



School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

This half term has been the shortest of the academic year and we seem to be moving towards the end of the school year very quickly.

Despite time out for KS1 and KS2 SATs, the past five weeks have been jam-packed with all sorts of learning fun for our children.

It has been lovely to see them spending so much time out and about in the school grounds now that the weather has improved.

This will continue into next term as Forest School learning begins for some of our pupils and we prepare for Sports Day.

Auditions have taken place for the KS2 end of year production and, while core learning continues during the mornings, our older children are busy learning their lines, making props and rehearsing for what should be a very funny performance.

We have also had some mixed age projects running in school. I have had fun teaching the children from Acorn and Beech classes with Miss Blake and the KS1 team, while Mr L and Mr Cameron have been leading KS2 children in the Great Tomato Challenge!

There is a lot more to come after the half term break, with the KS1 trip to the Butterfly Farm, Circus Day, Sports Day, the Orchard Festival and very much more.

Before then, I hope you all have a lovely, and peaceful half-term holiday with family and friends.

Kind regards
Jane O'Sullivan,



You can find copies of earlier newsletters on our school website at sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk



**CHILDREN RETURN
TO SCHOOL ON
MONDAY 5TH JUNE**



Best Class attendance this month: OAK 99.3% 😊

Deddington Festival Writing Competition



Lots of our KS2 children entered this annual competition this year. A very impressive eight pupils have been selected as shortlisted authors and invited to attend the awards ceremony in Deddington on June 11th.

These talented eight are Thea Ransom, Thomas Glazebrook, Sibylla Burrows, Isabel Downes, Oscar Ward, George Hughes, Freddie Stanton and Ben Lloyd-Thomas.

We wish them all success and will let you know how they get on—hopefully sharing some of their writing with you.



Cycling Success



Year 5 children from Oak Class have been out and about Sibford Gower over the past few weeks practising their road safety skills and learning about The Highway Code. All those children who took the test at the end achieved their Level 2. Well done Shane Edgar, Peter Evans, Cicely & Thomas Glazebrook & Oscar Ward.

Huge thanks to Lynn Lloyd-Thomas, Mary-Ann Shaw, Debbie Court, Alex Fovargue and Susan Mahoney for making this possible.

Maple Class Year 5 children will be completing their training next half-term.



Acorn Class News



Although it has been a short term the children in Acorn class have been busy bees! They have been learning about halves and quarters using cakes and biscuits which of course the children enjoyed, however we had to make a NO EATING rule!!

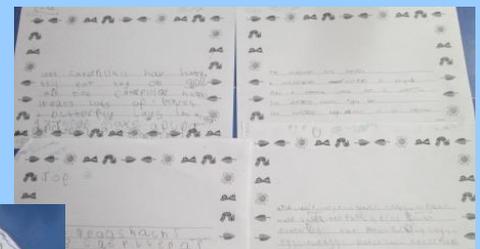


The children have been practising counting accurately and taking turns when playing dice games.



Our topic of Marvellous Minibeasts has proved popular with children and they have been very creative making Bees, Caterpillars, Spiders, butterflies amongst other things.

The children have also been writing facts and creating lifecycles on paper plates, on lined paper and also on the playground!



During the nice weather the children from Oak class came to visit us and sat with us to read in the outside area.



Beech Class News

Beech class have had a very busy half term, the highlight of which has been working together as a team to build our bug hotel. We learnt about the sorts of habitats that minibeasts like during our science lessons and went down to the Orchard during art to draw pictures of some of the popular habitats we found there. We then planned and designed different sections of our bug hotel as part of our learning in DT. We evaluated our designs and used these to help us to build our very own bug hotel in our outdoor learning area.



It was fantastic that we managed to create such a wonderful habitat from unwanted items and really got us thinking about recycling and using natural materials in different ways.



We have all worked so hard to get our Total Recall badges. This is how many our class has got altogether !



Willow Class News



We have had a busy yet *exciting* term 5 in Willow Class. We have learnt lots of interesting new things and have explored learning, both inside and outdoors.

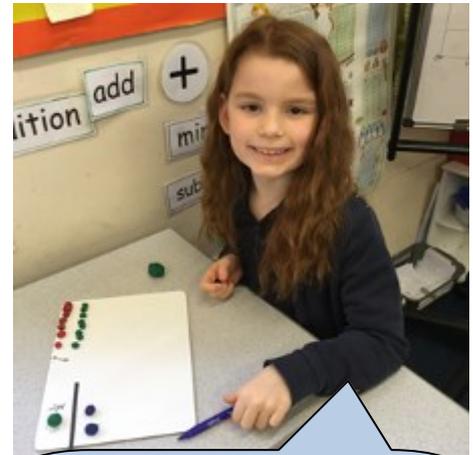


Marvellous Maths

In maths this term we have really enjoyed learning about *area* and exploring different ways to help us learn.

I really enjoyed making different areas in the hall because it was fun and I learnt how to calculate them- *James Morbey*

We have also been continuing with fractions. We had a great lesson exploring fractions with playdough!



