

SCHOOL NEWS

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Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had an excellent start to the New Year here at school. The shorter half-term means a slightly shorter newsletter, but that does not mean we haven't been very busy, as the following pages will show.

It was lovely to have the school disco right at the beginning of the Spring term. This very loud and sparkly event was brilliantly scheduled to bring a bit of excitement at a time of year that can sometimes feel a little 'flat' following Christmas and the New Year. Many thanks to Mrs Argyros-Farrell and the PTA for organising. Learning has been great fun too. KS2 ventured off to the big city for a visit to Cadbury World in Birmingham, where they took part in workshops and activities based on Mayan myths and legends to enrich their topic work on the Mayans back in school. Our younger children have been exploring the themes of Nursery Rhymes and Traditional Tales, with Beech Class presenting an assembly linked to this for parents. They also explored customs and celebrations associated with Chinese New Year, creating some highly original artwork in the process!

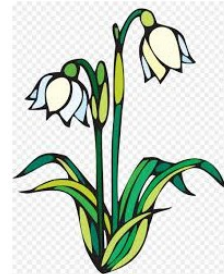
We have had a focus on developing pupil resilience and strategies to keep themselves 'safe' too. Oxford-based charity 'One-Eighty' have been in to run a training workshop with Years 5 & 6. This is part of the 'Make Me Smile' project and is an awareness raising group intervention specially designed for primary school children to teach them about mental health and develop their resilience, through storytelling, creative play & group work. Year 6 children also attended Junior Citizen workshops in Oxford, during which they were taught a variety of life skills focusing on how to keep themselves safe whilst potentially helping others who may be in difficulty or distress.

We also had a special assembly on Safer Internet Day during which the children were encouraged to explore and discuss various internet safety issues. Please don't forget that you can find some helpful links to support you to support your child with internet safety on our website.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Kind regards,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher.



Best Class Attendance this half term

OAK CLASS **98%** 

**Children return to school
on Monday 25th February**



Thursday 7th March is ...

WORLD BOOK DAY

We are encouraging the children to come to school dressed as a character from a traditional tale or a favourite story character.

AMAZING MAYANS



Evie Fletcher and Jacob Herd from Willow Class worked together to create these stunning drawings of Mayan gods.



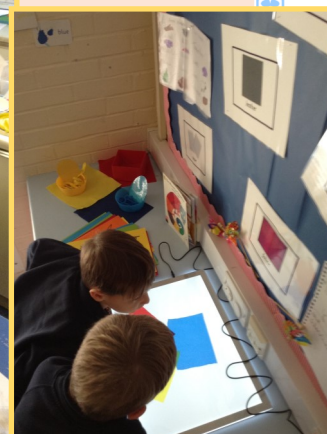
We think they are
'AMAYZING'

ACORN CLASS

This term in Acorn class we have been learning about rhymes. We have been acting out Nursery rhymes, making lists of words which rhyme, writing our own rhymes, recording each other on the iPads and also creating pieces of art linked to our 'Rhymes of the Week'



We have been learning about Primary colours and using them to mix secondary colours, some of our little Acorns have also been able to make tertiary colours.



We have been travelling up, down and all around in PE. Being brave and using all the equipment in the hall.

We have also been learning about the value of coins and have totalling all coins to make values, so we can pay for the books in the 'Acorn bookshop!'

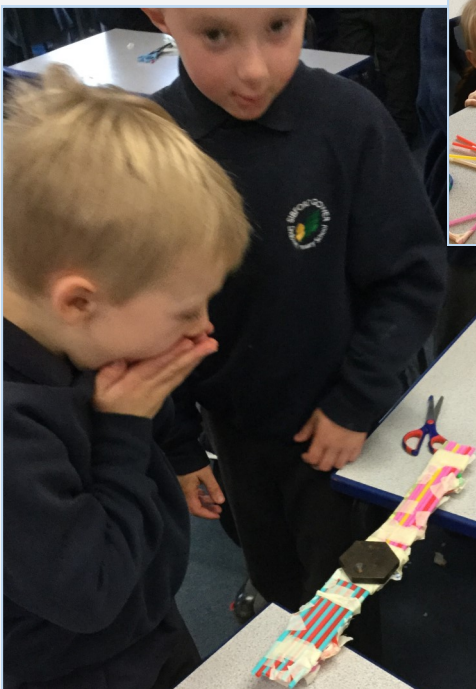
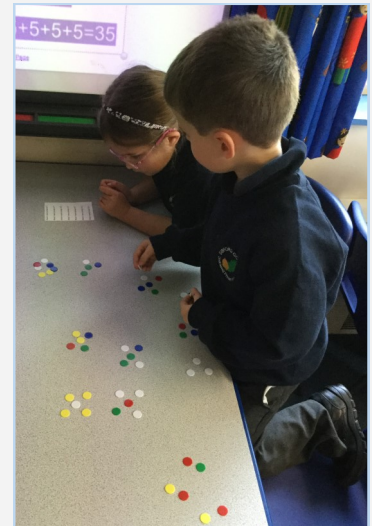


BEECH CLASS

We have really got the year off to a flying start in Beech class! We have absolutely loved our gymnastic lessons and really developed our confidence and skills with the practical equipment. We have been encouraging of our friends and challenging ourselves to not give up, even if things are a bit tricky at first.



