

School News

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful start to the new academic year!

Our new teachers, Mr Lecznar and Mr Cameron, have hit the ground running with their classes and all sorts of exciting learning has been going on across the school.

The school is looking brighter and fresher thanks to our new school signs, fence painting by parents and the fantastic new playground markings organised by Juliette Glazebrook and funded by the PTA.

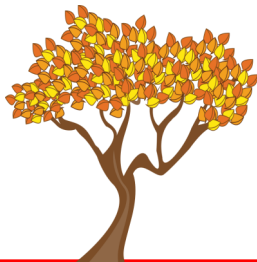
We have all sorts of plans in place to further develop the outdoor learning spaces and to smarten up the inside of the school. I will keep you informed as projects are started or work completed.

On the road safety front, I am still in regular contact with departments within OCC in a determined attempt to arrive at a satisfactory solution to the safety issues that have arisen as a result of our crossing patrol being withdrawn. I have a meeting scheduled early next term and will share the outcome with parents in due course. In the meanwhile, thank you for your continuing cooperation and support in driving and parking carefully outside school at the start and end of the day.

Enjoy the half-term break. The children definitely need it. We look forward to welcoming them back, refreshed and ready to learn, on Monday 2nd November.

With best wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan



Best Class attendance this term:

Willow

99% !



Harvest Festival Celebration

Thank you to all those parents and friends of the school who joined us for the Harvest Festival Celebration at our local church in Sibford Gower.

Thank you also, for your generous donations of food for the Banbury Food Bank. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to take part in something that makes a positive difference to the lives of other members of our community, however small and simple.



Please look at the school website at www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk for more pictures.

Please take some time in the holiday to ensure that all of your child's items of uniform and PE kit are clearly labelled with their name. Our lost property pile gets bigger each day and without names on the clothes, it is very hard to re-unite the items with their owner!

Reminder!

CYCLING PROFICIENCY

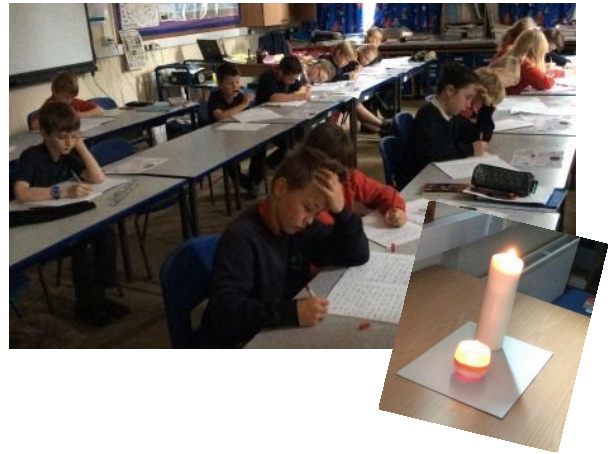


Well done to Max, Harry, Daniel, Ollie, Samuel and Gemma from Oak Class for passing their Cycling Proficiency Test this term. Thank you also to our certified trainer volunteers; Mary-Ann Shaw, Mark Boyles, Susan Mahoney & Lynn Lloyd-Thomas. The rest of our Year 5 children will have the opportunity to take this course during the Spring terms.



Oak Class News

In English we have been developing our writing skills by writing regularly in Big Write sessions. To help and inspire us in our writing, every week we have transformed our class into an environment where the lights are dimmed, two candles are lit and Mozart is played in the background to allow us the freedom to let our imaginations run wild.



The topic we have been working on this term has been The Bronze Age and the Iron Age. In addition to finding out a wealth of information on various aspects of our topic, we also made our own coiled clay pots of the type that would have been used in those times.



Here are some photographs showing how we made the pots and the finished examples (which will be fired once they are completely dry).

In science we have been looking into Evolution and Inheritance and part of the work involved finding out how different species have evolved by looking at fossils. Here are some examples of some of the fossils we have been able to study, they were brought in by Freddie Stanton.



As part of our P.E. lessons we have been fortunate to have the opportunity to go swimming at Sibford School and to develop our Multiskills. We had great fun doing both!



Which fossils can you name?



Maple Class News

The children of Maple Class have been working extremely hard on a whole host of weird and wonderful projects this term. In my first term at the school, I have been really impressed by the hard work and enthusiasm they have shown - they're certainly not afraid of getting their sleeves rolled up! Here are some of the highlights:

Maths

Our focus this term on number operations has seen Maple Class carrying out investigations involving estimating, including trying to find out how much it would cost to fill a Tesco carrier bag with £5 notes. We have also been playing some new maths games, including Countdown and The Cloak of Divisibility. We've even started playing some of them in French!



English

Our class novel, linking in to our topic very nicely, has been *The Boy with the Bronze Axe*, for which the children have been creating a display for our reading area. In SPAG and Big Writing, our focus has been mainly on paragraphs and punctuation, and the children have worked extremely hard on developing the layout of their written work.



