



July 2023

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

The year seems to have whizzed by, perhaps because every week has been so busy here, right up to the very end of term!

We will all be sorry to say good-bye to our much-loved Year 6 children. It has been an absolute pleasure to have them as part of our school and we really will miss them. However, they are ready to move on from us as they continue their educational journey and we wish them all the very best as they start at secondary school in September. This transition means that we will be saying good bye to some of our parents too and I would like to thank those parents, on behalf of all staff here, for the contributions they have made during their time as members of the school community. We will miss you too!

It is always a pleasure to welcome the new children into Reception. The success of our nursery provision means that many of our new Reception intake are already well settled into Acorn Class. We will have a few new faces and I know that our current parents will welcome any new parents as their children join the school. We are saying goodbye to two members of our staff team. Mrs Wright has been working as an SEN teaching assistant in Willow Class. That role has come to an end but she remains an active member of the PTA and part of school community. Mrs Gardner has been working as our Sports mentor but is now changing her role. We do hope we will be able to welcome her back into school in a supporting role from time to time. In other staff changes, Miss Keogh will be continue as Beech Class teacher, having accepted a permanent position on our staff. Miss Reeves, who the children know from her work with Freshstart, will be joining us as a lunchtime supervisor and part time teaching assistant.

I need to remind you that there is a small change to the school timetable next year. Our school day will continue to begin at **8:40 am** every morning when should be at the school gate ready to go into class. However, the day will now end at **3:10pm**, after which time we will bring the children out to meet you. This is in keeping with government expectations about the number of hours pupils should spend on school premises. If your child travels on the School Bus, you do need to be aware that their afternoon schedule will be running ten minutes later.

For now though, on behalf of all the staff here, I want to thank you all for your support during the academic year. We wish you all a wonderful summer holiday.

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher



Remember! The children return to school on Tuesday 5th September

Best Class Attendance this half term:



BEECH 98.35%

It was such a pleasure to invite families into school to join us for the Graduation Ceremony of our lovely Reception children. This marks the end of their time in early years and their readiness to move onto Year One where they begin learning within the National Curriculum. Well done all of you! We are so very proud of all that you have achieved!

ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term has been full of adventures in Acorn Class. We've been enjoying the (mostly) favourable weather outside in our own outdoor spaces at school and also further afield on our trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, we've also had lots fun inside playing and learning together and our oldest Acorns have started to think about the next stage of their learning journey as they move on to Beech Class.



Sports Week

We had a wonderful Sports Week this year. We had great fun with Jumping Jacks gymnastics, practising our balancing skills, jumping and even trying backwards rolls! We had a fantastic dance session with Danielle who taught us a dance to Acorn favourite 'The Lion King' and we also did some yoga with Mrs Perkins, following the story of The Yoga Ogre. The children had a great football session too with guest stars Peter and Olly!

This is what some of the children in Acorn had to say about Sports Week:

"I liked doing backward rolls"

"I like kicking the ball around in football"

"I like wiggling by body in dance"

"I like skipping when you jump over the rope"

Marvellous Maths

The children have been brilliant number explorers this term! We have looked at First, Then and Now stories for addition and subtraction. You can practise these at home too - "FIRST we had 5 cakes, THEN I ate 2 of them so NOW we have 3 cakes".

We have also been exploring the concept of odd and even numbers and have been exploring this in different ways, using various different methods to help the children embed the idea.

Each morning we do our 'morning jobs' - part of which involves counting to see how many children are in Acorn Class that day. We have now started to record this number in different ways, using tally charts and part part whole models.



Super Space

We had a wonderful week exploring all things 'Out of This World'! Using our super inflatable planets and various other classroom items we created the Solar System complete with Asteroid Belt and then some children took this into their play, creating the system in different ways.





Learning through Play

Learning through play is so important in Acorn Class. Taking the lead from the children is so important to our practise and we all reap the benefits of this approach! This term the children have been inspired by our various themes and have taken their learning in different directions.

Construction has been a big hit this term with the children engaging in lots of building - towers have been very popular, especially with our Nursery children. We have also seen lots of fabulous creations in our making area including lots of aliens and kites!

Role play and mark making in our Message Centre continue to be super popular activities, we've all visited the Acorn Hair Salon (conveniently often combined with a trip to the Aquarium) and the children have been inspired by our maths activities with tally marks proving very popular!

