



July 2021

# SCHOOL NEWS

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

Dear Parents & Carers,

We come to the end of what has been an extraordinary academic year. Although the year has brought many challenges for us all, and in many aspects of our lives, there have been many positive things too. I could not be more proud of all the staff at school. They have pulled together brilliantly, working very hard to provide strong learning opportunities and learning support for the children, and to try and maintain a sense of continuity and connection with school during periods of closure. We have felt strongly supported by parents too. Your understanding, cooperative working with us and your messages of support, whether verbally at the school gate or in writing, have really buoyed staff up throughout. So thank you.

We don't yet know what the next academic year will bring as regards the pandemic, although we hope to begin the Autumn term as normally as possible and the plan to remove the requirement for 'bubbles' really supports this. We can use the school hall for lunches, assemblies and P.E lessons and the children can all play together once more.

As we return in September though, we are going to continue with the current drop-off and pick-up procedures, with parents handing their children into our care at the school gate and children entering their classrooms through a particular route. These routines have supported a much more positive start to the school day for the children, who have been able to settle to learning activities as soon as they arrive in their classrooms. Teachers and parents also report that they have felt more in contact with each other through the daily greetings at the school gate. Hopefully, this will also mean that everyone knows how to start the new term without us having to be in touch with you during the holiday, regardless of any unforeseen changes to government guidance at the end of the holiday period. The first week of term will have a slightly different routine for our new Acorn children, including our very little Acorn nursery children. We are communicating with the parents of those children separately about this.

This last half-term has seen all sorts of lovely things going on for the children in school. Forest School is always a joy in the summer months and, as you will see in the newsletter, every child, from Reception to Year 6, has had some experience of Forest School this term whether through weekly sessions or whole Forest School days. Sports Day was a success, even though we were sad that parents could not attend. Oak Class have been enjoying the outdoor rehearsals of their end of term production, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and some children have discovered hitherto unrecognised talents in singing, acting and comedy.

Academic learning has gone really well too. Although we know there is still work to be done, the vast majority of children met their learning targets and their attitude to learning and engagement in lessons continues to be really impressive. They really all are wonderful children, and a credit to their families.

On behalf of all the staff here at our lovely school, I wish you all a safe and happy summer holiday.

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)



Best Class Attendance this half term:

**Willow Class 98%**



Children return to  
school on Friday 3rd  
September 2021



# ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term our topic has been 'Wriggle and Crawl' and we have had so much fun exploring our topic. We have really enjoyed exploring the tiny world of bugs and minibeasts and exploring our class book, 'Wild', together and a lot more besides. Read on to find out more!

The world of bugs and minibeasts has been so interesting! We have found out so much and the improving weather has meant the little Acorns have been able to do so much more of their learning outside in the sunshine. We had great fun exploring with our magnifying glasses finding and then identifying bugs in our environment. We also had a fantastic time at the pond - our clipboards made us feel like very important naturalists - sketching and investigating what we could see. As part of our forest school sessions, the children had great fun creating their own camouflage bugs and placing them in the outdoor environment. Inside we have also been crafty creating our own ants, can you see what we used to make them?



## Sports Week

We had a super Sports Week and enjoyed lots of different activities. We went on a yoga adventure with Mrs Perkins and the Yoga Ogre and learned all about how to keep healthy with Harold the Giraffe, we learned how we could 'eat a rainbow' and even had a taste of some delicious fruit kebabs.





### Our wonderful bodies!

This term, in our PSHE lessons with Harold the Giraffe, we have been looking at lots of ways that we can make sure our bodies stay healthy. These discussions then ignited a curiosity in the children who wanted to find out more about how our bodies work to keep us healthy and what happens to all the good (and maybe not so good) food that we put in our bodies. Well did you know that by using a few breakfast items, some grapefruit squash, a tea towel and a pair of your (best) tights you can make your very own human digestive system?



First, 'eat' your breakfast, using your molars and incisors, wash it down with a drink!



Next, let it slosh around in your stomach with some stomach acid to break it down further.



Tights time! The food goes into your small intestine where the juices help get all the good things from the food and send them round to the rest of your body.



The tea towel was our large intestine where water and salts are absorbed into the body and waste removed.

Uh oh! I think we all know what happens now! Time to 'make a poo' - the little Acorns thought this was hilarious but it was a great, visual way to show what happens in our bodies when we eat!