Year 4 Science

The Year 4s have been looking at states of matter and how to change them. This has included looking at the effect of temperature changes as well as reversible and irreversible changes. Of course, this meant causing rockets to take off using Mentos and Diet Coke! We are now examining the chemical structure of chocolate... in some detail!



Computing

Maple Class are now in the throes of creating our very own blog as a part of the main school website. It is now up and running, and we will be adding content to it over the coming weeks. Please do have a look, and you can regularly catch up with all things Maple Class!



Topic

We are beginning to make progress with our long-term project of reconstructing an Iron Age roundhouse, and we expect to start sourcing materials in to build it very soon... We have looked into designs and decided on its dimensions. The building will take place on the top field, near to the football pitches.



Maple Class Assembly

P.E.

Ball Sports: Our start to the year has started with one focus on football and tag rugby in preparation for the many competitions taking place throughout the year.

Dance: Maple Class have been very creative at working together to perform improvised dance routines to set rhythms. We are also in the midst of choreographing a routine to the tune of *Staying Alive* by The Bee-Gees. Look out for this on our blog...



Willow Class News

The children in Willow Class settled very quickly into their new routine as Year 3 children. They have worked very hard and produced some excellent work.

Our topic this term has been Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We have learnt all sorts of interesting facts and have even made our very own Iron Age models of round houses, woven wool like the Bronze Age people and made cave paintings of animals as The Stone Age people would have done.

We started our Literacy work this term by writing a story about 'The Three Little Stone Age Boys'. A story based on the fairy tale The Three Little Pigs.

"Long, long ago when Stone Age people were alive, there lived a family - Mum, Dad, Aunty, Uncle, Grampy, Gran, cousins and three little boys..... (Ciara Mahoney)

".....off they went, out of the dark, relieved to be out of the echoing cave....." (Nettie Parish)

We then wrote a descriptive paragraph describing a journey hunting, gathering and fishing.

"One perfect, sunny morning I woke up in the most creepy, gloomy, dark cave. I was hungry. I had to go fishing..... (Amory Baxter)

".....There was no food. I was cross, but I had no choice. It was starve or hunt. In the wood I quivered nervously....." (Heidi G.)



WILLOW CLASS SCIENCE

Science with Mrs Fletcher has been really exciting ...

Willow Class have become Rock experts this half term! We began our topic by becoming detectives for an afternoon, trying to identify different rock material and how it was used around the village. We quickly learnt how to identify certain rocks by their properties and tested them for their hardness and permeability. We cut open a scotch egg to learn about the layers of the earth and used Oreos to learn how plates move across the mantle, although sadly, we weren't allowed to eat any!

Chocolate was used again to help our thinking of how the three main rock types are formed. Using three colours of grated chocolate we created sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous chocolate rocks and this time we could eat them!

We carried out our own volcanic eruptions, creating a chemical reaction with vinegar, water and baking powder and carried out two larger scale eruptions, varying the quantities of ingredients to achieve different results. Watching clips of erupting volcanoes produced some fab descriptive writing.

We then became palaeontologists for the day, looking at Ms O'Sullivan's daughter's fabulous collection of fossils which inspired our thinking of what fossils are and how they were made. We then made our own moulds and created fossils of shells and natural objects.

After finding out about Mary Anning and early fossil hunting, we had a go ourselves and used tools to open up shale to see if we could find any fossils of our own.

Half term may bring many requests by the children to visit Natural History museums or even Lyme Regis to satisfy the children's thirst for learning!!!





Beech Class News



In Beech Class we have done lots of different learning about our Family Album. We have been thinking about our families, who our Special People are and also what families and children would have experienced in the past compared with our lives today. We have also had the exciting opportunity to take part in Forest School workshops at Sibford School, working with Sibford pupils in the same year groups.



Through our literacy learning we have been looking at the familiar story of 'The Tiger who came to Tea.' The children wrote their own lovely invitations and their own versions of the story, including 'The Bull who came for Brunch,' 'The Cat who came for Cake,' 'The Dog who came for dinner,' and 'The Parrot who came for a Picnic.'



Through our Art learning we have been looking at L.S. Lowry. He was particularly famous for his city scenes but he also enjoyed the seaside. Beech have created some lovely seascapes and painted these using just primary colours and black and white. They have also made some fantastic collages using a mixture of different materials including felt pens, pastels and different papers.



We have written some lovely senses poems about Autumn. We were inspired to write these after visiting the Orchard.