Cotswold Wildlife Park

We had a wonderful time at The Cotswold Wildlife Park. So much awe and wonder at the amazing animals we have seen in books and on television but actually there, in front of us.

We all enjoyed the train and of course, our ice cream treat!

We were so proud of all of our Acorns - for many of them it was their first school trip and they all did so well!



And Finally...

It's not "Goodbye, simply Adeiu!" to our Reception Acorn 'Graduates'.

We had a lovely, albeit very windy, graduation ceremony to celebrate the children completing their time in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

We have had a wonderful time together and look forward to following the children's Year 1 adventures in Beech Class.

Beech Class Newsletter Summer Term

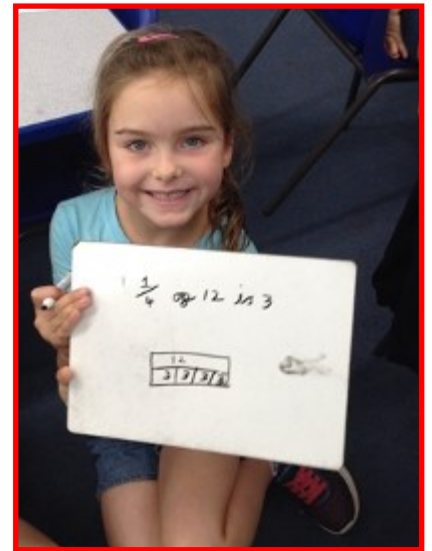
Forest School: Den building and making potions. Some children were heard using their potion as special ink to write on the trees while another was heard testing their 'sample' on the plants. What a magical experience it was!



DT: As part of our Design and Technology project, making a smoothie, we had a fruit tasting session. We chopped fruit and enjoyed tasting them and evaluating afterwards. Lots of the children tried something new – which was a wonderful experience.! We had watermelon, pomegranates, mangos, bananas, apples, plums and mandarins.



Maths: Fractions: We learned how to recognise a quarter of a shape or object. Year 2 then progressed to find a fraction of a quantity. They represented this in a range of ways.



Year 1 playing a place value to 100 game and recording their scores on a tally chart!
Great teamwork in this session.



Science: In Science, we learned about the life cycle of a frog. We took a trip down to the local pond to see what we could find.
We found some lively tadpoles!



As part of Sport's week, we had a dance workshop!
We performed a dance to the soundtrack of 'Encanto'. This went down very well!



Willow Class Newsletter

What a wonderful year it has been! It has been full of learning, excitement, achievements and fun. The children have blossomed and grown in confidence both academically and emotionally. They have all achieved many personal targets and I am extremely proud of them all. **We have loved our last term together as a class.**



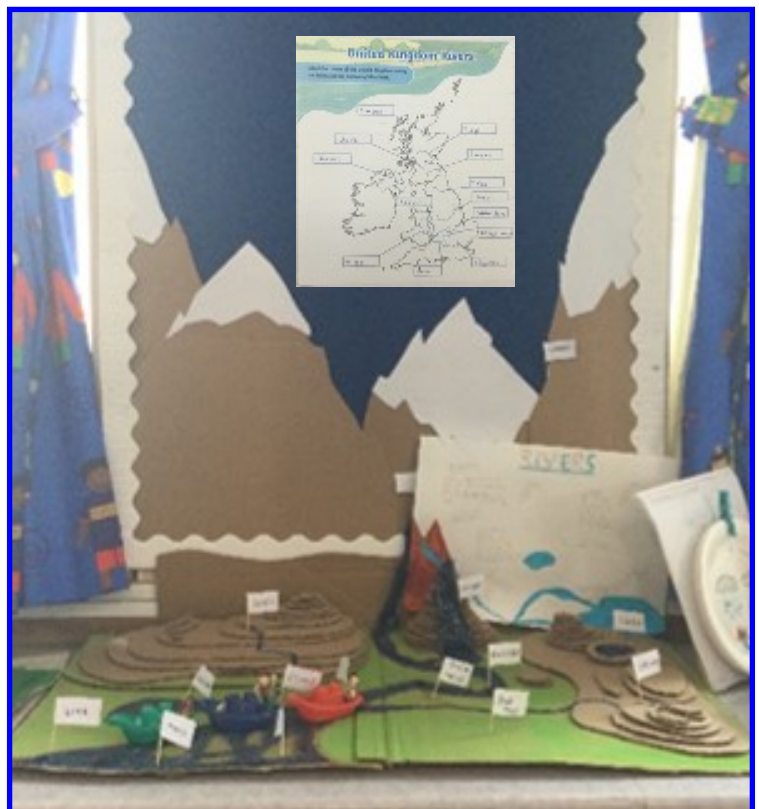
We have very much enjoyed our homework celebrations. I was so impressed by the effort, thought, creativity and care that went into the children's homework.

