

March 2018

School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

After what feels like a very short half-term and a very long winter, the Easter holiday has arrived.

The spring term has been as busy as ever. Even though lots of assessment tests have taken place across the school over the last few weeks, and thanks to the hard work of our talented staff team, learning has still been exciting and engaging with all sorts of brilliant things going on, as can be seen in the pages which follow. A recent pupil questionnaire showed that the overwhelming majority of our children like coming to school, feel safe at school, and get on well with their teachers and their peers. We all like being with the children too!

When we come back after Easter, it will be SATs half-term for our Y2 and Y6 pupils. Please support your child by ensuring that they complete any homework or revision which is set for the holiday, but do ensure that they get time to relax and have fun too. Full attendance in the run up to SATs is very important, not least in ensuring that your child feels confident that they have prepared as thoroughly as they can.

Let's hope that we have now seen the worst of the snow, ice and winds and that we are blessed with sunshine and warmer weather during the coming fortnight.

Whatever the weather, I hope you all have a great holiday.

Kind regards,
Jane O'Sullivan



Children return to school on Monday 16th April.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Even though the ice and snow meant we had to reschedule this year, World Book Day went ahead and the children looked amazing. Thank you parents for your support.



SHE DID IT!



Our very own Eve T. learned this week that she has secured a place at the Elmhurst Ballet School in Birmingham. Eve was one of only 12 out of 2000 applicants who made it through and we are so incredibly proud of her. This amazing achievement is testament to the talent, dedication and sheer hard work of this wonderful girl.

I am sure that you will join all of the staff and pupils in congratulating her. Very well done!

Best Class attendance this term:

MAPLE CLASS with 97%



An amazing 39 children achieved 100% attendance this term, despite the various bugs. This is nearly 46% of the school.

Easter Service at the Church

Our thanks to those of you who come to join us for the Easter Service at the church in Sibford Gower. It was a lovely service with some beautiful art work and contributions from all of the children. The confidence the pupils showed as they gave individual readings or shared prayers was very pleasing and illustrated well how very supportive our school community is.

Easter Bonnets and Easter Eggs

The competition for the best Easter bonnet and the best Easter egg was fierce, with some really delightful entries. Thank you to parents for supporting with this: we hope you had fun at home too!



GOVERNOR'S CORNER

Governors have been involved in many aspects of school life over the last term. As well as the usual Governor meetings at which we make decisions related to the strategic leadership of the school, they have been in for a number of visits too. Paul Manthorpe came in to invigilate during our 'mock' SATs week for Year 6 and has kindly shared his teaching expertise in supporting the Year 6 Maths Club after school each week. Emma Coventry has been in to meet with Miss Blake and Miss Grantham, in her dual roles as EYFS governor and governor for P.E and Sports Premium. This half term, we have taken part in a very positive Governance Review, exploring what our Governing Body does really well and thinking about things we can do to further improve our effectiveness. Our new Chair of Governors, Ian Broome, has been in a number of times and has spent time in every classroom to get a 'feel' of what our wonderful school is like and to find out why our children are so happy here.



Layla Rayment from Willow Class recently took part in the Regional Grade 6 gymnastics competition. She was placed in an amazing 5th place out of 70 competitors, achieving a well-earned **DISTINCTION**. Very well done, Layla!

Three of our KS2 boys represented the school in the Oxfordshire Cross Country Final this week. They did amazingly well against some talented competition, and coming within the top ten in their heats!

Y3&4 boys race : Ollie Lloyd-Thomas took 3rd place.
Y5&6 boys race: Tom Rowley and Oscar Ward took 9th & 6th place, respectively.
Well done, and thank you for representing the school.

SPORT RELIEF
23rd March 2018



Cheering on our friends as they ran, danced, walked, jumped and even crawled around the Big Field.



Getting ready for the big day!



On your marks, get set...



