



School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have been busy up to the very last day here at school, making the most of every opportunity.

Although everyone looks forward to the summer holiday, the end of the academic year always has a hint of sadness as we are inevitably saying good bye to someone.

Our wonderful Year 6 children are moving onto their new schools. Teachers Sally Layer and Rachel Kempson are also moving on to pastures new, as are Teaching Assistant Carol Fallon, and Juliette Glazebrook (though only in her role as dinner supervisor!). We are also losing Margaret Hobson who has been coming into school for many years to read with our children. We wish all these members of our school community well as they move onto their next thing!

We can look forward to the new academic year though, with many new pupils joining us, both in Acorn Class and other year groups, and to welcoming new teachers, Miss Roseblade and Miss Grantham.

We have had an amazing year in school, academically, creatively and on the sports field. Far too many exciting things have happened since the last newsletter for us to fit them all into this one, but we do regularly update the school website which can be found at www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk. It's always worth a look there to keep up with our news.

Have a lovely holiday.

With best wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher



Visit from a Paralympic Athlete



David Abrutat, paralympic athlete and holder of two cycling world records, came to spend the afternoon with us. We had a great time and all the children, from the youngest to the oldest, worked incredibly hard at the exercise challenge. Everyone finished the afternoon with a real sense that anything is possible if you persevere. (more photos on the school website)



WELL DONE!

These children achieved an impressive 100% attendance record for the year.



We held an assembly with library staff to launch the Summer Reading Challenge



Best Class attendance this year: Willow Class 97+%



Children return to school on Monday, 5th September.



Some of our Y5 children went out and about around the village on their bikes as they took part in Cycling Proficiency Lessons. Many thanks to trained instructors and parent volunteers, Mary-Ann Shaw, Mark Boyles, Lynn Lloyd-Thomas and Susan Mahoney for making this possible.

Acorn Class News



Parents and grandparents attended the Graduation Ceremony for the Reception Class of 2016. Mrs Heather was on hand with the tissues as we celebrated the achievements of our youngest pupils. A really delightful occasion.

We have had a super end to the year with our celebration of Bastille day on Thursday 14th July. In Acorn class we learnt how to say our names, how old we are and also some names of food we love to eat, for example *pain* (bread), *glace* (ice cream), *fromage* (cheese) and also everyone's favourite which was *chocolat* (chocolate). We looked on the internet for pictures of the 'Tricolor' flag and made our own. We listened to French café music and waved our flags too!



We have been learning about what makes a place special in RE and we took photographs of places around the school which were special to us. These ranged from the Orchard to Beech classroom.

We also used the iPad to take some selfies! This was tricky to do – looking at the camera and clicking the button!

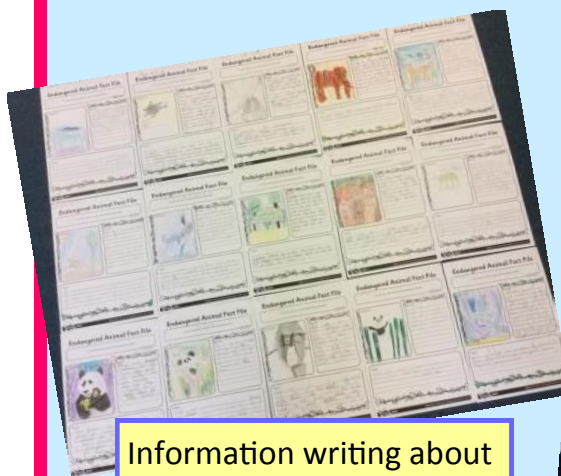




Beech Class News



This term Beech class have been doing lots of different learning to do with our topic of Sizzle and Shiver. We have found out about hot and cold weather, polar and arid climates, hot and cold animals and created a range of art exploring to hot and cold colours and landscapes. The children of Beech class wrote their own weather forecasts using mathematical and geographical language. We have created our own fact files about different hot and cold places including South Africa and looked at the different types of home, clothes, ways to travel, plants and animals in both arid and polar climates. We have also created life cycles of elephants and lions. The children have worked hard to expand their learning at home and brought in some wonderful things to show.