### Learning, learning everywhere!

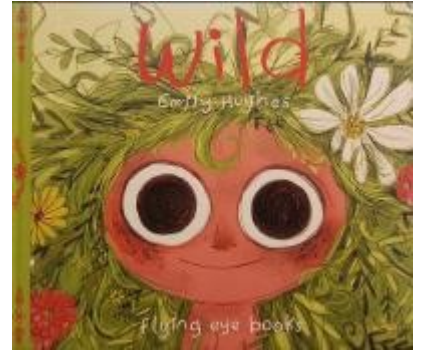
We are so lucky in Acorn Class to have so many wonderful ways to learn in our classroom both inside and out. We have had great fun this term exploring our learning environment and the new equipment in our outdoor area has been a big hit; we have loved inventing number games on our 'maths wall' and exploring capacity through water play. Inside we have practised our spellings independently with our magnetic letters, working together on our class jigsaw and making cards and books in our writing area.



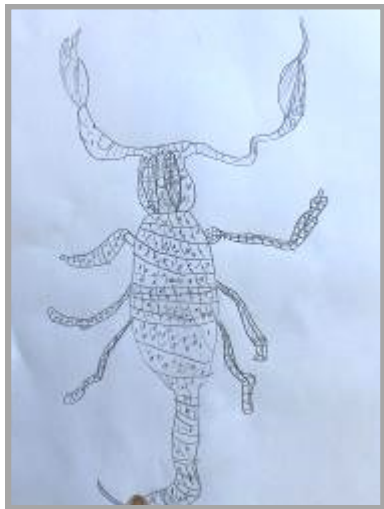


## Beech Class News

Our class book this term has been Wild by Emily Hughes. We absolutely loved making predictions and acting out parts of the story. We created our own version in a mini book format and we found out allsorts of things as we researched bears .



In art we have created some fantastic observational line drawings of insects. Our art work was so wonderful that some of it even appeared in the Sibford Scene.



We have worked really hard in PE this term and competed in the inter school pentathlon and sports day. We have all been developing our athletics skills and have enjoyed seeing ourselves improve our throwing, jumping and running.



We have also been lucky enough to do yoga with Mrs Perkins which we all really enjoyed!





We all got very excited about England's chances in the Euros and learnt how to perform "It's coming home" using body percussion!

We enjoyed creating chalk drawings of the insects we found as part of our bug hunt.



We enjoyed going on bug hunts around our school grounds and the village. We then used magnifying glasses and non fiction books to be able to identify what we had found. We found a beautiful newt by the side of the village pond!

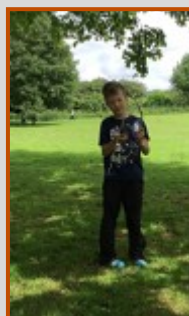




# Willow Class News

**What a year it has been!** We have faced many challenges this year both personally and nationally. As a teacher, I could not be more proud of each one of the children in my class. Although we had a few bumps in our Willow Class journey, we have still had an amazing year and accomplished many wonderful things. The children have continued to be motivated, engaged with all areas of learning and experiences at school and, perhaps most importantly, have had a smile on their faces throughout.

## Forest School Day



### Quotes from our children

*Thomas- "BEST DAY EVER!"*

*Finley- "I really enjoyed Forest School. I loved making my bow and arrow"*

*Verity- "I enjoyed making dens and magic wands- it was so cool"*

*Amber- "I loved making dens and using natural materials"*

*Millie- "I really enjoyed making bug houses- we had so many bugs come to visit"*