I am one proud teacher.



Rivers, Mountains and Oceans

We have really enjoyed our theme this term and have produced some amazing work. The children have been animated and enthusiastic throughout!

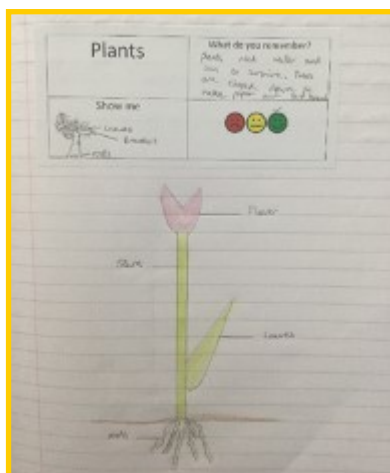




Science has been really interesting this term. We have explored electricity, plants and trees. We now know how to tell the age of a tree without looking at the rings of a chopped down tree!



We made detailed studies from nature.



RIDING TALENT

We are all so proud of Verity, who has qualified as a member of the North & West British Dressage Team.



Acro dance Starlet

Cecily Gordon has secured a place on the Acro-dance Recreational Team of the Banbury-based 'School for Stars' and now represents the dance school in competitions. Acro dance is a style of dance that combines classical dance technique with precision acrobatic elements.

<https://www.facebook.com/>

MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

Three of our pupils passed their grade exams for woodwind, awarded by Trinity College, London.

Andrew Rutledge attained Merit, Grade 3 Flute

Martha Brace attained Merit, Initial exam, Clarinet

Inca Watkins attained Grade 4, Clarinet

VERY WELL DONE!

Tennis Team Player

Harry Davies was successful in getting into the Oxfordshire County Under 8's Tennis squad

<https://tennisoxfordshire.co.uk/>



Oak Class News

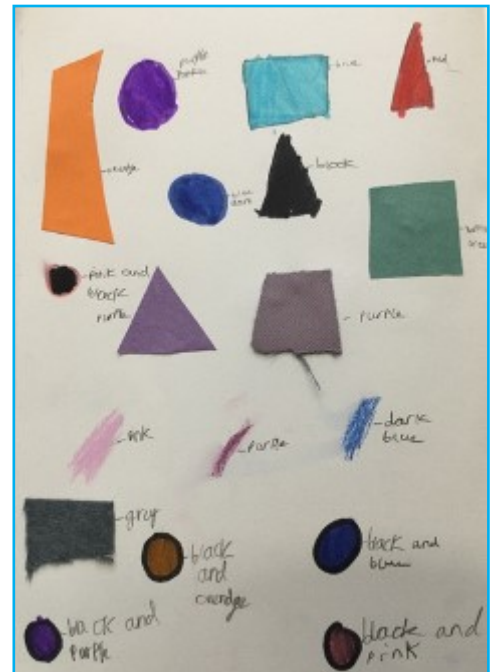
Art

This term, our theme has been 'Brave Colour'.

In this unit the children have been able to explore colour in a very personal and intuitive way. They have taken inspiration from artists who use colour and light to create installations.

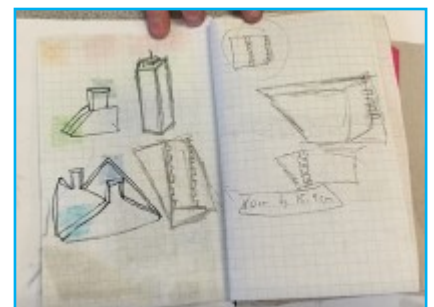
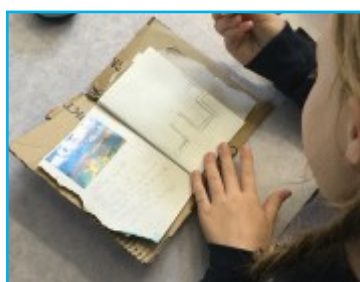
We started by making a 'Brave Colour' project sketchbook. The children personalised these and used them throughout the project.