Information writing about different animals.



Artwork exploring hot and cold colours.

The children worked collaboratively in small groups to create life cycle diagrams for elephants & lions.

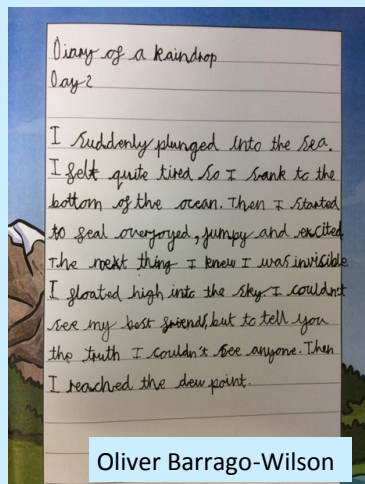


I have thoroughly enjoyed my last term of learning at Sibford Gower and the children have done so much wonderful learning! Thank you to all the children in my class for working so hard. I hope you have enjoyed the year!

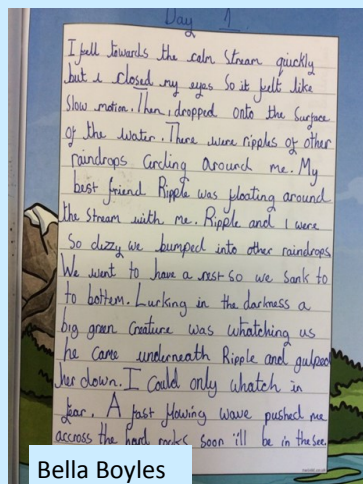
Willow Class News

This term we have been learning about water, focussing on the water cycle and rivers. In art we made a collage of tissue and cellophane to create a watery background for our topic book cover.

We then learnt about the water cycle. Continuing on from that, we wrote a diary entry using personification. The diary told the journey of a raindrop going through the water cycle.

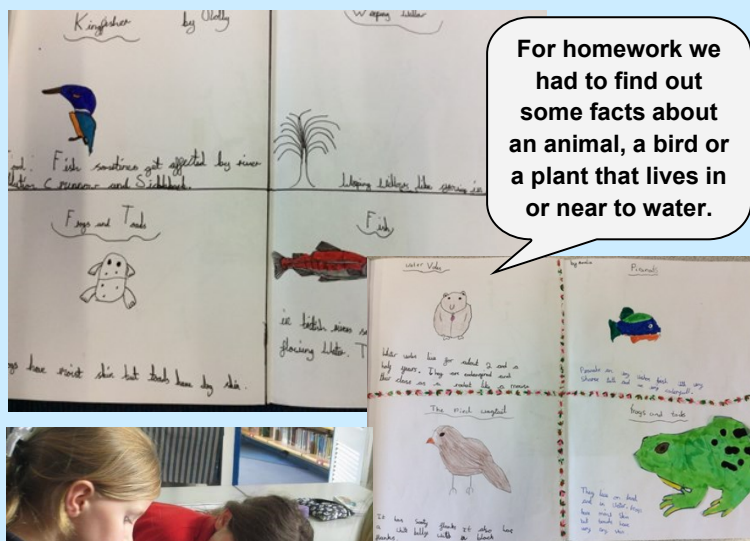
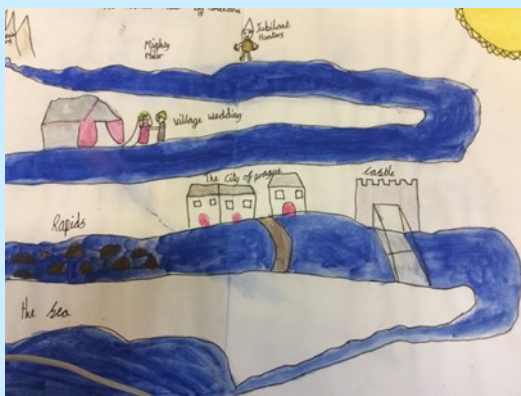


Oliver Barrago-Wilson



Bella Boyles

We listened to some music which tells the story of a river from source to sea called 'The Moldau Suite' by Smetana. The music reflects the scenery and the movement of the water on its course. We then drew a picture map of the river.



