

May 2018

School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a busy term it has been. As well as the usual range of exciting learning activities going on, the key events in school have been Year 6 SATs and our recent Ofsted visit.

The Ofsted inspector was very impressed with the children's behaviour and attitude to learning.

As you can see below, Ofsted have recognised the great work that goes on at our lovely school and this is reflected in the 'GOOD' judgement. In her verbal feedback, the lead inspector emphasised that the bar to achieving GOOD has been raised significantly since the last inspection. This judgement is testament to the hard work, commitment and talent of our wonderful staff and governors, and our colleagues within the wider WMAT. The letter from the lead inspector will be published when we come back after the holiday.

Have a restful break. We look forward to welcoming our wonderful children back on June 5th.

Kind regards, Jane O'Sullivan—headteacher

Children return to school on Tuesday June 5th



ROYAL CELEBRATIONS



Freshstart made a lovely picnic for the children, in celebration of the Royal Wedding. Some of the children made their own party crowns to mark the event.

Best Class attendance this term:

OAK CLASS with **98.6%**



IT'S OFFICIAL...
We are



“GOOD”

“Sibford Gower is a small and inclusive village school with a strong community feel” - Ofsted May 2108

GOVERNOR'S CORNER

Governors have been a strong presence in school again this term, not least coming in to speak with the Lead Ofsted inspector about all our brilliant work and their role within the leadership structure. Paul Manthorpe and Sarah Garstin supported with SATs invigilation and oversight of administration and Emma Coventry has continued to support in Early Years. Andy Whitehouse has been in to support with aspects of finance and to run a football Club with our youngest children. The outcome of our Governance Review was very supportive and we have a strong team of governors going forward. They are a very committed group and their ongoing contribution is valued by all of us.



Early Birds Club

We recently conducted a survey with our parent body to find out if there is sufficient demand for us to set up an Early Birds Club from 8 am each morning. The outcome of that survey suggests that such provision would be welcomed by many of you.

We have made the decision to trial an Early Birds Club during Term 6 (hopefully starting in Week 2) If it is sufficiently successful, the intention is to continue this into next year as part of our ongoing provision. It will be necessary to register your child for this and there will be a limit on numbers.

We will send out details in the first week of term.



OUR PTA

This term, our amazing PTA have supported the school in all sorts of ways:

- They have brought walkie-talkies for Forest School. These have been very useful for keeping in touch across our site, but also to support safety in activities such as Cycling Road Safety.
- They have bought two lovely mud kitchens, complete with pots and pans, for Acorn and Beech outdoor areas.
- They have purchased a wide range of lovely new reading books for KS1
- They have contributed £500 towards the costs of the Acorn & Beech trips to the Cotswold Wildlife Park and The Warriner Farm
- Purchased various 'bits & pieces' for the development of Acorn Class outdoor sensory corner.
- They have also agreed make a really huge donation towards our new outdoor circuit equipment, which has made this ambitious project possible.

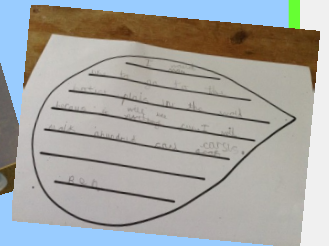
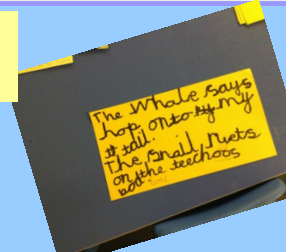
THANK YOU



ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term in Acorn class we have been finding out about 'Amazing Animals'. The children have enjoyed finding out facts about Snails and Whales after reading our class book by Julia Donaldson 'The Snail and the Whale'.

We took our learning outside and measured and drew a life size 19 m Whale and a 6m Whale Calf—we couldn't believe how huge they were!



The children have enjoyed writing about the story as well as using speech bubbles to write what the characters in the story are saying.

We have done lots of our learning outdoors this term, making the most of the beautiful weather.



In PE we have been learning to throw and catch balls and bean bags. The children have improved their control over the sessions by learning from each other.