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 have been using a range of practical equipment and jottings to help us to work out other problems.



We loved building bridges and testing them with different weights. It was fantastic when Lewis and Theo found out how much their bridge could hold.



BEECH CLASS

We have been very creative in art and have learnt about primary and secondary colours. We also learnt how to mix different combinations of colours to create the exact shade we wanted.



SNOW DAY

We had an absolutely fantastic snow day, working with our friends to make snow men, giant snow balls and snow angles!



They even made a new friend!

Snow Day was great fun, both for those who managed to make it in and those who were not able to get here. The children spent time outside together exploring all the many wonderful things that freshly fallen can bring, followed by some warming hot chocolate back in their classrooms.

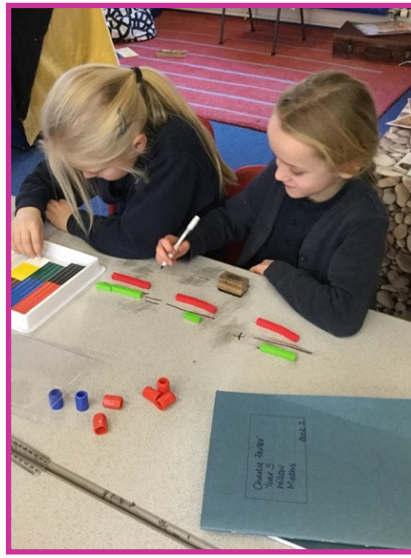
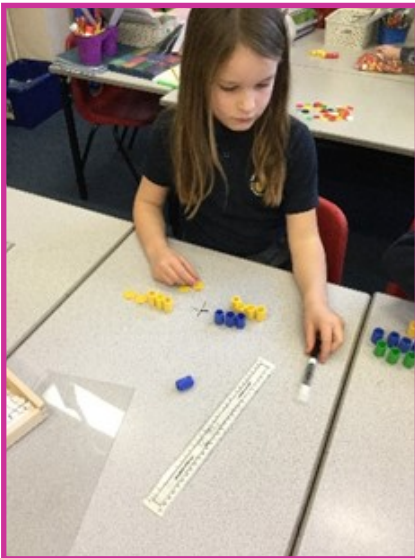


WILLOW CLASS

...Another brilliant term! We have been super busy with our learning and working hard to stretch our learning muscles. We have learnt lots of new skills and can't wait to continue our learning into term 4!

Marvellous Maths: This term we have been on the 'fraction train'. We have had a busy term of non-stop fractions! We have gone from disliking fractions to now loving them!! We can now identify, add and subtraction fractions. As well as, finding a fraction of a number and calculating equivalent fractions.

Go Willow Class!



Literacy: This term we have really enjoyed our class book; 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. We have very much enjoyed designing and creating our own chocolate bars...We came up with some funny names! We then wrote a letter to Mr Willy Wonka himself to persuade him to make our creation!



We used role play to help us with our writing... One person was Willy Wonka and the other person had to persuade him to buy their bar.

Willow Class (cont.d)

PE: We have been working on both our fitness and personal challenge this term. We have been completing a range of circuits, which has improved our physical stamina. We have also been learning the importance of warm ups and cool downs and have all taken responsibility when doing these with the class.



Super Science: We have loved learning about and exploring different rocks!

We have really enjoyed being rock detectives and producing our very rock file!

Mental Health Awareness Workshops

This term, we welcomed the 'Make Me Smile' team from Oxfordshire based charity **'One-Eighty'** into school to run a workshop about mental health & well-being with our Year 5 & 6 children. The workshop trained them to be Mental Health Awareness Ambassadors and this week, it was the turn of the Year 5 & 6 children to run a mental health awareness workshop for our Year 3 & 4 children. They did an amazing job!

Oliver Mulley in Year 4 said,

"It was great to see all the hard work that Year 5 & 6 had put into it. I know a lot more about mental health than I did. I didn't really know very much about it before."