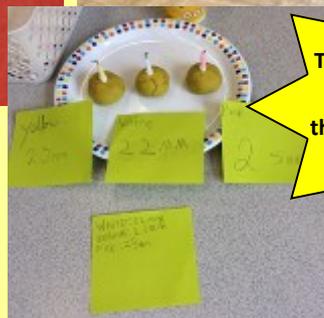
I loved our playdough lesson- it helped me with $1/2$ and $7/8$.

Super Science

This term in science we have been learning about investigations and what is needed to conduct one. We have had a wonderful time trying out different experiments.



The egg floated in salt water, but not in ordinary water!



The white candle burned faster than the coloured ones.

Benin

We have really enjoyed learning about Benin. We didn't know much



about this topic so it has been great to learn new and exciting facts!

Our focus was the *Obas (rulers of the Kingdom of Benin)*. We have been using our sketching skills to draw them.



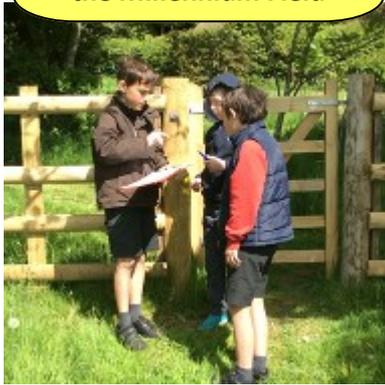
This has been a tiny term, but we have managed to pack an awful lot into it. Read on...

Maple Class News

P.E. We spent a lovely morning plotting an orienteering course in the Millennium Field, which we look forward to running before the end of term. We have also had some highly competitive rounders matches, as we turn our attention to bat and ball sports.



Lots of outdoor P.E. - rounders and setting up an orienteering course in the Millennium Field



Topic Our topic this term has been The Kingdom of Benin, and we have explored this in terms of its history, its legacy and its links to the slave trade. We have also looked into the geography of the region, and the children have been busy producing their own displays for the classroom. I'm also very much looking forward to their Fair Trade presentations at the end of term!



Year 5 Science



We have started our topic on light this term, which we will carry on at the start of Term 6. We have examined how light travels and how it is received and processed by the eye. As most of the group didn't believe that you could see nothing in pitch blackness, we spent part of a morning in the PTA cupboard under Oak Class to prove the point! The children have also been creating photography using shadows, with some amazing results. We are now making a display for the classroom incorporating these photos and a 3D eye!



Where science meets art: samples of Year 5's shadow photography

English

Our class reader this term was *The Diary of an Edo Princess*, which took the children into the world of the Kingdom of Benin through the eyes of a child. Through popular demand, we have now started *Shiver*, the sequel to *Chill*. In our writing, we have been working on sentence types and structures and applying these in Big Writing. The children have written a fantasy adventure story, a story using flashbacks and a letter to Mr Cameron asking for a role in the school production.

Art & Design

The Kingdom of Benin left a legacy of amazing artwork, and our visit to the British Museum has helped to inspire the children to create their own versions of the Benin plaques and masks from clay.

Computing

To help with their homework, we have been sharpening up the children's skills with Powerpoint, and they have been busy creating quizzes, using hyperlinks to show the correct and wrong answers.

Maths

We have had a focus on problem solving this term, encompassing number problems, word problems and real-life problems where children have had to work as a team. In groups, we are currently plotting a range of imaginary ways to transform the Orchard in all sorts of interesting ways...



Practical maths: problem solving in the Orchard



Oak Class News

END OF SATs

Following a period of concentrated preparation for their SATs, all we could ask of all members of Year 6 is that they did their best. Here they are, immediately after their final test, filled with joy , relief and crumpets (!) and very nearly ready for their transition to secondary education.



Trip to the British Museum – Benin Galleries and Others

On Tuesday 16th May the whole of Key Stage 2 went on a trip to the British Museum in London with a specific focus on looking at their Benin galleries, as Benin has been our topic this term.

The children were all impeccably behaved and were wonderful ambassadors for the school. The photographs below give a flavour of what they did and saw. They saw a range of statues depicting the Oba (the king) , Benin plaques and lots of other artefacts, many of which date back to the 16th century. Pupils had the opportunity to sketch items of interest and then were taken to other galleries within the museum to explore the rich variety of exhibits within the museum. Of particular interest were the Rosetta stone and Lindow man.





Jump Rope for Heart

On Friday 12th May, the children all had a chance to participate in a skipathon called 'Jump Rope for Heart' in order to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. It was a fantastic morning, carefully and expertly organised by the children in Maple Class, and we were witness to some amazing skipping skills. Here are some of the highlights! Thank you for all the donations you have helped your child to collect for such an important cause.



Gardening Club Plant Sale



This event raised an impressive £95 which will go into covering the cost of this brilliant Club.

Thank you.

