

February 2017

School News

Dear Parents,

Here in school, we have had a fantastic start to 2018 and the children have been busy right up until the final day of the half-term.

Our topic themes this term have been very successful and show just how much can be achieved in terms of pupil engagement when staff work closely together to share expertise and ideas.

Acorn and Beech have been exploring the theme 'Towers & Turrets'. They can name the parts of a castle and have created some wonderful models, both in school and at home. The conservatory in Acorn Class has been transformed into a medieval banqueting hall.

Over in Old School, the theme has been World War Two. The children have become immersed in some wonderful books with a WW2 theme and have produced very high quality work across the curriculum as they explore this. The topic culminated in a WW2 Day with the children sharing their work, and some war-time songs, in a very special assembly for parents, friends and family. Thank you so much to parents for your help with the costumes; the children looked amazing.

We will be having a focus on attendance next half-term. Maple Class have managed an incredible 99% attendance since Christmas, despite the various 'bugs' that have been doing the rounds, and we would like all of our classes to achieve this. Missed days and late mornings can quickly add up and we know that when attendance dips below 90%, this can have a significant impact on attainment and learning and children's social relationships. We will send out reminders regarding our attendance procedures in the new half-term.

I hope you all have a great holiday week.

Kind regards,

Jane O'Sullivan



Eve Townsley from Oak Class has made it through to the final auditions for next year's intake to Elmhurst Ballet School in Birmingham. She came in the top 40 of 2000 applicants, which is an amazing achievement.

The next audition will decide the final 12.

We wish Eve every success.

Heidi Greenhalgh from Maple Class has been selected to represent Oxfordshire in the South Regional Athletics Competition in Guilford, Surrey on 10th February,

We know that she will compete brilliantly.

INTERNATIONAL WRITING SUCCESS

Nettie Parish from Oak Class beat 1,500 contestants from across the USA, UK and Ireland, to win the primary merit prize in an art and writing completion organised by Trinity College, University of Dublin. She travelled to Dublin to collect her award.



Her poem, written in response to topic work on 9th century illuminated manuscript The Book of Kells, features later in the newsletter.

WORLD WAR 2 DAY



Who is the pilot?

In Oak classroom, children created drawings based on those by artist Henry Moore, of people sheltering in the London underground during the Blitz. They created their own drawings using pastels, including this amazing piece by our very own Eve Townsley.

You can see more of the children's artwork further on in the newsletter.

Best Class attendance this term:

MAPLE CLASS with **99%**



Children return to school on Monday 19th February.

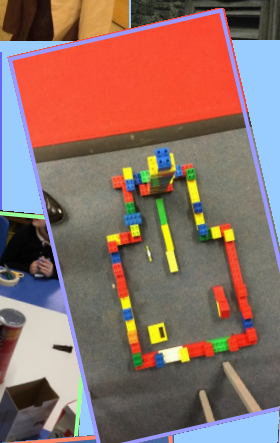
Reminder!

ACORN CLASS NEWS

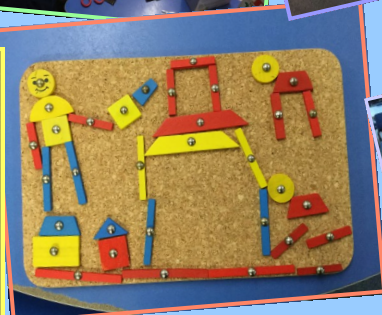
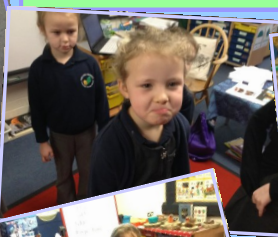
This term we have been learning all about castles, we have visited Oxford castle, built Motte and Bailey castles, listened to and retold stories with castles in them and dressed up as people who live and work in castles. We have made castles out of wooden blocks, Lego, stickle bricks and with wooden shapes and nails.