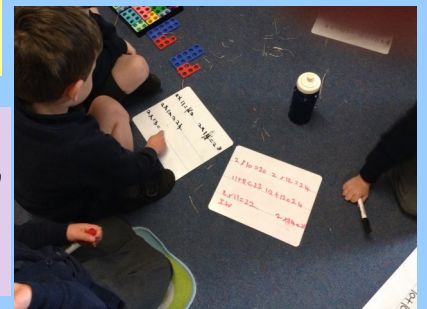
ACORN CLASS NEWS



The children have been classifying animals into groups using the small world equipment and picture cards. They have talked about Mammals, Amphibians, Fish, Birds and Reptiles.

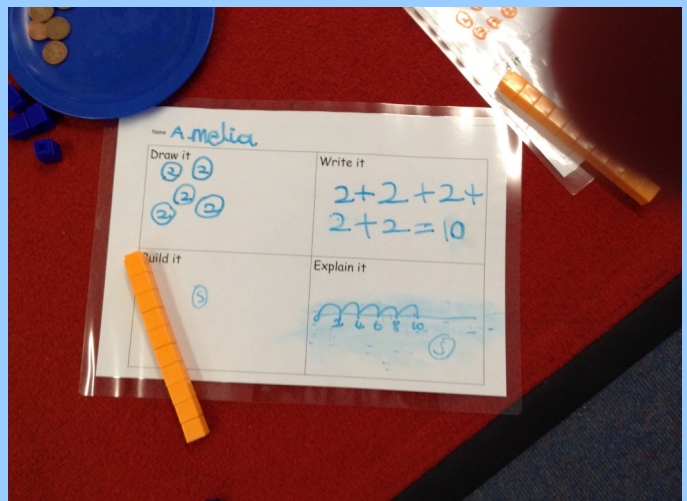
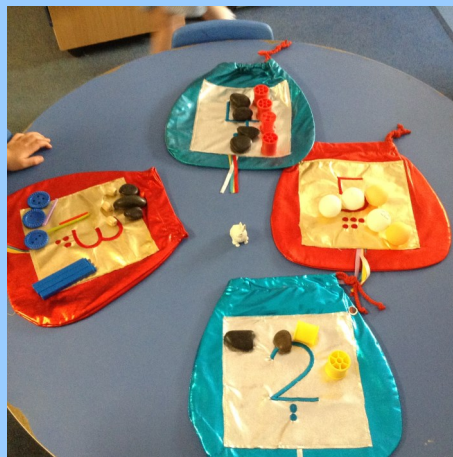


They were also kept to create habitats suited to different kinds of animals.



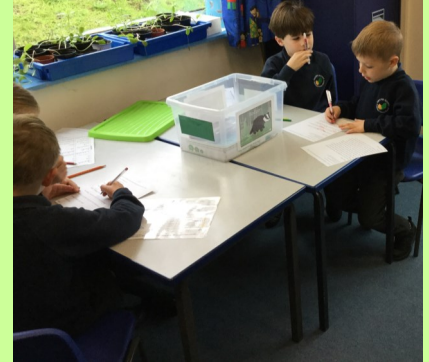
The children have been particularly interested in finding out about endangered animals.

The children have been grouping objects and using mathematical equipment to help them understand about multiplication and division. Year 1 children made 'arrays'.



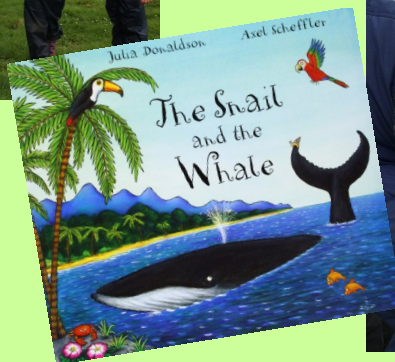
BEECH CLASS NEWS

We had a visit from the Wildlife trust, we enjoyed bird-watching and making bird feeders.



Beech class have had a fantastic start to the Summer term. We have enjoyed reading *The Snail and The Whale* and finding out about all the adventures that the characters had. We used our inference skills to look for clues about how the characters might be feeling at certain points in the story. We used a map to help to locate where they might be in the world and even wrote a version of the story where they popped up in the school pond and explored our Orchard!

We have been working hard to develop all of our skills in maths. Lots of us have earned ourselves a new badge and we have enjoyed writing word problems for one another. We have also been working hard to learn how to tell the time.



It was so exciting to work together as a group to transform the corridor between our class and Acorn into a jungle! We looked at different paintings by Rousseau to inspire us and then designed and planned what we would like our jungle to look like.