*Henry- "I loved making my bow and arrow and learning the knots"*





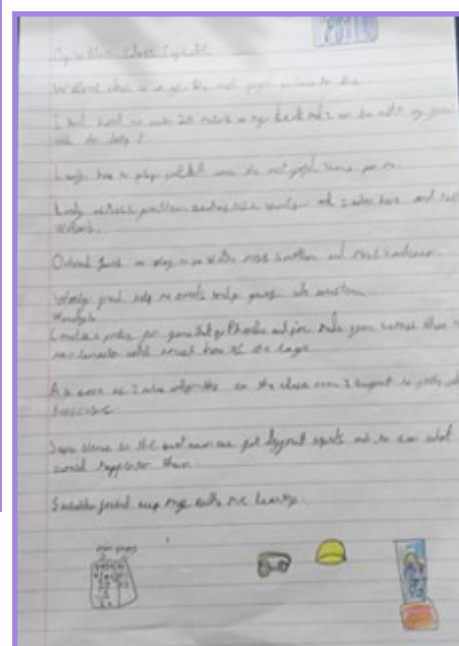
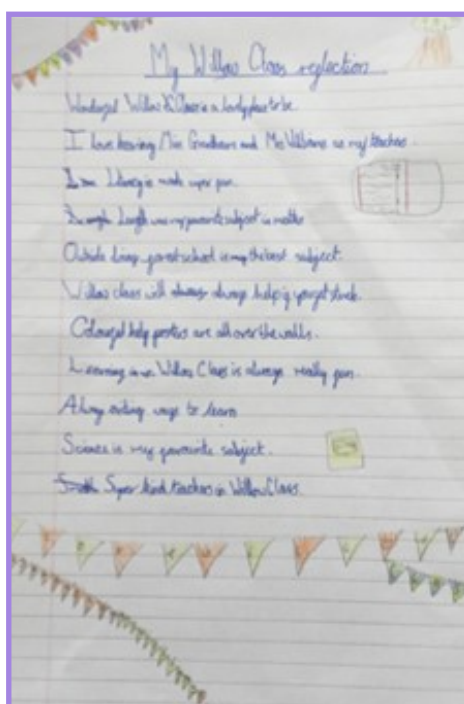
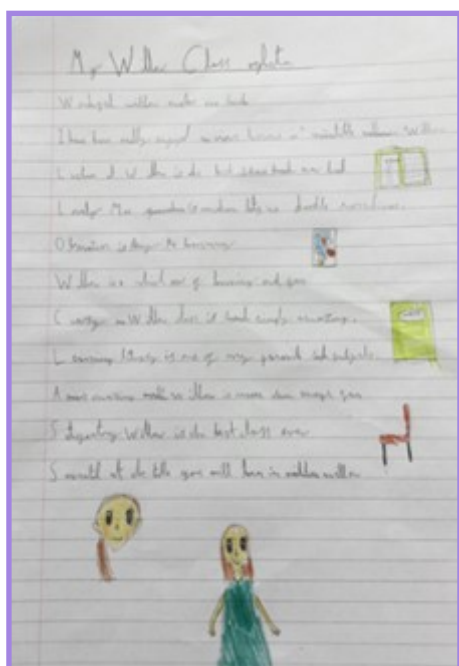
## Personal Survival

Swimming has been a huge success this term. The children have really enjoyed their sessions and have come so far with their swimming skills in such a short space of time. As you are aware, our last session was on 'Personal Survival'. The children had to swim in their clothing. They were taught different techniques and strategies to support them in the water if they were to ever fall in or see someone in need. They were brilliant and took on this challenge with a smile!



## Willow Class Poems

To end our wonderful year, we have been reflecting on our favourite memories, moments, lessons and friendships. The children created the most amazing and thoughtful poems about their time in Willow Class. It was so lovely to hear their stories and all about their favourite times (along with many giggles!)





# Oak Class News

What an amazing term 6 we have had in Oak and it has flown by. It has been such a joy to see all the children learning and enjoying their last term this year, especially the year 6.  
I am so very proud of them all.

## Bikeability

Earlier in the term, the children enjoyed taking part in their Bikeability course. They all showed so much enthusiasm and the instructor said what a delightful class they were. It was so lovely for them all to have passed with flying colours.



## Shakespeare Sock Puppets

The children researched which Shakespeare character they wanted to base their puppet on. They then sketched a design and made a list of materials. The children used a variety of stitches to secure, join and embroidery, as well as creating a structure onto which their puppet was formed. They made their own choices in fabrics, design and embellishments, each creating a unique character. They look amazing.



## Forest School

Children in Oak had a whole Forest School Day and they absolutely loved it. There was so much laughter, learning and fun – what a treat it was for all.







We all just love  
Forest School.





# Sports Day at Sibford Gower



The Heather Cup went to Yellow House and was accepted by our youngest and oldest yellow house members, Scarlett and William.

Even though our families couldn't join us, we had so much fun on Sports Day. We moved the event from the afternoon to the morning so things were a bit cooler, but still really appreciated the refreshing ice lollies provided by our fabulous PTA at the end of the morning.



By unanimous decision, the Sue Rowley Cup for Sportsmanship went to Andrew R



Special thanks to Miss Grantham and our Sports Leaders





Definitely worth a special mention...

Katie Parker gained her Grade 1 in violin. Very well done!

### Born Free's 2021 Youth Wildlife Filmmaker and Photographer of the Year competition



Our very own **Henry B.** of Willow Class gained 1st place recognition in the 11 and under category of the **national** competition for his wonderful sequence of photographs titled,  
**MAGICAL MOTHS AND BUTTERFLY HEAVEN.**

The judges said,

"He has executed his concept well with sensibility, showing their delicate beauty. I love the diversity of the species represented, the colours, and the backgrounds.

The photos truly convey the magic of butterflies and moths as indicated in the title, and also connect to their habitat. I also love his approach, searching for these butterflies in his local village, which demonstrates his curiosity, sense of observation, and patience." What an achievement!