For homework we had to find out some facts about an animal, a bird or a plant that lives in or near to water.



This term, Willow have been learning all about light and shadows. We have had a great discussion about identifying light sources, learning that the moon is not in fact a light source but reflects light from the sun. We have investigated materials that reflect light and used an ICT programme to see how the position of mirrors reflects light at different angles. This week we have been learning about shadows and had a challenge of finding the best material to use for curtains to block as much light as possible. We've had a great year's learning, the raised beds are coming on brilliantly and hopefully we'll be able to harvest some of our vegetables at the start of the new school year.

This term has been a very busy one with an awful lot of learning, fun and hard work. Well done Willow Class, you have been a delight to teach and I will miss you all. Remember to always try your hardest and enjoy your time at primary school.



Maple Class News

The aim this term has been to get as much done as possible before the end of the year while juggling with preparations for the school production. Here are some of the highlights...

The Round House: We have literally been wrestling with the ancient art of wattling as we have started strengthening the structure of the walls. The building is really beginning to take shape now, and the next stage will be to put up the roof supports. This is something we will be continuing with after the summer, when we hope to be able to get hold of some thatching too...



Art & Design: The children in Maple Class have been working on a number of different art-based projects recently, including designing the cover of our Sibfords Trail Walking map, creating their vision of the landscape in the book *Holes*, creating a frieze based on the topic of water and, of course, creating props and backdrops for the school summer production!



Computer programming: I entrusted Maple Class with my life a few weeks ago, as the children wrote a programme for me, as a robot, to stand up from my chair, cross the room, go outside and cross the road. I survived! This then led to a fun session using Scratch in the computer room.



Water: It has been fantastic to see the amazing topic homework displays that the children have brought in to brighten up the classroom in the last week of term. A lot of work has gone into these, and the presentation of some of them is extremely innovative. Our trip to the Thames Water Sewage Treatment Works in Slough brought the year to a suitably glamorous close... not forgetting the Maple Class Cream Tea afternoon.





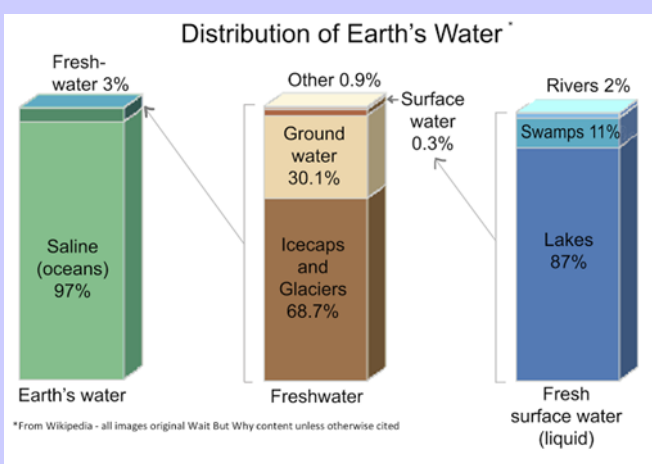
Oak Class News (by Mrs Collins)



After a tough time of SAT's for the Year 6's, I am amazed at how well Oak Class, with a flood of enthusiasm, sailed confidently through the calm and storm of the classroom, exploring and navigating their new project: the Wonder of Water.

We started looking at the atomic structure of water learning many amazing and mind-blowing things about atoms, microscopes, size, life, and how, under different conditions, water atoms change their structure from water to ice and to vapour. We made our own water molecules and built them to look like ice, vapour and water (see picture). We learnt that quite a lot of thought was needed to create the right kind of structure or layout for ice, vapour and water. Many, many questions were asked about atoms, particles, quarks, electrons and so on; some questions could be answered easily, some needed a bit of research and some questions could not be answered as science does not yet have the answers! No doubt there are a few potential scientists in Oak class who will make a new discovery and come back and tell us!