We were amazed to see the corridor transformed when we arrived at school. Please do come and have a look at the fantastic transformation!

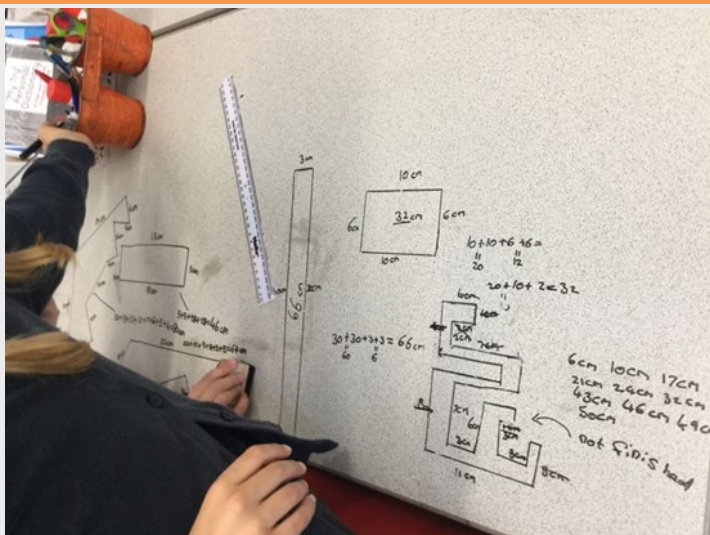


WILLOW CLASS NEWS

We have had a fabulous term! We have learnt lots of exciting new things and developed our learning muscles along the way.

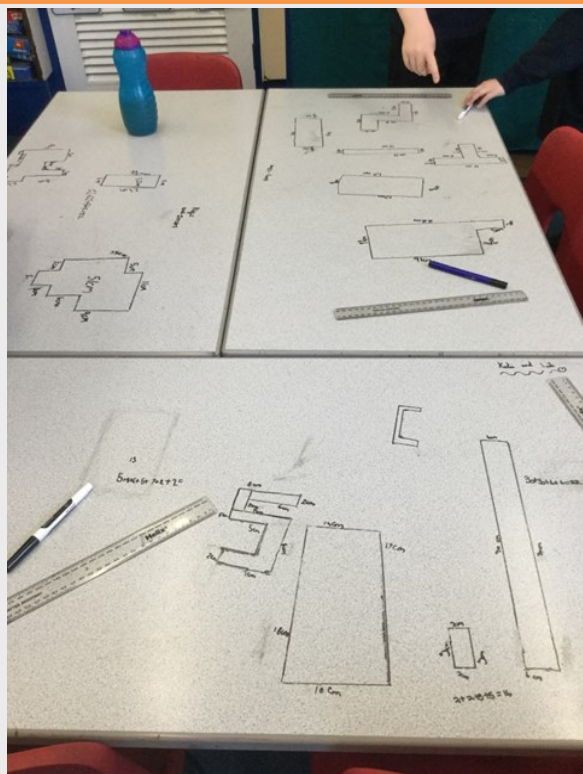
Marvellous Maths:

We have really enjoyed maths this term; we have been looking at area and perimeter.



"I love perimeter...I can't wait to draw a harder shape" **Josh O'Connor**

"Perimeter is SO fun" Oliver Mulley



Super Science

We have really enjoyed science this term...we have been learning about plants and their life cycle. We have been designing what we would like our outside are to look like and will continue to plant flowers to make it look wonderful.

This has been great fun and we have really enjoyed getting outdoors to help our learning.



*Plant detectives was
the best*
Evie Fletcher

Plant Detectives

WILLOW CLASS NEWS

Our favourite part of term 5 has been learning out Greece and the story of Pandora!

We have produced some wonderful writing such as; letters of apology from Pandora, wanted posters and stories.

To finish our wonderful topic we made our very own boxes!



*This term in **PE** we have been doing netball. We have been learning key positions, passes and the importance of a pivot!*

We have really enjoyed netball and have loved playing matches at the end.

We have really developed our 'leadership skills' by taking control of our matches and following the rules.



ASC have been very busy this half term.

In celebration of the recent Royal Wedding; they had a royal mug decorating competition, won by Isobel Whitehouse in KS1 and Matilda Cullen in KS2; they decorated royal cupcakes and even dressed up as a royal couple—Prince Thomas Fovargue and Princess Holly Parish.