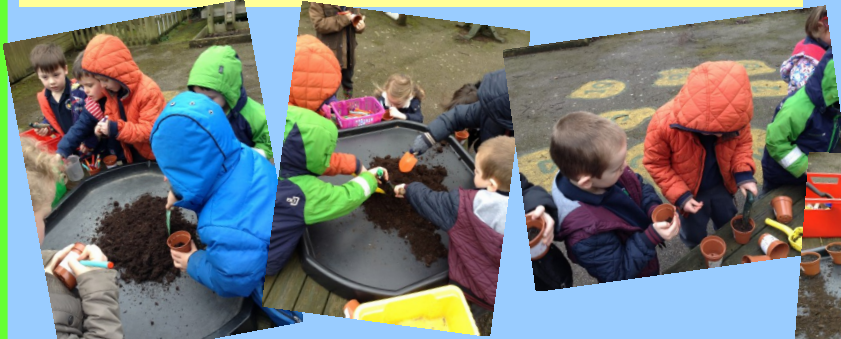
...GO!

The children had a fabulously fit time, and raised £101 for a great cause.

ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term in Acorn class our topic has involved being 'Out and About' exploring our local environment and noticing seasonal change. It certainly has been a term full of weather!

Despite the weather, we have been busy planting beans (in plastic bags) and sunflowers (in pots).



We have been looking for signs of spring on the big field and identifying 'wild flowers'.



We have been orienteering, looking for clues and solving problems as part of our PE lessons.



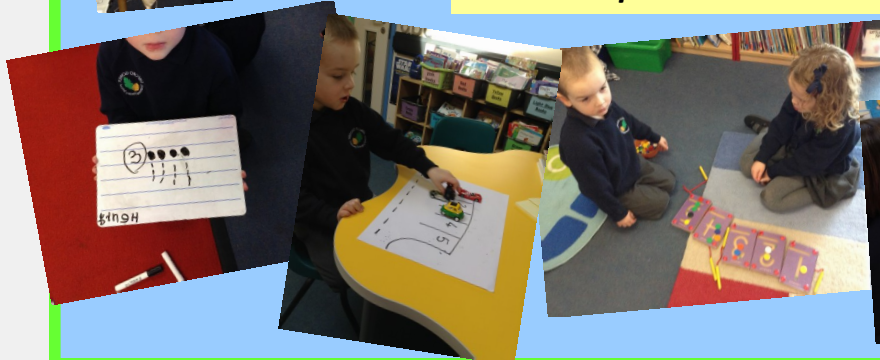
The children have enjoyed sharing interests through 'Show and Tell' sessions. This has helped to build their confidence, see how they are the same and different from their friends and encourages the children to ask questions.



We have been working hard in phonics writing word using all the phonemes and digraphs we have been learning.



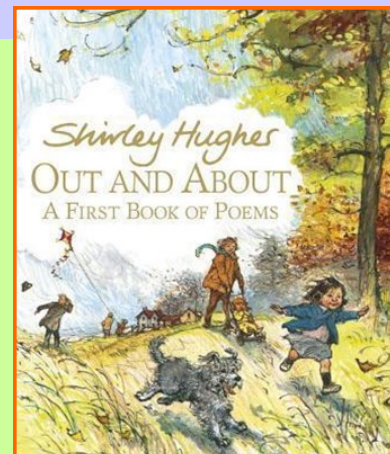
And of course we have been using 'jottings,' and practical equipment to help us work out maths problems!



BEECH CLASS NEWS



Beech class have been really inspired by their class text 'Out and About' by Shirley Hughes. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading the poems and have been very motivated to write our own. We have been 'Out and About' in all areas of the curriculum, carrying out traffic surveys, measuring the circumference of trees as part of our learning in maths, making observational drawings of spring flowers and bulbs in art and carrying out experiments with plants in science.