The children started making visual notes within their sketchbook to jot down their thoughts after studying the work of Paul Klee.



Our sculptural challenge was 'Colourful Walls' and we looked at some of the work by Krijn de Koning. The children collected colours that they liked and recorded them. They then had to think about their sculpture.

What size would it be? Who was their audience?, Would they have holes? And other questions. They also had to decide the location and context of their finished piece. They drew a plan in their sketchbooks and embarked on their chosen project.



The final stage involved the children transforming their plans into 3D sculptures in the style of Krijn de Koning .



Oak Science: This term, our focus has been on the key concepts of evolution and inheritance in animal species, exploring what these terms mean and what the differences are between them. We learned about some of Charles Darwin's work during his voyage on HMS Beagle to the Galápagos Islands, and the children did some excellent research on some of the species which are unique to the islands, focussing on how they have evolved to their habitats. We watched a fascinating documentary about the Galápagos Islands, including a team quiz about some of the facts we learned about the species.

Our practical work involved a fair test of which equipment made the best "beak" to pick up a range of "food" items. We looked at what makes a fair test, which variables remained the same and which changed. The children made predictions about which "beaks" would be the most effective and we then discussed this in the context of evolution, before testing them out.



Our range of "beaks" and "food"



A successful "beak"



Some of the "food" was quite tricky to pick up...



Everyone had their favourite "beak".
Clothes pegs were popular.

As always, Oak Class are very curious and deep-thinking scientists and we have had some great discussions on the topic of evolution and inheritance. We will conclude our topic with a look at fossils – how they are made and what we can find out from them.

Spitfire Visit

Miss Blake's father is a Spitfire enthusiast. A few weeks after a fly past in the sky in a real spitfire, he brought a scale model of a Spitfire that he has made into school, to share with the children.

This was particularly exciting for the children in Oak Class who have been learning about World War 2 this year. The model was made to a scale of 1:12 and is exactly half the size of a real Spitfire. Although, the model can't fly, the cockpit was big enough for our youngest children to fit inside, which was so exciting!

We were all very impressed! Thank you so much, Mr Blake!



To see some more photos, please look on the Gallery pages on the school website <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/whole-school-events---more-photos.html>



Earlier in the year, some of the children spent some time weeding and planting out our raised beds. This 'Digging for Victory' project was linked to their learning about World War 2.

We can now see the fruits of their labour, quite literally. As well as potatoes, the children have successfully grown rhubarb, strawberries, raspberries and other crops.

And we have a very beautiful poppy patch!



Sports Newsletter- Summer Term 2023

We are delighted to announce that we,
Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School have achieved the
School Games **GOLD** Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year.
This will be our fourth year running to have been awarded **GOLD**.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With a total of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil a detailed criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and **we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.**

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers also, we could not run events and clubs without your support and time- thank you!



Youth Sports Trust

We are hoping to remain at **GOLD** for the Youth Sports

Trust award also. We are awaiting a visit to confirm our application.

We have been **GOLD** for the last few years so fingers crossed- we will keep you updated!



Our Sports Leaders do an amazing job of organising and running active learning for the other children at lunch time. They have to apply for their positions, train with Miss Grantham and sort schedules for their sessions. Although children of all ages enjoy participating in these, it is particularly positive for our younger children. Well done Sports Leaders, for being excellent role models!

Sports Week- What a success!

Monday 26th June - Jumping Jacks Gymnastics workshops - all classes

Wednesday 28th June - Online Yoga sessions, Active Blasts
(Get Set 4 PE)

Thursday 29th June - Special Assembly with ex-pro Kick Boxer

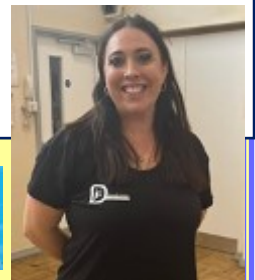
Friday 30th June - Dance Sessions for all classes with DBATA
Dance School and Yoga for Acorn & Beech



<https://daniellebuickacademy.co.uk/>

"For anyone wishing to start dancing will receive a 10% discount off their first months direct debit (*before summer holiday- Sibford Gower students only*)"

Danielle x



[←](#)
[Aaron Ridley](#)
[Q](#)

Yesterday I was invited to speak at a school to the pupils about sport and mental well-being.

