

School News

October 2015

Dear Parents,

It seems hard to believe that we are already one sixth of the way through the academic year. It has been a very positive start to the year. Our new teachers, Miss Roseblade and Miss Grantham have settled in quickly and all sorts of exciting learning has been taking place across the school.

There have been more improvements to our school site as well. Thanks to our PTA and Town Estates, Old School has now been fully re-carpeted and looks much smarter. