

SCHOOL NEWS

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Dear Parents & Carers,

SATs for Year Two and Year Six children are over and it feels like Summer is on its way. I would like to acknowledge how exemplary our Year 6 pupils have been in their attitude during SATs week and the period leading up to it. While we try to keep the learning atmosphere as relaxed as possible during this time, there is no doubt that many of the children find this kind of test situations stressful. In their usual fashion though, they faced the challenges SATs week brought with determination, resilience and in an atmosphere of mutual support. We are so very proud of them, as I am sure you are.

Even though the national tests have been completed, there is still much learning to be done during the final half-term of the academic year. We have all sorts of exciting things planned to support this, including Healthy Week and Science Week which teachers are planning together. We also have special events including Sports Day and the Year 5 & 6 summer production to look forward to.

For now though, please take a look at the following pages to find out about some of the children's learning experiences over the very short half-term that we have just completed.

Have a lovely half-term break.

Kindest regards,

Jane O'Sullivan



Sibford Songsters



Best Class Attendance this half-term

It's a tie!

BEECH & OAK



98%



**Children
return to
school on
Tuesday 4th June**

This amazing group of children did a fantastic job of representing our school at the recent Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall. This was a real community event with representatives of all manner of local groups and organisations present. The hall was packed and the children, accompanied by their singing teacher, the talented Valerie Vet, confidently opened the proceedings with two songs. They performed beautifully and we were very proud of them. Many thanks to the children and to their parents for giving up their time to make this happen. Wonderful!

Easter Reading Challenge

Very well done to those children who completed the Easter Reading Challenge. All the children received Special Certificates.

Congratulations to Jacob Herd and Ronnie Dawson who were each the lucky winners of a £10 Book Token in the Certificate Lucky Dip. Very Well Done!



Beech Class & Acorn

In Beech and Acorn we have been really making the most of the beautiful weather and taken lots of our learning outside. It's been brilliant to link our topic 'mini beats' to our own environment. We have been out on bug hunts, explored a variety of habitats and even had a go at building our own birds nests.



We are absolutely great at working with our friends and have been putting this to the test outside, working collaboratively and overcoming obstacles both practically and socially.



We have begun to learn how to safely use tools and have enjoyed using the mallet to hammer in pegs when den building. We had to ensure



We have all made fantastic dens!

Acorn and Beech class have been taking advantage of the good weather this term and have been finding, naming, drawing and labelling wild plants. They have also been drawing huge trees on the playground to label (with some help from our Year 6 pupils). The children have worked in mixed groups from Foundation Stage to Year 2, enabling them to improve skills in communication, collaboration and the sharing of knowledge.



We're not the only ones who are big fans of outdoor learning!

'I really feel that nature and being interactive outdoors has huge benefits on our physical and mental wellbeing, particularly for young kiddies.'

**HRH The Duchess of Cambridge—
May 2019**



Willow Class

"This term has been awesome" Nancy Mahoney!

We have had a brilliant term; we have learnt lots of new and exciting things and developed many learning muscles. Although this has been a short term we have explored many wonderful topics and succeeded in our own personal challenges!



Marvellous Maths:

This term we have been learning about measure and time. We have enjoyed being active with our learning and are all extremely proud of ourselves for being able to **convert different measurements**.



We measured our heights and then had to order ourselves! Miss Grantham gave us an extra challenge...We couldn't talk when doing this!

It was SO much fun and we managed to completed the challenge (without talking too!!)