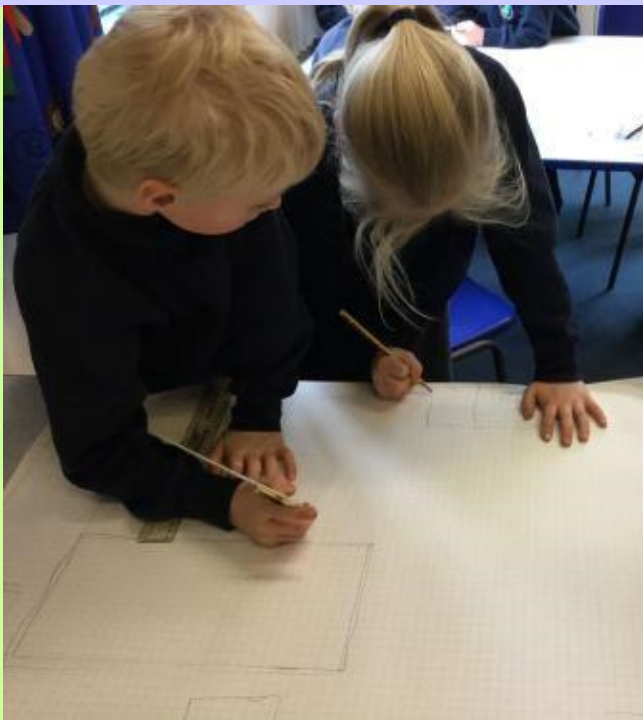
We absolutely love our new mud kitchen and had a very messy afternoon experimenting, creating and collaborating.. We made mud pies, mud monsters and mud faces!

BEECH CLASS NEWS



We have loved being green fingered this term and have been busy planting sunflowers, bulbs and beans, as part of our learning in science. Unfortunately the daffodils we planted earlier in the year have all been dug up by a badger so we discussed how best to badger proof our gardening efforts. We decided to plant them in individual pots and place them high up, fingers crossed we will have 20 beautiful gladioli come the summer term!

We have been carrying out an experiment to see what plants need to survive. The sunflowers that we left on the window sill and watered every day are doing very well but the ones we left in Miss Roseblade's cupboard haven't grown at all!



We have been working in teams to make maps of our classroom on squared paper. We imagined the view a bird would have if it flew over head.

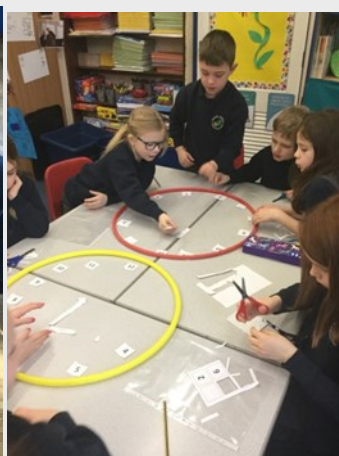
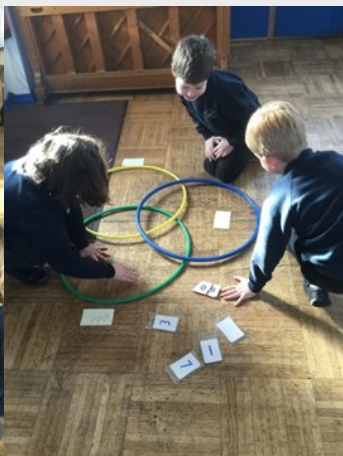


In Beech class we have been thinking about what makes Sibford so super and writing letters to our friends to tell them about our favourite places in the village. We have also been thinking about what would make Sibford even better. A car park for the school so that there isn't traffic at pick up and drop off, a toy shop, a café and a bowling alley were just a few of the imaginative suggestions!

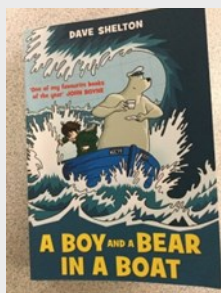
WILLOW CLASS NEWS

What a busy yet wonderful term it has been. We have learnt lots of new things and had an enormous amount of fun along the way!

Marvellous Maths: This term we have been learning about different graphs and time! We have been super active in class and even created a Hulu hoop clock!



We have really enjoyed our new class book: *The boy the bear and the boat*. We have created some wonderful pieces of writing and have enjoyed using our 'acting skills' to perform parts of the story.