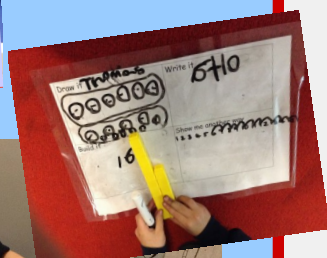
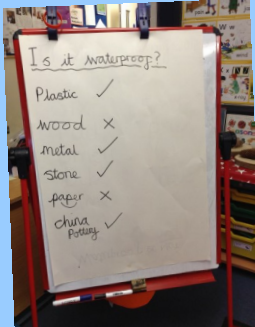
We are able to describe the features of a Motte and Bailey castle and were able to point to these on our models.



We enjoyed acting out the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. Mum felt very cross when Jack came home with the beans. It was tiring chopping down the beanstalk but he felt proud afterwards.



In science we have been investigating materials and their properties. We have been grouping objects which are bendy, not bendy, transparent, opaque, waterproof and absorbent.



In maths we have been using lots of equipment to help us visualise number bonds to 10, to 20 and to add two numbers which bridge 10



On Thursday this week Acorn class wrapped up in warm clothes and waterproofs to spent an amazing day outside experiencing Forest School. Mrs Williams explained Forest School expectations and we had a safety briefing. We all listened really carefully. Then we were ready to play our first game.



We used sticks to make dens, working together to plan and construct.

We lit a fire and had hot chocolate and hot squash to warm us up. The fire was really mesmerising.



We made bridges, dens and castles using branches, string and other things we

We enjoyed making Journey Sticks and had to persevere with cutting the materials needed.

It took lots of concentration, but we managed it.



BEECH CLASS NEWS



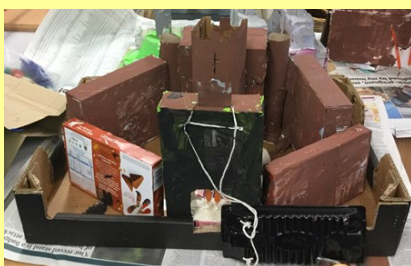
We loved the view from the top and pretending we were soldiers. We imagined what it would be like to shoot our bows arrows at the enemy below.



We have worked hard to make our own castles from recyclable materials. We read lots of books and looked at photos to help us to identify the features of a castle.



We have absolutely loved being outside and have been thinking of ways we can make the most of our outdoor area as we move into spring. We have continued with forest school and have enjoyed taking our learning about castles outside and thinking about how we could build our own defensive fort.



Beech class had such an exciting start to this half term with our trip to Oxford castle which launched our topic 'Towers and Turrets'. We loved exploring the castle and finding out all about how it has been used over the years. We got the chance to dress up in a variety of costumes and to experience the sights and smells of castle life!



We have been working really hard on multiplication and division. We can use our fingers and our excellent counting skills to recall our 2, 5 and 10 times tables and we have been trying out lots of different methods to help us with the rest of them.



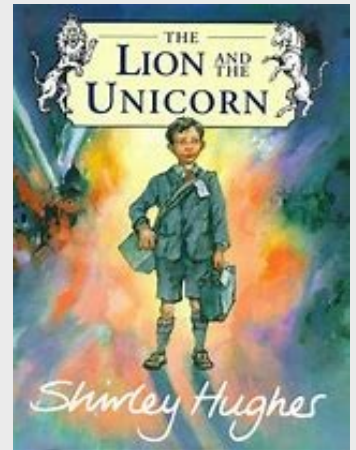
We had a fantastic observational drawing lesson with Ms O'Sullivan. We loved looking closely and some unusual fruits and creating our masterpieces in pastels.

WILLOW CLASS NEWS

We have been working extremely hard on our writing this term and have produced some amazing, creative work. We have created a range of genres all connected to our class book; **The lion and the unicorn**.

