

School News



Dear Parents & Carers,

To fit with the short half-term, our newsletter has a slightly different feel. It is shorter, with a focus on particular events that have taken place rather than news from each class. Even though we have had quite a lot of staff absence with the different 'bugs' that have been doing the rounds, the children have continued to do great learning and have had lots of opportunities to take part in all kinds of activities and events. It is now time for everyone to take a well-earned rest over Easter, before we return to school in April and the run up to the new assessment tests for children in Years 2 and 6, not to mention Sibford Gower's got Talent!



I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

With kind regards, Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)

School Sport



Our children have had impressive sporting success this half term, particularly in team events. Our hockey team have played magnificently, making it all the way through to the County Finals which took place in Abingdon this week. We are so very proud of them! Our High 5 netball squad won the North Oxfordshire Sports Partnership Final and are due to play in the County Final in April.



Our year 3 & 4 mixed football team also won the Sports Partnership Final and are also due to play in the County Final in April. Max Lloyd Thomas and Tom Rowley both quali-

fied for the County Cross Country Finals earlier in the school year. Max was too ill to compete on the day, but Tom Rowley came a magnificent 2nd in the under 9s race. This is an incredible achievement for a very talented young man. Well done, Tom! Huge thanks to Emma C, Sue R & Nicky C for being driving forces behind much of this.



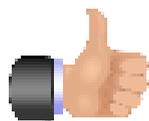
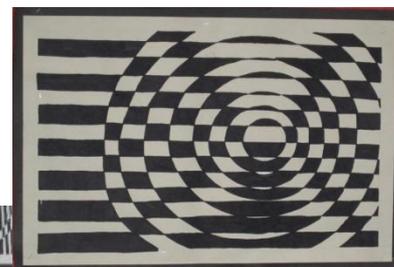
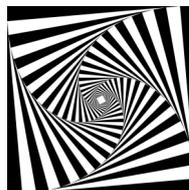
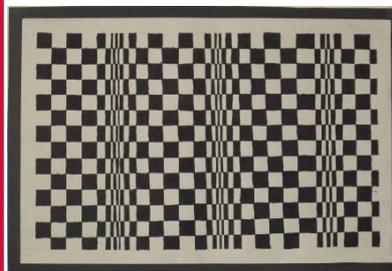
So impressive for a school of just 113 children.

School Art



In the run up to our fantastic PTA organised 20th annual Art Exhibition, the children in KS2 looked at the work of Op artists, Bridget Riley and Victor Vasarely. They explored the principles and basic techniques of Op Art and produced some fabulous Op Art images of their own that we displayed in the school library during the exhibition.

They explored the principles and basic techniques of Op Art and produced some fabulous Op Art images of their own that we displayed in the school library during the exhibition.



Best Class attendance this month: Willow 97.5%



Children return to school on Monday 11th April 2016



Willow Class created these lovely Rainy Day collages.

Weather Week

The children from KS2 got creative in the hall! We listened to Benjamin Britten's 'Storm' and then worked together to create visual responses through collage & paint.



Each Class choreographed their own section of a RAIN DANCE. Then the whole school came together in the school hall to join forces and call on the rain!

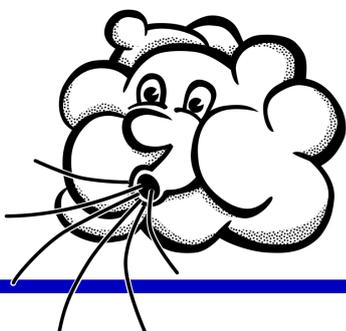
There were opportunities for Design Technology too.



Willow Class made 'spinners' which they tested outside in the wind. These reminded us of the 'twister' in the brilliant production of The Wizard of Oz that we were invited to watch at Sibford School.



The children in Oak Class worked hard to make Box Kites. This involved interpreting diagrams, precision measuring and the use of saws! They did a great job.



The weather wasn't quite so helpful when we went to test them though. Perhaps we also need to perfect a WIND DANCE !

Watery Weather—FROST, RAIN & RAINBOWS

One frosty morning, the children in Acorn Class went out exploring...

Isn't life wonderful !

Isn't frost just brilliant ?!



What will happen if I put my warm hands on the frosty bench?



And whose sock is this?!!



What kinds of weather do we need to make a rainbow?



Using paper collage to make beautiful umbrella pictures.



Or... paper cup cake cases !

Our very own Forest School



Climbing trees

Now that we have developed our site through The Orchard Project, we have the facilities to do some amazing things within our own school grounds rather than travelling further afield. This term, our Year 5 children have spent five full mornings completing Forest School workshops, with the brilliant Bev, the forest school leader from The Warriner. They have climbed trees, built dens and fires, cooked outdoors and very much more.