Next we studied exactly how much water there is on planet Earth. We made a big map of the earth and marked on all the main water landmarks, bays and seas (see picture). This required excellent research skills, accuracy, a steady hand and patience. Oak class achieved this and should now be experts at knowing where all the main water landmarks are in the world!



We took a fascinating look at the distribution of Earth's water (see graph) and were surprised to see that fresh water took up just 3% of all the water on the earth! We then, in ratio to the map we, made cubes that showed all the water on the earth, all the oceans and fresh water. We discovered that all of the water in the world makes a cube whose base takes up about a third of America! Why? Most of the water in the world is nothing more than a thin film on the Earth's surface; as one Year 6 boy said to me "it could be rethought as just an enormous salty puddle!"

Finally we studied The Great Barrier Reef and all the life that live there. Oak class got stuck in, worked hard and created their own barrier reef (see picture) that looks so striking and beautiful you could take a dive in there! Some of Oak class made a Power Point presentation about the very serious issue of acidic oceans (due to climate change) and litter causing the coral and wildlife to die.



Oak class have worked really well this term and have learnt key teamwork skills that they can take to secondary school and further on into the work place. The work has been fast paced and challenging with clear goals. Oak class have enjoyed achieving the class goals with the understanding that every little job is crucial to the grand whole. Well done Oak Class! Together, you have achieved some truly sensational work!

Sports Day 2016

Congregating on the Big Field for the morning events.



Ball Skills



Winning for my house.



Egg & Spoon



3-legged race



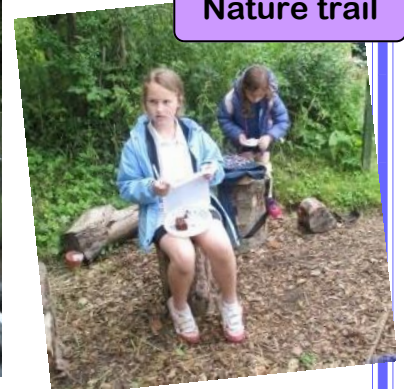
Splat the teacher!



Parents played their part.



Nature trail



Sports Day was great fun. The summer rain held off until just after the final race and there was a fantastic parent turn-out. The KS2 children had competed in track and field events in the morning to make way for things like the egg and spoon race, the three-legged race and the slow bike race in the afternoon, interspersed with some seriously competitive sprints, not to mention the dad's tug of war. The afternoon finished with a Summer Party over in the Orchard and on the mini-field, organised by our brilliant PTA. There was a coconut shy, Splat the Teacher (thanks for being such a great sport, Mr Cameron!), a nature trail and much more, including gorgeous cakes, ice-cream and Pimms and beer for the grown ups. A great finish to an amazing year of sporting achievement and participation at our school (have a look on the SPORT page for more details and photographs)!



The Rescue of Rhyme & Reason

The children of KS2 performed their amazing production of The Rescue of Rhyme and Reason over two evenings at the village hall. All the pupils played their part in making this happen. Those who preferred not to act took responsibility for prop construction, back drops, sound and lighting, and stage management. They learned a huge amount and collaborated brilliantly. There was some very confident acting and the event gave all of the pupils a chance to shine. Huge thanks to all the family members and friends who turned up to watch - the atmosphere in the hall was wonderful. Mr. Cameron did a brilliant job of coordinating all of this and thoroughly deserved the bottle of 'bubbly' presented after the final curtain fell.

On the stage & behind the scenes.



Sibford Gower success in National Memorial Arboretum's poetry competition

Sibford Gower has won a prize in a poetry competition launched by the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. KS2 children had to write a poem about a tree that became a poignant symbol of hope during the Battle of the Somme - one of the defining events of the First World War.