One of favourite pieces of writing this term was our letters to Lenny. We had to write a letter (As Lenny's dad) back to Lenny at home. Lenny's dad was fighting to save his country but poor Lenny was too young to understand.

We used drama to help us feel what it would be like to be Lenny- this was great fun!



*"This is my new favourite book!
I loved reading about Lenny's journey"*

Izzy Stebbings



We have had such a fantastic term; we have really enjoyed learning about WW2.



Lenny's Dad gave Lenny a badge before he left and told him to be brave.
The badge had a lion and a unicorn on.
We created our own badges out of clay.

A brilliant term of PE

we have been exploring different circuit activities and how these affect our body in different ways. We have really enjoyed our sessions. We even had mini competitions and had some fantastic scores.

158 star jumps!



"I loved doing the bench press and sit ups- especially to the fitness music" Nancy.

Fantastic Fractions: This term we have been learning about fractions! We have ranged a used a range of items to help us..... even pizza! **We are now fraction experts.**



Ordering Fractions



Equivalent Fractions

"I really enjoyed creating my fraction wall"
Harry Westwood



Identifying Fractions



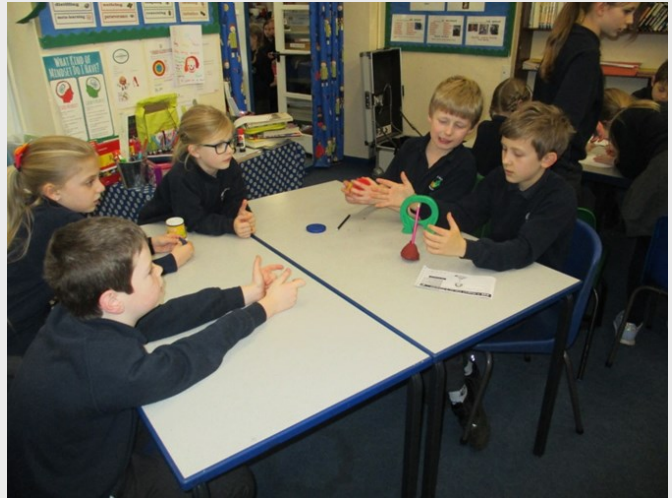
"Fractions are my new favourite part of maths" Oliver Mulley



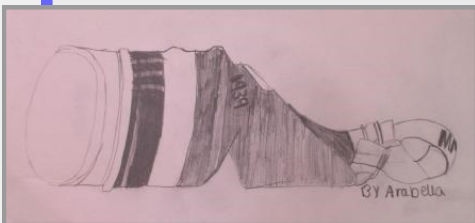
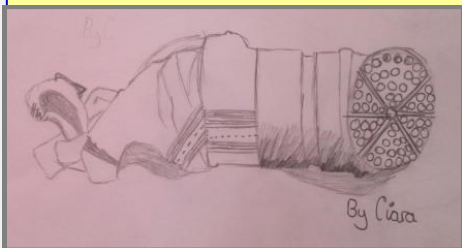


We have had another busy term in Maple class and there has been lots of fun and learning . Our topic focus has been 'WW2'. We have been studying the text 'Friend or Foe' which has resulted in some fabulous writing and discussion. The main highlight was, of course, our trip to Holdenby House, immersing the children in the year 1942.

MAPLE CLASS NEWS



We had a lovely Science morning in which we joined with Willow class and did a variety of hands on investigations linked to our topic of forces. The children were able to predict and talk about what science was happening.

