadshow, a parent from KS1, and we thank him for his continued support of this event.*

*Through our fundraising efforts we have been able to fund the following items this term:*

- \* New gazebo's complete with our School logo. They were used on bonfire night.*
- \* Atlas books for KS1 and KS2*
- \* Crackers for the children's Christmas lunch*
- \* A clearing away trolley for the children to use at lunch times*
- \* Pay for the bus trip to take our children to the pantomime*
- \* Built in desks and shelving in the KS1 outdoor learning centre*

*Please pop the following 2018 dates into your diary:*

*PTA meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January KS1 Staff Room at 7.30pm*

*Jumble Sale – 20<sup>th</sup> January (please save us any clothes, toys and bric-a-brac if you have a pre/post Christmas clear out!)*

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

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

*Best wishes*

*Andrea*

*On behalf of the PTA*



# French and Music



The children in Acorn and Beech have made a great start to their French! This term we have looked at basic conversation and colours for describing. We loved reading two French books; 'Petit Poisson blanc' and 'Pop mange de toutes les couleurs'. Here are some of the children in Acorn making some colourful bead strings which they enjoyed describing using the French colours they knew.



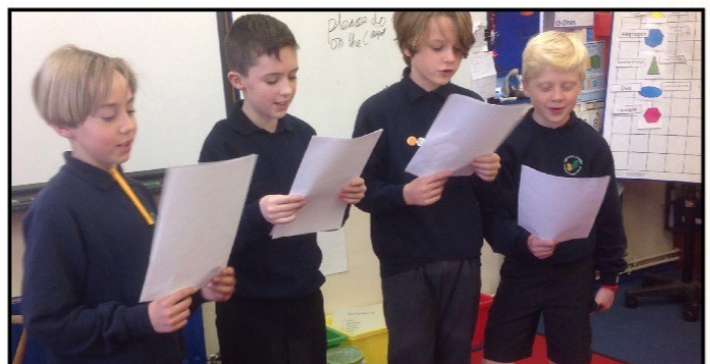
In their last lesson of term, the children enjoyed learning about the tradition of Saint Nicolas. In France, children leave shoes out at bedtime and, if they are lucky, St Nicolas will visit overnight and leave goodies such as chocolate coins to be found in the morning! Well of course we had to give it a go, and yes! We had a visit from Saint Nicolas!



French in KS2 this term has had a distinctly artistic flair! This term they have been using 'clothes' as their topic with both Mrs Perkins and Mr Cameron's sessions. In their French topic sessions with Mrs Perkins the children in Willow, Maple and Oak have looked at paintings by artist Carolee Clarke and applied their French knowledge to describe the clothes they could see. They then created their own Carolee Clarke pictures to describe!



In our music lessons we love making a big noise! Boomwhackers are a big favourite with many children. Here are Willow class enjoying learning more about pitch, rhythm and beat in one of their sessions this term.



Oak enjoyed their final lesson of the term by re-writing the classic 'The twelve days of Christmas' for the modern day! We had great fun listening to our friend's creations and singing along! Altogether now.... "On the first day of Greggsmas my true love gave to me a pizza slice with pepperoni!" .... I'm sure it'll catch on!

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH WAS BRILLIANT!



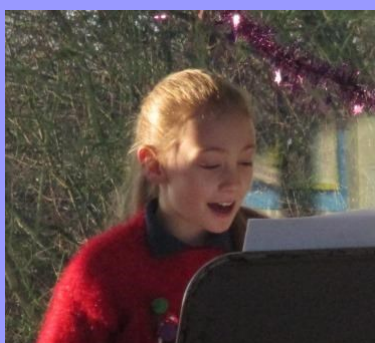
Thanks to our talented colleagues from Freshstart



Everyone put on their favourite Christmas jumper .....



..... and a great time was had by all!



*A group of our KS2 girls, who have singing lessons with the talented Valerie Vet, put on a special singing performance for their parents and the whole school. They did a wonderful job, even singing our 'School Song' which was penned by the talented Jodie Brock and performed by Jodie and Imogen.*

The KS2 Christmas Carol Concert at the church in Sibford Gower was delightful. Children from every class performed readings related to the Christmas Story, and they sang beautifully. Coming out to take part in an evening event was a real adventure for some of the children and it was lovely to see the church filled with parents, friends and ex-pupils who braved the cold, icy evening to join us.



# READING WEEK AT SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY

Reading with our children, and encouraging them to read every day, is so important. Not only will it help them develop into confident, independent learners and better communicators; it gives them access to a whole other universe of knowledge, imagination and human understanding, past and present. And becoming absorbed in a good book is so enjoyable!

It was lovely to be able to invite parents, carers and grandparents into school for another Reading Week this term. It's a very simple thing to do, but gives such a positive message about the pleasure and importance of reading.



## Why Your Child Can't Skip Their 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight

**James**

reads 20 minutes per night,  
5 times per week



**Travis**

reads only 4 minutes per night  
...or not at all



In one week:

**100**  
minutes of reading



**20**  
minutes of reading

In one month:

**400**  
minutes of reading



**80**  
minutes of reading

In one school year (9 months):

**3600**  
minutes of reading



**720**  
minutes of reading

By the end of sixth grade:

**21,600**  
minutes of reading



**4320**  
minutes of reading

Which student would you expect to read better?  
Which student would you expect to know more?  
Which student would you expect to write better?  
Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?  
Which student would you expect to be more successful in school and life?  
How do you think each student will feel about himself as a learner?



GREENER GENIUS