"I loved acting out the sea motions" - Leila Clark



The bear has crazy and wild sandwiches, so we created our own wild sandwiches to match! Of course we had to make them first.

We created a paper boat to help collect our imaginative ideas!



WILLOW CLASS NEWS

"Swish swish swish! The rusty old boat waved against the blue sea. Squeak, the brown boat hit the side of the dusty, rough cliff...BANG!" **Nancy**

"The waves splash and splosh together like a huge roller coaster hitting. As the waves go up and down, the darkness of the sea deepens" **Jake**

"Crash! Boom! The smooth rock (that I thought was miles ahead) hit the wooden boat making it weaken. In the distance was a round shaped rock. It covered the area with force." **Jacob**



We joined the whole school in wearing odd socks for 'World Down Syndrome Awareness Day', because ...

Our differences are what make us great!



This term in PE we have been doing orienteering. We have been using cones and maps to help find key code words.

We have really enjoyed using a map of the school to help us. We have found many areas of the school that we didn't know about!



PE

MAPLE CLASS NEWS



The children had to devise their own comic strip using the book as inspiration. It was great fun.

We have had an other fun filled learning term in Maple class. Our topic focus has been the text 'A Boy and a Bear in a boat'. The children have done some great drama, role play and writing activities around our class book.



Maple children had a great time building their own boat. It was lovely to see them all working together and using lots of their BLP muscles to produce this amazing prop for our reading corner.



In P.E, we have been orienteering this term and learning about map skills, direction and coordinates.

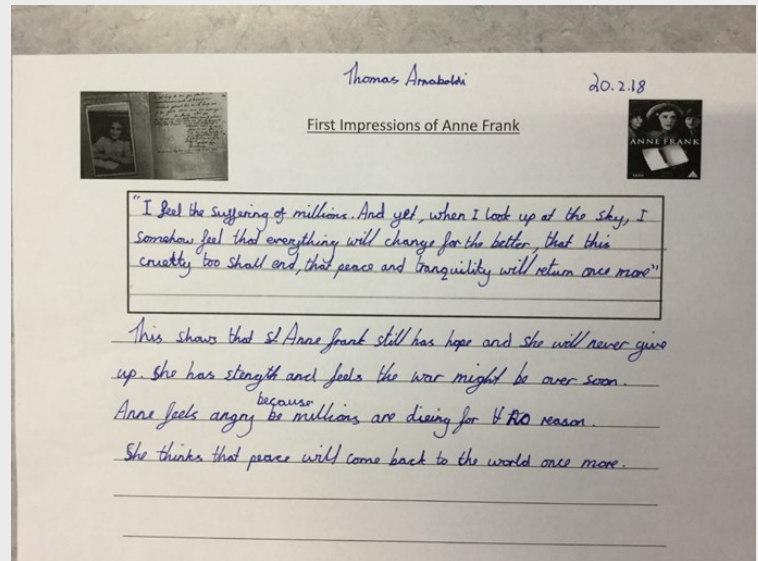




OAK CLASS NEWS

Oak class have continued learning about World War II, focusing on Anne Frank. We used extracts of her diary to infer what her personality might have been like.

As always, our topic work is connected to our writing. Using our stimulus of 'Goodnight Mister Tom' we analysed and wrote biographies of Mister Tom. We then used our knowledge to write a biography of our own chosen fictional character. We have been focusing on using cohesive techniques to make our writing 'flow.'



Isabella Coventry wrote: *'How can one woman be a sister, teacher, aunt, mother, wife and daughter? Josephine (Jo) March was born on 3rd May 1848 in Massachusetts, America. Her parents, Margaret and Robert March, were two humble American workers. On the 9th September 1854, Jo started at a small, local school in the nearby town. She excelled in English but had few friends; her best friend was Tatalin, known as Tatie.'*

Writing We entered Deddington Writing Competition and planned and wrote some fantastic stories, based on the theme 'disguise.' Oak class had some truly out-of-the-box ideas for how to apply this theme. Here is an extract from Luca Scavuzzo-Molloy's entry, 'Don't Judge a Book by its Cover.'