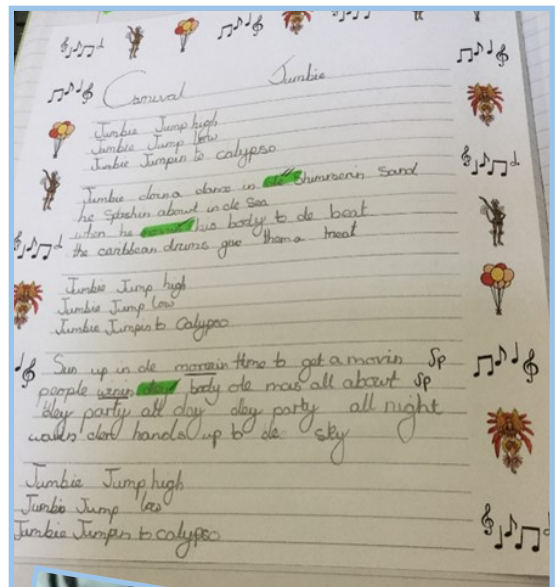
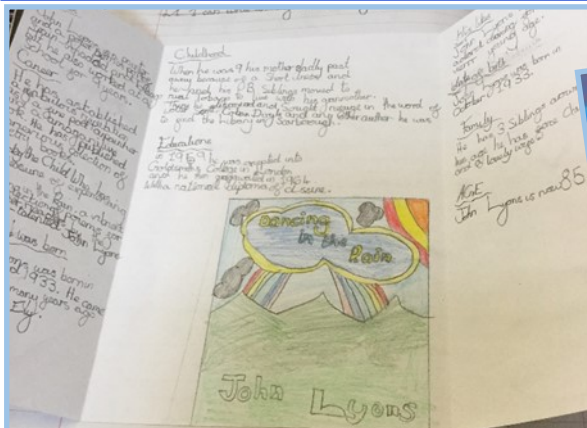
*"I love measure- it has been my favourite maths topic!"
Kitty Mountford.*

Literacy: We are really enjoying our new book this term 'Dancing in the rain'. It is a poetry book written by John Lyons. We are really enjoying his Caribbean twists!

"At six in de morning" This is my favourite line (Theo Coventry)

We have been creating our poems with our Caribbean style twist

(Please pop in and see them. We promise you they will make you smile and giggle.)



Super Science

"I have really loved science this term. I enjoyed exploring with light and dark and testing all of the equipment!" Alfie Snow

We have been learning about light and dark this term. We have carried about many investigations and found out some fabulous facts about sources of light and non-sources of light!



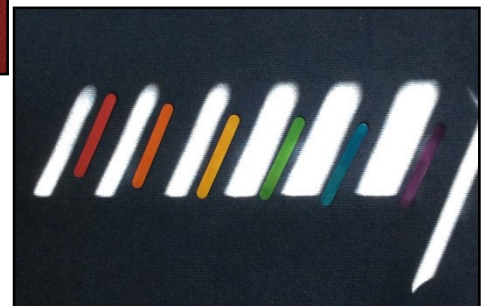
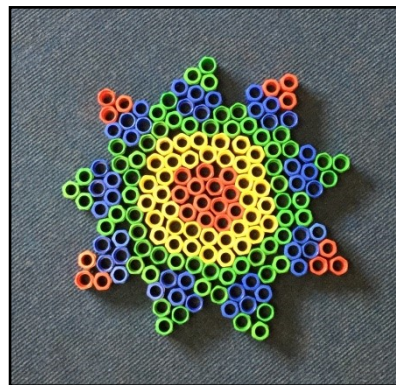
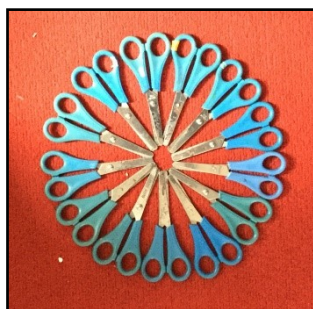
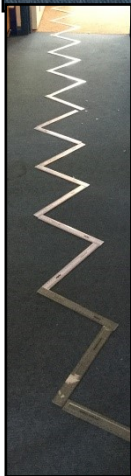
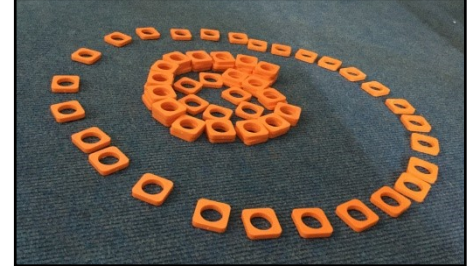
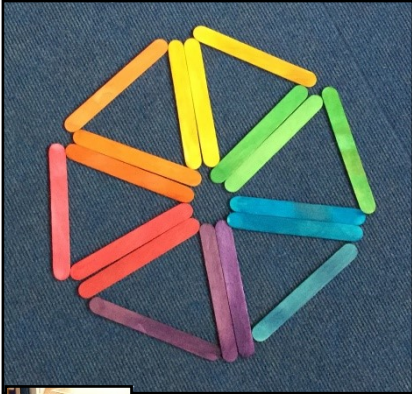
**"Light travels in straight line!"
Flora Ransom**



TOPIC: We have really enjoyed learning about our 'Local areas' this term. We have been comparing past and present facts and found some really old maps to help us!!