Jacob Herd

**Autumn smells like hearty soup,
Autumn looks like sweet blackberries,
Autumn sounds like crunchy leaves,
Autumn feels like fresh rain,
Autumn tastes like sweet, juicy blackberries.**

Reuben Sebag-Montefiore

**Autumn smells like cut grass and really lovely flowers,
Autumn looks like burning, blazing fire,
Autumn sounds like leaves falling from the tree,
Autumn feels like you can play conkers,**



Lauren Sabin

**Autumn smells like good, golden, gingerbread,
Autumn looks like cold cobwebs,
Autumn sounds like big, boxing birdsong,
Autumn feels like fresh rain,
Autumn tastes like shiny apples.**

Bonnie Brown

**Autumn smells like smashing smoke,
Autumn looks like crackle and crunch of leaves,
Autumn sounds like acorns and apples emerging on the bushes,**

Rinan Watkins

**Autumn smells like pinewood,
Autumn looks like leaves changing colour,
Autumn sounds like leaves falling down,
Autumn tastes like hot chocolate.**

Evie Fletcher

**Autumn smells like chopped wood.
Autumn looks like colourful rainbows,
Autumn sounds like the leaves are falling down.**

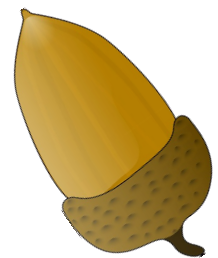


Acorn Class News

It has been a very busy first term for our new Acorn children. Everyone has settled into school very well and everyone has been busy learning. We have been able to use the outside area for writing and problems solving when the weather has been good. The children have planted winter pansies and bulbs which we are looking forward to seeing appearing in the Spring.



In preparation for our harvest festival and during our work about the seasons and autumn the children have been looking at, feeling, smelling lots of fruits and vegetables. We then used them to make some beautiful autumn prints.



We have been learning about Money in Acorn class and have set up a fruit shop where the children pay for their afternoon fruit with really coins.

The children are excellent at counting how many pennies they need and some are

counting in 2p coins. Some of the year one children are using 10p, 20p and 50p to find totals.

They are really proud of themselves, and so they should be.



The children have enjoyed Yoga Bugs with Mrs Perkins and were all very relaxed and chilled out at the end of a busy week! The perfect Friday afternoon I think!



Many thanks to those parents who took time out of their weekends to come and help paint the fences around the school site. School is beginning to look much smarter because of all your efforts. Another painting party is planned for this Saturday 24th October at 2-4pm (weather permitting) to finish off the painting jobs.



Acorn & Beech Special Person Assembly



The children from Acorn and Beech Classes invited their Very Special People into school for a Very Special Assembly. They shared portraits they made using collage and mixed media techniques and explained to everybody who their special people are, and why they love them so very much. Thank you to all those who joined us for what has become a lovely annual 'tradition'.



The children from KS2 had a fantastic time up at the Rollright Stones. The sun came out and the rain stayed away. This was a wonderful finale to the children's topic on the Bronze Age. We will be loading more pictures on the school website very soon, which you can access at www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk



Year 6 Classics Day



Four of our Year 6 pupils attended an Enrichment & Challenge Classics Day at St. Edwards School in Oxford. The focus this year was Latin and Roman Civilisation. They did a fantastic job of representing out school in a competition which included teams from other schools in the Warriner Partnership. Thank you Sue Rowley for accompanying them on this trip.



Playground Improvement

Many thanks to Juliette Glazebrook for researching and organising the painting of playground markings. These were funded by our PTA and really brighten up the playground. They include an activity trail, a map of the world, and compass points which are set to point due North. A great resource for play and learning.



Christmas came early to Sibford Gower this year with children in all classes getting out the glitter and sequins to make Christmas cards as a PTA fund raiser. It already looks like this may raise in excess of £200. Many thanks to Carol Taylor of the PTA for organising this. An excellent fund-raiser and good fun!



Some parents have been asking when they are allowed to view the orchard. We are more than happy for you to pop down and have a look at the end of the day when you come to pick up your child and the school playground is open.

This is on the understanding that you do so at your own risk. There are some

steep steps built into the path. The children are not allowed to go in unattended.



A picture of a big, flat field...



At very long last, we have levelled a section of the Big Field to ensure that it is suitable as a sporting venue. Our thanks go to ex pupil Conway Freeman for carrying out the main levelling work, local farmer Bill Sabin for use of his digger, Toby Nunneley at Sugarswell for the use of his tractor and plough, the PTA for covering the costs of materials, the governors for supporting the project, and parents for supporting the PTA.

Brilliant!

Another Thank You to all those parents who attended the arthritis fund-raiser organised by ex-pupil Helen Skinner and her mum. The morning raised an incredible £650. If you haven't received your bunting yet, it will be on its way soon!



Football Crazy



Sibford Gower A & B football teams headed up to Sibford School for a football tournament. Both teams played very well, showing courage and sportsmanship against worthy opponents.

Collecting our certificates for second place.



Relaxing after the match.