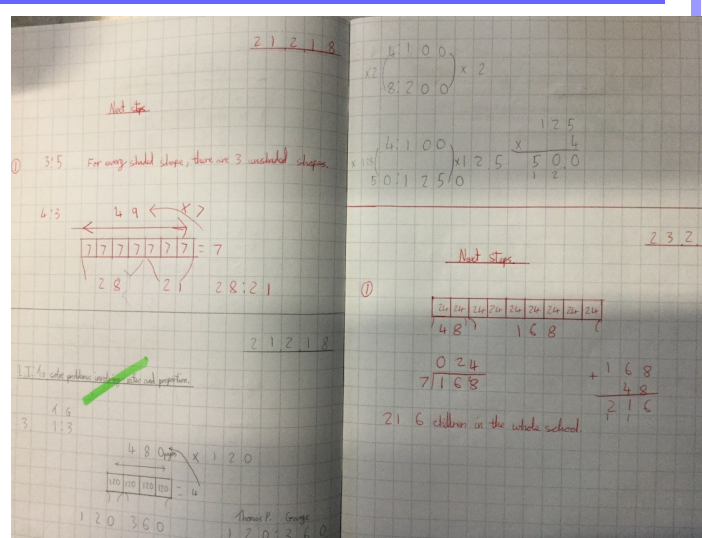
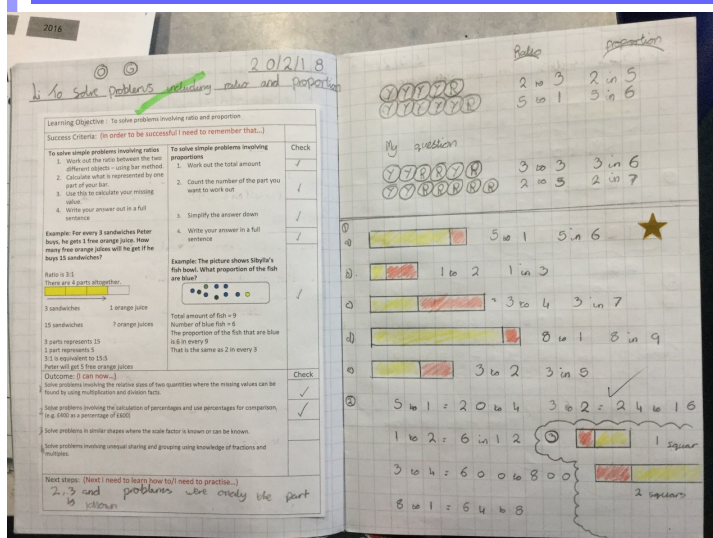
'Here I am again, on this shelf, all alone in this dusty corner. All around me I see old, out-dated books. Even my cover is horrible - brown and dirty. No one will ever pick me up again. In the far distance, I can see colour beyond my wildest dreams. I can see big and small books, all with proper names. All the kids go down there, never up here - they can't even reach me. Oh look - the bell is ringing, probably another kid here for a fancy pop-up book. "Excuse me, do you know where the encyclopaedia is?" a boy says.'



Drama We were lucky enough to attend a Drama morning at the Warriner, where year 5 and 6 studied Mime, Music and Dance. Throughout the morning, we had a Music and singing lesson, a Drama lesson, and a session learning choreography. We learned 'Fat Sam's Grand Slam' and a choreographed routine. Afterwards, we had the opportunity to ask some Year 10 students questions about attending The Warriner School.



Maths In Maths, we have learned all about ratio and proportion, measure and 2d shapes and angles. In our ratio work, we used manipulatives to illustrate the link between ratio and proportion e.g. 1:4 is the same as 1 in 5. Take a look at some of our beautifully presented Maths books where we explain and prove our reasoning. We use 'bar-modelling' to demonstrate our reasoning skills and to analyse and solve problems. These carefully laid out books belong to Thomas Platt and George Hughes.



DO YOU NEED CHILDCARE FROM 8 A.M.?