Coming up next term in ASC, Father's Day cards, Grow your own cress and a birthday card for HRH Prince Phillip. We

did get a reply from HRH Queen Elizabeth and are building up quite a royal-themed scrapbook! A great excuse for some creative fun.



MAPLE CLASS NEWS



The children have produced some amazing artwork including timelines and Greek vases which they researched and designed themselves. We have also been finding out about Greek gods and the history of Ancient Greece.

We have had another busy learning and fun term in Maple class. Our topic focus has been Ancient Greece and we have been studying a selection of Greek myths and legends, including Pandora's Box. The children have been so enthusiastic and engaged in their learning.



We have been lucky enough to do forest school with Mrs Williams. The children, amongst other things, have designed and built their own dens stretching their learning muscles to work together and use lots of problem solving skills. It has been fantastic!

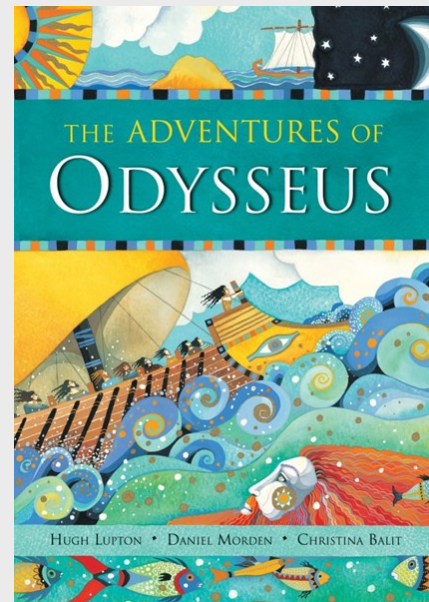
A couple of weeks ago BBONT visited the school and although it was a very wet and cold afternoon, Maple class searched the school field for animal and insect tracks to find out what lives on and in our school grounds. We also made our own bird feeders using materials which are environmentally friendly; I hope some of the finished feeders are hanging in your gardens!





OAK CLASS NEWS

Oak class have been learning about Ancient Greece and the Greek Gods, focusing on our class book, 'The Adventures of Odysseus.' We have been acting out the prologue, where Paris has to choose between Athene, Aphrodite and Hera. This led to interesting discussions about choosing between wisdom, power and beauty. Our main focus has been the story of Odysseus's encounter with the Cyclops, Polyphemus. We had great fun turning this into a news programme or court case with witnesses and special guests.



Writing update

We entered Deddington Writing Competition and amazingly, 9 children have been shortlisted! The children worked so hard and all of their writing was sensational so well done everyone who submitted a story.



SATs

All the year 6 children have completed their SATs! All staff are so proud of them for their calm and supportive attitudes towards each other during SATs week. To help us with our revision we have been using 'super movers' grammar clips to get our brains and bodies moving .

PE

In PE lessons, Oak class have been practising the skills they need to play netball. We have learned about key passes and the importance of a warm-up.



Well done to all the Y5 children who took their Cycle Road Safety test today. Every one of them achieved their Level 2 and we are so proud of them. Huge thanks to Lynn Lloyd Thomas, Debbie Court, Mark Boyles, Susan Mahoney, Mary-Ann Shaw & Vicky Fletcher for making this possible.

Sibford Gower Sport

UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
Tuesday 5 th June	Kwik Cricket	5 and 6	The Warriner School
Tuesday 12 th June	Transition Festival	Selected Children	The Warriner School
Tuesday 10 th July	Striking and Fielding	3 and 4	The Warriner School
Friday 13 th July	SPORTS DAY	ALL SCHOOL	Sibford Gower

*This is subject to change and more events may arise as the term progresses.

SPORTS LEADERS

Our sports leaders have had a very busy term. They have prepared wonderful activities and games for our children at lunch time.

Chairman's Cup

Huge congratulations to our year 5/6 tag rugby team who were invited to take place in the *Chairman's cup* on Wednesday 23rd May. They made it to the final, showing great determination and sportsmanship. In the end, they lost by one teeny-weeny try!

WELL DONE!! We are very proud of you.



COMING SOON...

Term 6 is going to be extremely exciting! We have our new circuit equipment being installed at the beginning of July.

All the children have designed our new circuit equipment and have played a huge role in choosing the order and colours for it.

Please feel free to pop in and see our 'circuit journey book'.