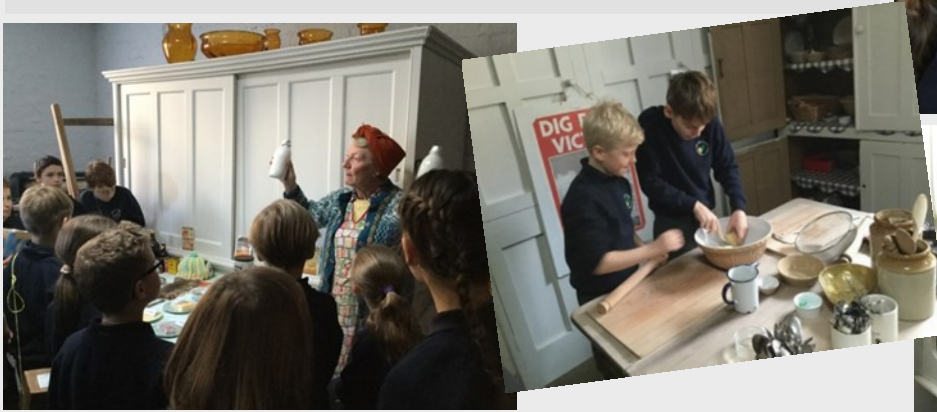


In art we did some still life drawing. We were lucky enough to have real WW2 gas mask that we could use as our subject. The children created some detailed and intricate drawings.

In P.E., we have been learning about circuits. This has involved the children not only taking part in a variety of exercises and warm ups but taking on the role of leaders within the sessions. They have, of course ,risen to the challenge and thoroughly enjoyed it. Swimming will continue next term until the Easter holidays.

OAK CLASS NEWS

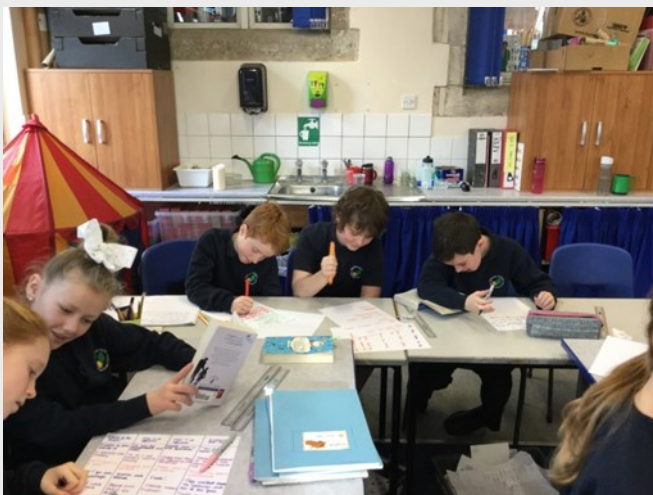
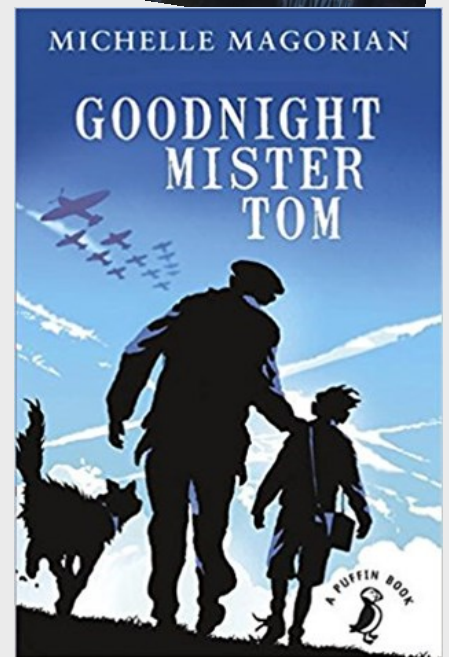
World War II Oak class have been learning about World War II. We went on a fabulous trip to Holdenby house with the rest of KS2, where we learned about 'make do and mend', cooking using substitutes and rations and how to respond to an air raid.



We have all been enjoying 'Goodnight Mister Tom' and feel as if we all know Mister Tom and William Beech really well. In writing, we have been focusing on character studies and diary entries, where we have used 'character voice' to write in dialect and actions to show who the character is.