ART & DESIGN in Willow Class: This half-term, we have been exploring pattern, colour, line, shape form and texture in our Art lessons. We looked at some amazing photographs showing work by artist Andy Goldsworthy and watched a video in which he talked about his work. We have been working both indoors and outside to create works using only the resources we found in each environment.

Look closely—some of these works are more complex and thoughtful than is immediately obvious. And it has been great fun. We will continue these creative themes next half-term as we venture into drawing and print-making.



Maple & Oak Class News

Although we have had a very short term it has been just as busy and as always lots of learning has taken place. We must just say a huge well done to all our year 6 children who throughout the SATS week have been, quite frankly amazing. They have conducted themselves with resilience, perseverance and maturity beyond their years, the children are such a credit to our school and we are very proud of them.

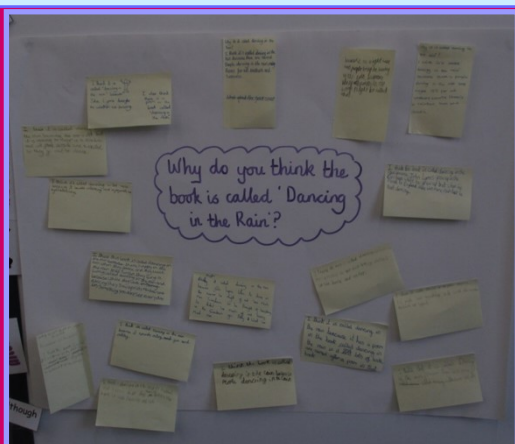
After the final test we went up to the field for a little picnic and a game of football—truly deserved.

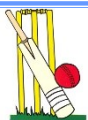


In Science the year 5's have been looking at different materials and their properties. We carried out an investigation using a 'Feely box' full of different materials and the children had to use their scientific language to describe to the others in their group what they thought it was—great fun for all!



Literacy we are studying poetry. The children have had such fun selecting their own favourites and reading them out to the class. We are studying a book called 'Dancing in the Rain' by John Lyons, he was born in Trinidad and has published a number of books. The children have been looking at the language, rhyme and rhythm of his poems and we will continue to focus on this amazing poet in term 6.





CRICKET REPORTS

U11 Boys

After losing their first game, the boys U11 team woke up and batted, bowled and fielded their way to two close victories on the trot meaning they forced their way into a semi-final against Sibford Ferris. The catching was a particular strength with great takes coming from Harry H and Oli. In the semi-final a great partnership from Oliver and James helped us reach 231 in our 8 overs. The whole team then bowled excellently setting up a tense finish with Sibford Ferris requiring 9 from the last over. With the help of a couple of boundaries they managed to reach the required total. We then played a 3rd / 4th play-off and alas, the exertions of the previous matches meant we came fourth overall – a creditable effort against 8 teams.

Team: **Rhys, Louis, Harry H, Harry A, Jake, Ollie, Oliver, James, Kjell and Ethan.**

U11 Girls

The girls played an incredible 6 games of cricket last Friday with all the teams put together in one pool. We had a big squad and all the girls were rotated so that they all were able to play in as many games as possible. There was some good batting and bowling as well as fielding. A real strength for our team was the running between the wickets which meant we were able to pick up lots of extra runs. Overall we came 5th following victories over Sibford Ferris and Christopher Rawlings.

Team: **Heidi, Matilda, Ciara, Nettie, Imogen, Bella M, Bella B, Amelia, Milly, Lucy, Isabel and Scarlett**

PGL Adventurers

As well as celebrating the things our children do in school, we always like to hear about their achievements outside of school too. As part of the Cubs organisation, a number of our children recently went on a 2-day weekend PGL residential. They had an amazing time taking part in some challenging activities.