### The Cameron Cullen Cup

The Cameron Cullen Cup for Endeavour was established by the parents of ex-pupil, Cameron Cullen.

This year, by unanimous agreement in school, the cup is awarded to Year 6 pupil, Harry Westwood.

Harry also receives a generous book token.

Very well deserved!



### Rugby Recognition

Andrew R. has been a junior member at Chipping Norton Rugby club since he was 5 and has been awarded the Coaches Player of the 20/21 season for (the coaches said) 'being a joy to coach and works hard to develop his skills in every aspect of the game.'

This reflects our experience of Andrew in school too and is definitely worth a special mention.

Well done, Andrew!



Thanks to an extraordinary coincidence involving flight paths and their grandmother's windows, Aura and Auden of Beech Class were able to bring in the bodies of a kingfisher and a kestrel to show their friends. Although it was a shame that these beautiful creatures had died, these were two incredible opportunities for the children to see the birds close up and at first hand. The whole class found this incredibly interesting. It provided some real 'awe & wonder' and made a hugely valuable contribution to the children's learning in science about the natural world.



Thank you so much, Aura & Auden!



Dear Parents and Carers

Another year comes to an end!

We are at a time to thank people and to wish very good fortune to those who are leaving our school.

Firstly we ought to thank all of the staff who have worked so hard throughout this year to teach our children and to support their education despite the problems and difficulties that the pandemic has presented us with. Thanks also to you for your continued support and encouragement, and to all of our pupils for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to add my personal thanks to the Governors for all that they continue to do to help our school.

I am sure that you will all join me in wishing all of those who are leaving the school very good luck in their futures and know that they will always have fond memories of their time at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School.

Wishing you all safe and relaxing summers.

Paul Manthorpe

Chair of Governors

## A message from our Chair of Governors

## Magnificent Musicians



Throughout the pandemic, Keith Allen's music students have been continuing their lessons with him, and practising, practising, practising. All their hard work has paid off and each and everyone of them achieved a creditable result in their recent Music Grade examinations. These were taken through Trinity College, London and the children had to travel into Birmingham for the examination. They kept their nerve, and we are very proud of them.

Olivia: Flute, Grade 3, Merit Pass, James: Clarinet, Grade 2, Merit Pass, Andrew: Flute, Initial Grade, Distinction Pass, Oliver: Clarinet, Grade 3, Merit Pass, Inca: Clarinet, Grade 1, Distinction pass, Rinan: Clarinet, Grade 3, Merit Pass, Charlie: Clarinet, Grade 3, Pass, Jacob: Clarinet, Grade 4, Merit Pass, William: Saxophone, Grade 4, Merit Pass.

**Many thanks, Mr Allen, for all that you do for our children and thus our school.**



# Oak Class Summer Performance

The children in Oak Class impressed us all with their end of year production of a musical version of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The children performed this twice, first for the children and staff at school and then to parents as a wonderful end of year finale.

It was an excellent production in a beautiful setting and it seems very likely that some of the children discovered a hitherto unknown talent for, and pleasure in, performing before a live audience that we hope they will carry with them. Huge thanks to Mr Cameron for making this possible with his creativity and commitment to the Performing Arts, hours of time given freely, and his love for our school and our children. You bring so much to us! Thanks also to Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Downes for putting up with him! And for everything else you did in support of the play.



You can find lots more pictures on the school web site at  
<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/photo-gallery.html>





## Goodbye to Year 6



It is with real sadness that we say farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children. Despite the complications of lockdown, this year group have had a very successful year academically with 95% of the children reaching the expected level in reading, writing and maths combined, and an impressive 42% exceeding the expected level in all three subjects.

They really are a tremendous group of young people, bright, funny, supportive of each other, hard-working, respectful, inquisitive, courageous and creative. We really will miss each and every one of them and we wish them every success in the next stage of their educational journey.



## Reception Graduation

The Graduation ceremony for our Acorn Class Reception children is one of the highlights of the year. This involves mortar boards and special certificates and marks the children's transition from Early Years into Year 1. It is a very simple, but really joyful event, and is a lovely opportunity for us to celebrate the privilege of spending time with these wonderful children with parents and carers.

**Hurray for the Reception children!** And a big thankyou to Mrs Blake, Mrs Evans, Mrs Perkins and Mrs Coffey for making their time in Acorn Class so special.



The NHS Big Tea Day made a fabulous £219.54. This included a generous donation of £60 from Freshstart. Thank you for all your support in making this day special.

To see some more pictures from the day, please look on the school website Gallery pages

(scroll down under Sports Day!)

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/whole-school-events---more-photos.html>

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAY  
EVERYONE**