Alexander George wrote:

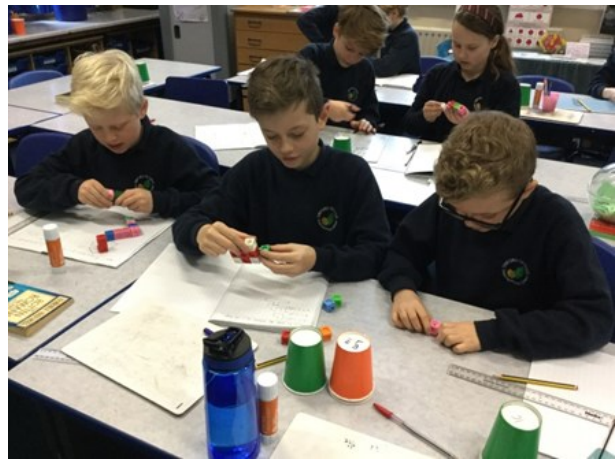
'Tearing the brown paper off the first present, I was so excited - in the first parcel were a green, woollen bala-clava; a green, sleeveless pullover and a pair of navy-blue shorts. That was followed by an illustrated copy of the wind in the willows. 'This is the best day of my life,' I thought to myself.'



To plan our diaries, we analysed events from the text and suggested how the characters might be feeling. We justified this with evidence we found in our groups.



In Maths, we have been learning about area, perimeter and volume. We can calculate the area of triangles and parallelograms and we investigated how many different 3d shapes we could make from 12 cubes - we discovered that to calculate volume we can use the formula $v = l \times w \times h$



Although we are fantastic mathematicians, we are also athletes! In PE, circuit training has kept us fit. We are focusing on leadership in PE at the moment, so we have all been leading different exercises and explaining which muscle groups they are working. We all know our form is really important - as is a good warm up and cool down!



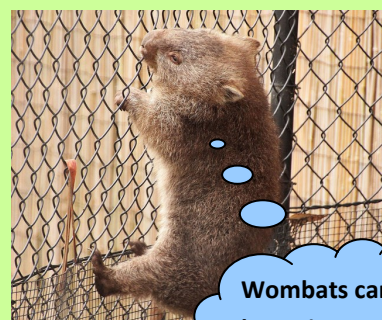
GOVERNOR'S CORNER

Julian Ransom, who has served as Chair of Governors for the past couple of years has now stepped down from the governing body. By arrangement with the governing body, he will be replaced by Ian Broome, one of the Directors of The Warriner Multi academy Trust. Paul Manthorpe has recently stepped in as the Chair of the Curriculum and Data Committee and Andrew Whitehouse is Chair of Finance, Premises and Personnel. We thank Julian Ransom for all that he has brought to our wonderful school during his tenure.



Wombat Update

Our School Council continue to meet each month, to share ideas about how we can improve our school and to ensure that the grown-ups in school are aware of their views. Their next project is to work with PE coordinator, Miss Grantham and our PE mentor, Mrs Gardner, to plan and agree new outdoor equipment to replace the old wooden play equipment that we have had to remove. The intention is to install equipment that will support both active playtimes and can be used in outdoor P.E lessons. We hope to have this installed by the beginning of the summer term if possible.



Wombats can be active too!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS !

We place great importance on attendance and punctuality at school. Although missed learning is more obvious when children are absent for whole days, the impact of persistent lateness in terms of learning opportunities lost may surprise you. Please take a look at the table below.

Minutes late per day	Equivalent of missing
5 Minutes	3.4 school days a year
10 Minutes	6.9 school days a year
15 Minutes	10.3 school days a year
20 Minutes	13.8 school days a year
30 Minutes	20.7 school days a year

Although lateness will occasionally be unavoidable, when it occurs more frequently it can leave your child feeling anxious and unsettled about what they may have missed.

Doors open at 8.40 a.m and our official start time is 8.50 a.m. Children will be engaged in learning activities of some description from this time. Please help us to provide the best possible education for your child by ensuring that they arrive at school on time, every day. Thank you.