KS1 ART, MATHS & PLANNING PROJECT

While Miss Roseblade was busy doing her Forest School training, Miss Blake and Ms O'Sullivan were working with the children in Acorn and Beech Classes. We spent two days exploring symmetry, practicing our observation drawing skills and planning the outdoor areas.



The children coming up with lots of ideas for things they would like to support learning across the curriculum whilst outside and how they would design the spaces.



They made beautiful, symmetrical butterfly suncatchers, showed their excellent understanding of reflective symmetry using squared paper, pegboards and mirrors, and produced some gorgeous observation drawings of flowers (for the butterflies) using pastels.



KS2 Squashed Tomato Challenge

On two special mornings of science and maths this week, children in Willow, Maple and Oak classes were divided up into ten mixed groups with a rather unusual objective: to design and build a model that could transport as many cherry tomatoes down a slope without squashing them. The idea came from Practical Action, an environmental charity which aims to challenge poverty and improve the lives of people worldwide. Many farmers in Nepal grow their crops (including tomatoes) on the mountainside. To sell them at the local market they need to transport the tomatoes to the bottom of the mountain, BUT it's a long and hazardous journey and they need to cross a river. Tomatoes are quite easily squashed so need to be transported with care. The children rose to the challenge exceptionally well. Here are some photos of the teams in action:



KS2 FRENCH

Don't be offended if someone in willow class asks "Quel âge as-tu?" - they are not being cheeky, just practising their French! The children have also been learning French colours and body parts, creating their own 'grand monstre' after reading the French story 'va-t'en, grand monstre vert!'



Aujourd'hui dans l'ouest il pleut.
Aujourd'hui dans le sud il fait du vent.
Aujourd'hui dans le nord il neige.
Aujourd'hui dans l'est il fait beau.

Thinking of holidaying in France this summer? Well if you need to check the weather then look no further than the children of Maple and Oak who have been busily preparing weather reports. They have been bringing together all their prior learning of days of the week, months of the year and numbers to write and deliver some superb reports!

On Wednesday 17th May, our 2017 School Leavers enjoyed an afternoon of frenzied activity at The Warriner School for our joint French afternoon with Year 7s (spot any 'old' faces in this photo?!) and some Year 6 friends from Dr Radcliffe's primary. Alongside games and activities, the children retold the story of 'La chasse à l'ours' and here they are dancing the Macerena to practise some French counting!



After School Care

Our After School Facility is great fun for the children and something we are determined to keep running, both as a support for working parents and for those of you who want your children to have a little 'down time' after school while you get on with other things. To make it financially viable, covering ever-increasing staffing and food costs, we need to ensure that we are as close to capacity (16 children) as possible each week night. While some evenings are already over-subscribed, we do regularly have spaces on Monday & Wednesday. If you have not already registered your child but think you might want to take advantage of this facility, please look on the ASC page of our school website at sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk, for further details.

"I like the food, especially the toasties" - Amber



"I love the pizzas and toasties and running around." - Poppy

"You can play football and lots of different games. It's fun and I love the food, especially the wraps!" - Ethan



"You can be outside if it's nice. The food is nice and you can play with friends/ toys - and I love Carol!" - Olly



"You can make whatever you like out of Lego and the cars are epic!" - Josh



Sibford Gower Primary School PTA –

Committed to supporting the School to enrich and enhance our Children's experience

Dear Parents,

We started this term with our Art Competition for the children to create a drawing to be used as the poster for the Orchard Summer Festival. We had some lovely entries and the judges, Ms O'Sullivan and Mrs Williams chose Ruby Garstin as the overall winner, 2nd Milo Kedge, 3rd Amelia Mulley, 4th Eva Morbey and 5th Imogen Ransom. These winners each received a bug house and a wildlife book. We also gave tomato, pepper or sunflower seeds to all the other children who entered.



The Orchard Summer Festival is being held on Sunday 2nd July from 2pm – 5pm. This is an event for all the family, an afternoon to relax and enjoy live music, Pimms, cream teas, coconut shy, nature trail, storytelling, lucky dip, face painting and much more. We have set up a facebook page for the event so please give it a 'like' and keep up to date with all the latest news.

We have made, and are in the process of making, some wonderful purchases this term:

- 1) We are buying new equipment for our Forest School*
- 2) We have bought a new camera for the school to take good quality photos for PR purposes*
- 3) We have bought lots of new library books for the children in KS1*
- 4) We are buying equipment for the sensory area in the Acorn playground*
- 5) We are buying gardening equipment for the school*

We will update the PTA section of the website with photos of these purchases as soon as we can.

Some dates for your diary:

Tuesday 13th June – PTA meeting, 7.30pm in the Staff Room, everyone is welcome.

Sunday 2nd July – Orchard Summer Festival, 2pm – 5pm, KS2 side of school.

We always welcome new ideas and any feedback so please do contact me on

andrea.rutledge@hotmail.co.uk

Have a wonderful half term and thank you for your continued support. Best Wishes, Andrea (PTA Chair)

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*New books for the
New School Library.*