We are hoping to introduce an Early Birds Club from 8 am each morning but need to know if there is enough interest to make this financially viable. Please look out for the parent survey exploring this which we will send out on the first day of the new term.

Wombat Update

From Thomas Arnaboldi and Issy Coventry

Thomas: "I wanted to be a Wombat because I had loads of ideas to change the

school and make it an even better place". Issy: "It gives me an opportunity to speak out and say what I like and what I don't like. We take our class ideas into account and present them to the Wombats. We recently changed the football charter to include yellow and red cards to make it fairer." Thomas: "The Wombats try and make it happen. We have new badges so people know who we are. The badges are shiny and shield-shaped which is good because it makes them look official".

Wombat school Council have behaviour in school as a regular item on their meeting agendas. One of the things we take very seriously is ensuring that children are kind to each other and feel safe when they are at school. We recently held a whole school assembly exploring our anti-bullying policy and making sure that all the children know what bullying is, and that they know what to do if they think that they, or someone else, might be being bullied.

Wombats say be friendly & kind.



After School Care

In the run up to Easter, the children who attend our After School care facility made Easter cards, painted and decorated their own little eggs and even had an egg-rolling competition, which was won by Daniel Fovargue.

There are different things going on every evening, and craft activities planned for the first weeks back after the holiday include making a birthday card to send to HRH Queen Elizabeth, and art linked to St Georges Day. If you wish to register your child, you can find details of how to do this on the school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/after-school-care.html>

Carol and Paula work very hard to make sure that ASC is fun for all the children and that they have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities.

Menu

Every day salad platter with Hummus,
Mushroom, Pepper, Cucumber, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Carrots,

Heinz no added sugar baked beans on 50/50 toast	Make your own wholemeal pitta Pizza with tomato puree and cheddar cheese	Pasta twist with Tesco's tomato pasta sauce	Sandwich 50/50 bread with your choice of fillings pick from Cheese, Ham, Strawberry jam or Tuna mayo	Make your own Wrap with a choice of fillings pick from Cheese, Ham, Strawberry jam or Tuna mayo	Crumpets With Butter or Jam	Soup With Bread and Butter
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Fresh fruit platter,
Apple, Orange, Banana, Sultana,

Easter Bonnets and Easter Eggs



The entries for the Easter Egg and Easter Bonnet competitions were amazing. The judges were really impressed with the range of creative ideas, and with the care that the children put into the detail of their work. It was incredibly hard to decide upon the winners.

Easter Bonnet Winners

EYFS - Nell Fletcher

Year 1 - Thomas Fovargue

Year 2 - Sidney Dawson

Year 3 - Esme Greenhalgh

Year 4 - Izzy Stebbings

Year 5 - Nettie Parish

Year 6 - Jodie Brock



Decorated Egg Winners

EYFS - Dylan Mannix & Isabella Lewis

Year 1 - Poppy Downes

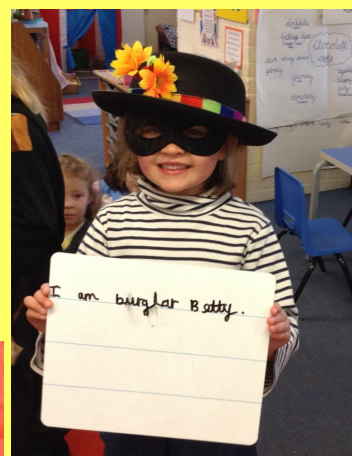
Year 2 - Theo Coventry

Year 3 - Rinan Watkins

Year 4 - Harry Allen

Year 5 - Millie Snow





Some more pictures from World Book Day.

HORSES

Horses are chestnut, white or brown
 They live in fields near the town
 Their long silky hair is called a mane
 It waves around in the wind and rain
 They eat lots of oats and bales of hay
 And green juicy grass, all of the day
 People ride horses fast over jumps
 When the horses do well, they get sugar lumps
 Some horses work hard and some just play
 Then in the stable, their dirt is brushed away.

A poem by Penny Kuhne, Y3... and Tim

**Have a lovely
EASTER**