WORLD WAR 2 DAY



Could it be

... Kjell Baud ?



The KS2 topic on WW2 was a real success. The grand finale was a day when all the children dressed up and took part in activities linked to the theme. They made Victory bunting and badges, cooked 'Floddies' (potato and flour cakes) to a war-time recipe and drew pictures of the public sheltering in the London Underground, in the style of official war artist, Henry Moore.



Ella Gibbs said, "I enjoyed the sewing because it made me feel very calm and I could chat to my friends whilst doing it. I also enjoyed doing the art on Henry Moore because when you finished it, it looked amazing."

Thomas Platt said, " It brought fun to our learning! Learning the Vera Lynn songs was great. It felt interactive because it felt that you were there as part of the war, as a soldier. The dressing up helped that feeling of being there."





Making Victory bunting



Grating potato for our Floddies. Yummy!!



Creating pastel drawings of the London Underground in the style of Henry Moore



Underground and overground during the Blitz

PTA

THE ART FAIR

After lots of consultation, Sibford Gower Primary School PTA have decided to run this amazing event every other year from now on.

So, the next ART FAIR will be in MARCH 2019, with a refreshed look and new organisers.

We want to thank you for all your support and look forward to seeing you next year.

THE ART FAIR 2019

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW CURATOR TO JOIN OUR TEAM!

THIS IS A VOLUNTEER ROLE, WORKING ALONGSIDE THE SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA TO DELIVER THIS FANTASTIC COMMUNITY EVENT.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE AN ARTIST, BUT A KEEN EYE AND PLENTY OF ENTHUSIASM IS ESSENTIAL!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT KATE:
sibfordartfair@gmail.com

RACE NIGHT

FULLY INTERACTIVE RACE NIGHT USING
WOODEN TRACK AND HORSES

SATURDAY 3RD MARCH

SIBFORD GOWER VILLAGE HALL

7.30PM

TICKETS £12 PER PERSON

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES HOME COOKED CURRY
BRING YOUR OWN DRINK

TICKETS FROM SUE ROWLEY
01295 768209
DAVEANDSUEARE@HOTMAIL.COM



Proceeds to Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School PTA

SIBFORD GOWER'S GOT TALENT!

A brilliant evening with our fantastic parents and children. Huge thanks to everyone involved, including the KS2 teachers who made it possible, and guest judges Mr Allen & Mr Cameron.



P.E Events

Children from KS2 enjoyed participating in an athletics event at The Warriner with other partnership schools.

Bollywood came to Bloxham as some of our children attended a NOSSP event exploring Indian dancing.



Engaging the children in physical activity is really important to us here at school. As well as being good for their general fitness, it has been shown to have a positive impact on their concentration and learning in other lessons too. Lots of P.E has been going on in school, as you can see from the class pages, and our P.E mentor, Mrs Gardner has been working with teachers and children across the school to ensure that teaching and learning is strong in all aspects of P.E. This year, we are going for our Gold School Games Award, which will recognise all the many and varied things that we do in school and within the partnership, including our very impressive track record of qualifying for County. Huge thanks to our P.E coordinator, Miss Grantham, for all the time and hard work she puts into ensuring that our children get as many opportunities as possible. Not to mention Forest School...!

Real by Nettie Parish(Y5)

The truth knotted in faded pages, shouting in bright ink.
The skin surrounds the secrets as it surrounded a soul, long ago.

As brave as a lion
As strong as an ox
As wise as an eagle
As proud as a man

As healing as a serpent
As beautiful as a horse
As loyal as a hound
As fast as a wolf

To become as brave
As strong
As wise
As proud

To be as healing
As beautiful
As loyal
As fast

To be weaved and knotted
In commitment and isolation
In working and sacrifice
To have qualities such as the animals printed
In strong, ancient pages
Dyed with shining, sparkling berries.

Making history of Kells
To be stored unforgotten
Forever
Unending



Have a lovely holiday