The fact this is being discussed in schools is amazing. Every kid in the room was glued to what I was saying, listening intently and had some amazing things to say afterwards, especially around values!

It makes me proud and grateful to be able to inspire and impact developing minds.





As the oldest & youngest in Yellow House, Crystal and Emilia received the Heather Cup.

Sports Day 2023

This was such a lovely afternoon! After a very competitive morning of track and field events, the afternoon was more relaxed with things like egg & spoon, sack and slow bike races. It was wonderful to welcome parents, grandparents, siblings and friends to join us for one of our favourite annual events.

The children were competitive but very sporting and everyone had fun. Huge thanks to our Sports Leaders, to all the staff, especially, Miss Grantham for organising the event, Well done to the children of YELLOW HOUSE, this year's winners of the Heather Cup.

Fraser was awarded the Sue Rowley Cup for Sportsmanship, which was passed on by last year's winner, Monty. Very well deserved.



Eliza was awarded the Cameron Cullen Cup for Endeavour, which came with a £20 book token. Very well done!



KS2 SUMMER PERFORMANCE

The children of Willow and Oak Classes gave a rousing performance of the “Wind in the Willows” for children and parents. There was some fabulously confident acting during the show and all of the children joined in the singing with enthusiasm. Huge thanks to Miss Grantham, Mrs Humphrey, Mrs Williams, Mrs Downes, Mrs Dawson, Mrs Wright and Mr Cameron for all the work they put into direction, production, costumes and props. What a talented bunch you are ! To see some more pictures from the show, please look on the ‘gallery’ pages of the school website at

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



The WOMBAT Page

The WOMBATs, our pupil School Council, have had a big impact within school again this year.

They brought the views of their classmates to meetings as we developed the Hot Spots & Grot Spots list for the year and we had a major breakthrough as we managed to source funding to have the area behind Willow and Oak classrooms resurfaced and a canopy installed. This has been on School Development plans for at least the last 14 years and it has now happened! Many thanks to Town Estates and our wonderful P.T.A for supporting with this.



NEXT STEPS

We have already begun to make plans for the next stage in this project by welcoming Michelle Brodie from Tesco into school to support with an application for funding to further support outdoor learning.

Watch this space for further updates!

Wombats also asked for a special music assembly where those children who are learning to play instruments were able to perform for their parents

and the whole school. Children played the piano, the clarinet and the flute. The children who chose to perform did a brilliant job. Alex Rubino had learned how to play Happy Birthday on the piano so we could all sing it to his mum! It was so lovely to welcome parents into school for this special event.



Our P.T.A work really hard to ensure that we have a lovely school too. As well as organising events and supporting financially so that the children can go on special trips and take part in workshops, they do very practical things for us too. Our old tables and benches in the Old School playground had begun to rot. PTA helped us to buy new ones. These brightly coloured tables are made out of recycled plastic. As well as looking great, they should last for a really long time, and still look good!



OUR SCHOOL VALUES



RESPECT

I follow the **RESPECT** Code, respecting others and myself.

RESILIENCE

I can face challenges and cope when things go wrong.

COLLABORATION

I can work with others to get the job done.

EMPATHY

I show that I am aware of the feelings of others.

ASPIRATION

I aim high and I do not place limits on what I can achieve.

INTEGRITY

I try to do the right thing, even when it is difficult.

Our School Values

Values are principles that guide our thinking and our behaviour.

During the summer term, children and staff have been working on reviewing and agreeing our whole school values.

We started by asking the children to describe the ethos and attitudes within our school—not what they would like them to be, but what they feel they actually are.

Through a series of workshops with children and staff, we agreed that the six values listed here are those which are the most important to us and which we feel shape the way that we behave at our school and the way that we support each other to behave.

We shared these with governors too and will continue to explore our understanding of these values through assemblies next year, thinking about how they link with the WMAT values and how they may link to British Values too.



Summer Reading Challenge 2023



Karen Seymour, from the County Library Service, visited school for a special whole school assembly to introduce the Summer Reading Challenge 2023.

The theme for this year's Challenge is 'Ready, Set Read!'. It's all about celebrating reading, sports, games and play.

To find out more about the Summer Reading Challenge and some of the exciting free events and workshops connected with it, please click on the link below.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge.

Read six books over the summer to receive a Ready Set Read certificate and medal, plus other goodies along your reading challenge journey.