The hornbeam tree was the only one left standing in Delville Wood, in Longueval, northern France, after the area was flattened during two months of heavy fighting, nearly 100 years ago.

Sibford Gower won a commemorative hornbeam sapling and plaque, and a Royal British Legion *Remember the Battle of the Somme 1916-2016* toolkit designed to help schools hold their own remembrance services.

Sarah Montgomery, Managing Director of the Arboretum, said: "The poetry competition was one of many activities and events that we are organising and the competition clearly captured the imagination of pupils. We were very impressed by the high quality of entries, including from Sibford Gower."

The National Memorial Arboretum is running a five-month programme of events for people of all ages to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. For details, log on to www.thenma.org.uk/somme100.



Barney Wood's entry won us the tree.

We are delighted to be able to share the news that all of Keith Allen's music students have passed their Grade examinations.

Clarinet: Amadea, Eve, Thea, Tommy & Max,

Saxophone: Freddie

Flute: Harold

Well done all of you.

Huge thanks also to the 10 pupils in the after-school choir who represented their school with splendid singing at Celebration for HM The Queen 90th birthday on Sunday 12 June at Holy Trinity Church.

Mr Allen will be leading an assembly on 9th September 2016 in the hope that we can inspire more pupils from Y3 upwards to take the opportunity to learn with him.

He will also be leading a 'hands on' session for both pupils and parents at 3pm on Wednesday 14th September. All are welcome to come along for this.



Maple Class finished the year in style with a visit to Slough Sewage Works.



Well done to Mrs Perkins and all the members of her Yarn Bombing Club. Your work is beautiful!

BONNE FÊTE!



ON THURSDAY 14TH JULY THE WHOLE SCHOOL GATHERED TO CELEBRATE BASTILLE DAY. THE CHILDREN TOOK PART IN FIVE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES CELEBRATING THE FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE. YEAR 6 STEPPED 'UP TO THE PLATE' TO PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS IN OUR CAFE AND THE SUNSHINE EVEN MADE AN APPEARANCE! WHAT A SUPER AFTERNOON! THANKS TO ALL THE PUPILS AND STAFF FOR MAKING OUR 'FÊTE' A TRULY WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!

29 JUL 2003

You must leave NZ before expiry of your permit or leave removal



WOMBAT NEWS

From the youngest to the oldest, our Wombats have done a brilliant job this year ensuring that pupil voice is heard.



Lots of our School Council's Grot Spots have been sorted out over the course of the year; the Old School library has a new table and chairs and looks sooooo much better now it has been re-carpeted, the playground fence has been replaced and the outdoor climbing equipment has been fixed. The water fountain has been fixed too.

The council have managed to meet fairly regularly throughout the year with the children chairing the meetings, taking minutes, representing all the children in the school and making decisions about things we need to buy and do. They have also led School Council assemblies, sharing decisions and collecting ideas from the other children.

Now that the fence has been replaced, they have been able to buy a whole load of playground equipment designed to encourage all our children to be active and healthy.

The SMARTIES fund raiser, organised by our PTA, raised over



£ 300—amazing! Well done to all of the many children who took part. A lot of chores must have been done to get to this impressive total! The Wombats have decided to wait until early in September to decide how to spend this when their new committee has been formed.

What it's like to be a Wombat—by Gemma and Harold

Being a Wombat is a particularly special job because of the responsibility of looking after our school. We take in ideas from all of the children and try to make the school a better place! We do things like get new P.E equipment and replacing broken or maybe just ugly parts of our school. We make our school a nice place to learn in and make people want to be here.

Goodbye to Miss Kempson and Mrs Layer



Goodbye to Mrs Fallon

Goodbye to Y6



Year 6 entertained us with a very funny performance recounting their 'memories' of Sibford Gower from a distance of 84 years.

Huge thanks to Mrs Perkins and the leading role she took in organising all of this. A fond farewell and our best wishes to all of you.

Have a wonderful summer!