Those children attending were: Aimee White, Arabella Argyros– Farrell, Daniel Fovargue, Evie Fletcher, Harry Allen, Harry Westwood, Jacob Herd, Louis Allen, Monty Argyros– Farrell, Nancy Mahoney, Rinan Watkins, Rosie Parish, Sidney Dawson, Sophie Evans & William Shaw.

Splashing through the freezing cold mud was such great fun ...though it made you feel very cold! - Sophie Evans.

They took part in—**Aeroball** (trampoline basket ball), **abseiling** - 12m high tower, **climbing** - 12m high tower, a **challenge course** - slightly damp (!!!) and a rather muddy **assault course** (the suspicion is that the leaders may have been throwing river water on the cubs and making them commando crawl through sticky mud!), **Jacobs ladder** - ascending a "ladder" of telegraph poles suspended on wire - each rung higher than the previous up to about 10m, **rifle shooting** , a **Cluedo Wide Game** - with a purple dinosaur, Tinkerbell, Peter Pan and a Parrot, and **running** in the grounds at 7am and 9pm!

They clearly had a great time!



SATs meant a week of 'ups & downs' for our Year 6 children, but not as many ups & downs as there were at the after SATs trampoline park party organised by the mums of James and Bella M! What a great way to unwind after a very focussed week.



Quad kids



Willow Class competed in a great event this week. We had to throw, jump, run 400m AND finish with a sprint !

There were 10 schools taking part in total and we came 8th overall...Amazing!

Coram Life Education Bus

Our KS2 children finished the term attending workshops with Pamela and Harold the Giraffe on the Life Education Bus. These workshops explore a variety of themes, including healthy eating, legal and illegal drugs and their effects, the body and how it works, friendships and their influence, and how choices and behaviours can affect dreams and aspirations. To find out more about what the children cover in each year group, you can look on their website at www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk



P.T.A News

As this term has been quiet in terms of fundraising we thought it might be a good opportunity to tell all parents and carers how the PTA contributes towards the school life of all our children.

The PTA works hard to raise as much money as possible throughout each year and this is spent in the following ways. Often there is a goal set in terms of fundraising, last year this was the outdoor play equipment which the PTA contributed £4000 towards.

As well as a 'big target item or expense' the PTA provide the funds for annual spending which includes giving each class £200 to spend on books and any other learning bits. We cover the costs of the buses to take the whole school to the pantomime every Christmas. We also contribute an amount towards each key stage trip - for example when KS2 went to Cadbury's World and KS1 went to Cotswold Wildlife Park.

The PTA gives the Year 6 Leavers a good send off by providing them with a pot of money to spend on Leavers Hoodies and a goodbye event.

Other annual costs which we cover are; cycling proficiency Hi-Vis vests, prizes for Easter competition, refreshments for the FS Graduation, lollies for Sports day and crackers for the Christmas meal. Phew! This isn't even everything as there are often other bits that crop up and we are able to buy like for example our wonderful mud kitchens, forest school walkie-talkies and so much more!

We cannot raise these fantastic amounts without all your help and support. Please know that every cake you bake, jam jar you fill up, hours flipping burgers or making reindeer antlers we are very grateful for!

If you have any fundraising ideas (big or small) please let me know!

Thank you for your continued support
Shelley Dawson & Sarah Garstin
shelleywisner@yahoo.com



School Governors



We have welcomed members of our Governing Body into school for all sorts of things this term. Sarah Coe and Paul Manthorpe have been in to discuss and set budgets for the coming year. Paul Manthorpe and Sarah Garstin have been in

to support with SATs administration and Paul has also been part of the staff recruitment process. Alex Greenhalgh, in his role as Health & Safety governor, has been supporting with Risk Assessment. Sue Cook has been coming in every Tuesday afternoon to read with children and Fred Inns has been popping in to support and advise on all sorts of things. All governors have also been busy scrutinising the outcomes of the parent & carer survey questionnaire. Thank you once again to those of you who completed this.

SATs

SATs don't measure sports,
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music,
or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty,
SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons,
You were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic,
how you make others smile,
SATs could never appreciate
Your own individual style

SATs don't hear your laughter,
or see you've come this far,
SATs can't see even a tiny glimpse,
of who you really are.

So now the SATS are over,
and you deserve a rest,
Remember SATs aren't who you are,
remember you're the best!

Have a lovely holiday!