Listening to instructions.



Working together to build the den.



Eating the marshmallows.



Cooking around the camp fire

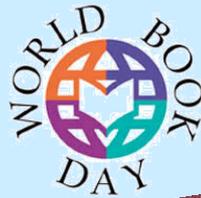


Sports Relief



The children were busy all through the morning, keeping active and raising money for a brilliant cause at the same time.

The grand total raised will be announced once all the sponsorship money is in.



Great fun was had by all....



The children in Acorn Class have been having great fun finding out about different customs associated with Easter. After finding out all about Palm Sunday, they decorated branches with eggs, toys and ribbons.



They had to work out a way to stop their branches falling over! It took careful thinking but they solved the problem!

Finally, they arranged all their beautiful decorations on their Easter display table.



Willow's Raised Bed Project



Last week we began sowing the first seeds and look forward to these growing into healthy plants through the spring. It is hoped that by the end of the summer term we will have a wonderful harvest of vegetables that we can then make into healthy meals.



This term, Willow have taken on the challenge of the KS2 raised beds. Since January, we have worked in small teams to clear the beds of weeds and, thanks to a donation of compost from Mr Ransom, we have improved the soil ready for planting. In class, each group have researched types of vegetables and flowers that we could sow and harvest during the school year and used this information to plan a growing calendar and put together a design for our beds.

Furry Friends

This term two new pets have come to live in Acorn Class. Frank and Finn are guinea pigs and the children in Acorn Class have learned all about how to look after them: what they eat and how much of it, how to handle them and what they need to survive and be comfortable. Frank and Finn have made a journey around school to meet some of the older children. They were very timid at first but are now becoming much more settled as they get used to our school environment.



Easter Bonnet and Easter Egg Competitions

The children did a fantastic job of decorating eggs and bonnets for our Easter competition.

Brian Heather, Chair of Governors, and Sue Bannister, from the local Horticultural Society were our expert judges, and PTA provided the edible prizes.



Huge thanks to Rachel Blake for organising this event.

Your Governing Body

About Us

Our Governing Body has seen a number of personnel changes in recent months. We now operate as a body of twelve governors, including the headteacher, three of whom are elected parent governors—Nicky Cullen, Simon George and Alex Greenhalgh. Although we all meet together once a term, we discharge most of our responsibilities through two committees; Finance, Premises & Personnel (chaired by Julian Ransom) and Curriculum & Standards (chaired by Nicky Cullen).

We work closely with the other schools in our academy trust to ensure that all four schools continue to develop and provide an excellent educational experience for all our pupils.

What Have We Been Doing?

These are some of the things our committees have been involved with:

Finance, Premises & Personnel

- Dealing with ongoing maintenance issues—with support from Warriner School colleagues as part of the Warriner Multi Academy Trust (WMAT)
- Looking at road safety and parking issues outside the school.
- Conducting staff interviews
- Overseeing the school budget.
- Developing school policies, including Health & Safety.
- Developing plans for the 'Old Pig Pen' as an outdoor learning area in KS2
- Meeting with the Parish Council to advise them of school issues.
- Practical involvement in 'clean-up' days and skip-filling.



Curriculum & Standards

- Monitoring the effectiveness of school assessment systems in the light of radical national changes, and the introduction of 'assessment without levels'.
- The appointment of Curriculum "link governors" from within the governing body whose aim is to understand particular areas of the Curriculum in more depth so they have a better grasp of what and how things are taught. There will be a link governor for English, Maths and Early Years Foundation we will let you know in a subsequent newsletter who these governors are.
- Review of many of the schools curriculum policies, including Teaching and Learning, and Homework.
- Working with the Head looking at the Special Educational Needs Provision for our children and how specific needs are met.

Individual governors have also been involved in the following:

- Conducting a safeguarding audit in partnership with the headteacher
- Further development of the Orchard Project
- In school with Oak class describing life as a pupil at the school over 60 years ago
- Helped to organise a visit from a group of Chinese students from Sibford School, who ran workshops on Chinese customs and language with Maple Class.

We will continue to provide an update in each newsletter going forward to give everyone an idea of how the governing body continues to work effectively in collaboration with the head teacher and staff at our school to ensure the highest standards for our children.



The Easter Service was a lovely way to end the Spring Term. With wonderful poetry, some excellent song choices and the story of The Three Trees, this was a moving and engaging event. All the children had a part to play and it was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and friends in the audience.
HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!