If you aren't a member of Oxfordshire Libraries already, you can join the library for free, all book loans and events for children are free too. If you don't find the book you want at the library, they'll order it in free from another Oxfordshire library for you.



Why is it so important to your child's life chances that you read and share books with them at home?

Researchers looked at the impact of parents reading with their children.

Here's how many words children would have heard **by the time they were 5 years old:**

- Never read to, **4,662** words;
- 1–2 times per week, **63,570** words;
- 3–5 times per week, **169,520** words;
- daily, **296,660** words;
- five books a day, **1,483,300** words.

Regular reading at home makes a huge difference to how well children learn in all subject areas during their time at school and afterwards. *It has a huge impact on their word power and their wider knowledge.*

If you don't have a lot of books at home or are curious to look at all sorts of other books, the public library is a wonderful resource for children and adults and a lovely place to spend some time.

We will also be holding a scholastic book fair in school next year where you can come and choose books to buy with your children.

Farewell to Year 6

We bid farewell to our wonderful year 6 children who are venturing on to secondary school after the holiday. They are a great bunch of young people and we wish them well!



And a farewell to Mrs Cran



We are very sad to be saying Goodbye to our lovely Mrs Cran. Emma has worked for Freshstart in our kitchen for many years now, stepping seamlessly into the role of cook and kitchen manager a number of years ago. She really is an excellent cook and both children and staff have appreciated the meals that she creates in her immaculately clean school kitchen. Emma is always smiling and kind, and always ready to help. Family circumstances mean that she is moving schools. Although this is a sad time for us, it is a very positive move for her and her family (and for the school where she will be working next!)

In her place, we warmly welcome Nicola, an experienced Freshstart employee, who I am sure will find her way around our kitchen very quickly.

THE WINNER OF THE
CAMERON CUP
FOR ENDEAVOUR
2022-23
Eliza Perkins

THE WINNER OF THE
SUE ROWLEY CUP
FOR SPORTSMANSHIP
2022-23
Fraser Pounds

Special Congratulations

The recipients of these 'in-school' awards, presented in honour of ex-parent Sue Rowley and ex-pupil Cameron Cullen, were unanimously agreed by our teaching staff.

The Warriner Multi Academy Trust

Summary of the Year's Highlights

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

As the year draws to a close, there are a number of highlights that I want to share with you.

Primary Curriculum Development: This has been the second year of our trust primary curriculum. Since its launch last year our staff have been working to constantly review and improve the content being taught to our primary aged children. Feedback from staff and children continues to be highly positive. I hope that you see this when looking at your child's work and talking to them about their learning.

Year 6 SATs: We have had our year 6 SATS results and I would like to congratulate all of our children for working so hard and doing so well. I am sure that our Year 11 and 13 will perform just as well when we get their results in the summer. I would also like to thank all of you for your support and our teachers for all their hard work and commitment.

Opening of a new school: In July 2019, I wrote to you about our successful bid to open a 2 from entry primary school within the Graven Hill development, Bicester. Originally the school was due to open in September 2021 but had been delayed due to the site being used for COVID supply storage. I am delighted that we are back on track for the school to open in September 2023.

New schools joining the trust: We have two primary schools, one in Warwickshire and one in Buckinghamshire, who will join the trust in the next academic year. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new colleagues.

Ofsted Update: Despite a number of our schools being eligible for inspection, there were no Ofsted visits this academic year.

Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship Status: I am delighted that once again, The Warriner School has been awarded flagship status for outstanding inclusive practices. This award is given to a handful of schools nationally and is a wonderful achievement.

If you would like any further information, then go to our website:

www.warrinermultiacademytrust.co.uk

It continues to be a real privilege to work with all the children, staff and parents across our schools and I am so proud to be part of this community. Have a lovely summer break.

Yours sincerely



Annabel Kay
CEO
The Warriner MAT

Attendance Newsflash!

Although it is not always possible for children to be in school, we do know that strong attendance and punctuality leads to higher attainment and greater enjoyment of school.

This academic year, 73% of our children met the government minimum target of 95 %, with a pleasing 58% meeting our ambitious school attendance target of 97%. 6% of children attained 100% attendance. Many thanks for your continued support in ensuring your child has the highest possible attendance at school.

HAPPY HOLIDAY

From all the staff at Sibford Gower Primary