Gwen from the Make Me Smile Team wrote, ***"The children were so knowledgeable and engaged really well with the session. It was clear that there is a wonderful school ethos around emotional well-being and the children discussed all the issues in such a sensitive, kind, and nurturing way. They were such a delight to work with."***

MAPLE & OAK CLASSES

We have had another busy term with lots of fun and learning. We have been focussing on our text 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and the children have produced some fantastic work, including newspaper reports which they have worked so hard on. We have also been researching and learning about 'The Mayans'; fascinating and enjoyed by all the children.



We spent some time looking and studying real newspapers, looking at their features and finding examples of different types of headlines including alliteration, rhyming and pun. The children came up with some great headlines of their own.



We took an amazing trip to Cadbury World, where we enjoyed a fantastic talk on *The Mayans*, which was fully interactive and helped us learn lots of new facts. Then we were lucky enough to have a tour of the chocolate factory finding out about it's history *and* the history of chocolate. To finish off our day we had a tour of the factory and, of course, some tasting!



In year 5 science we are looking at living things and their habitats. The children produced a cross section of a plant after looking and learning the scientific names of different parts.





Sibford Gower Sport

We have participated in a number of sporting events this term already. It has been so delightful to watch the children compete so brilliantly in all of these. The children's exemplary been noticed by others schools, who have commented on our good sportsmanship and teamwork.

KS2	KS1
Years 4 Football Tag Rugby Cross Country Multi skills Swimming	Dance festival Cross Country



Sports Leaders

We have had a very eventful term organising our lunchtime activities.

We have a great group of children volunteering to deliver and lead sport and craft activities. It has been a huge success so far and all the children (and members of staff) have joined in!

Last year the sports leaders asked for new playground equipment. A huge parcel achieved at the beginning of the year full of new skipping ropes, big snakes and ladders, shoot the hoops and many more!



UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
7 th February	Indoor Athletics	Years 5 and 6	Warriner School
1 st March	Hockey	Years 5 and 6	Bloxham School
7 th March	Multi Skills	Years 1 and 2 Boys	Warriner School
These events may change and more events may be added- you will be notified of any changes.			



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR !

We marked Chinese New Year across the school, welcoming in the Year of the Pig. We also discovered some curious facts about China.

Did you know that:

- Tickling was a form of torture in Ancient China
- The Giant panda is native to China and any pandas found in other countries are all loaned from China!
- 45 billion chopsticks are used in China every year.



SIBFORD GOWER
Endowed Primary School

**INDOOR
TABLE TOP
SALE**

1-3pm

Saturday 2nd March
Sibford Gower Primary School

Toys, Bric-a-brac, Books, DVD's, CD's,
Second hand school uniform (no non uniform clothes)

Please drop off all donations at school hall on
Friday 1st March between 3.00 – 5.00pm or
Saturday 2nd March 12noon onwards

Entrance Fee – 50p

DATES FROM OUR PTA

- ♥ Saturday 2nd March
1pm-3pm PTA Table Top Sale
- ♥ Tuesday 5th March
Rags2Riches collection
- ♥ Saturday 23rd March
PTA Race Night
- ♥ Tuesday 30th April
PTA Meeting in Key Stage One Staff Room
- ♥ Wednesday 10th July
Rags2Riches collection

RACE NIGHT

FULLY INTERACTIVE RACE NIGHT USING
WOODEN TRACK AND HORSES

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH

SIBFORD GOWER VILLAGE HALL

7.30PM

TICKETS £12 PER PERSON

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES HOME COOKED CURRY
BRING YOUR OWN DRINK

TICKETS FROM EMMA COVENTRY
ECM1979@HOTMAIL.COM



Proceeds to Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School PTA



After School Care

We have had a busy half-term at A.S.C and have been exploring different customs and celebrations.



Everyone discussed making New Year's resolutions, but declined to make any !

BURNS Night

We talked about Burns Night, why it is celebrated in Scotland and what traditional Burns Night foods we might try. Haggis was declined by all, but the children did enjoy a serving of Potato & Leek soup, followed by a dessert of shortbread with raspberries. Delicious!

Chinese New Year

We made Chinese New Year Cards and some of the older children cooked Chinese noodles with Carol for a special Chinese New Year tea. Most of the children enjoyed this.

Some of the children brought in their own chopsticks to eat with. We cracked open our Fortune cookies to find special messages inside.



Competition Time

Colouring a Chinese Dragon



	KS1	KS2
1st	Harry Spann	Jacob Herd

Valentine's Day Dancing Competition

1st	2nd	3rd
Harry Westwood	Matilda Cullen	Harry Allen

Decorating cakes on Valentine's Day



We have introduced a 'Cinema Night' at ASC, which we hope will become a regular event. The children brought in their PJ's and 'onsies' and snuggled down in front of the big screen with hot dogs and popcorn! The evening was a great success.

Have a lovely holiday !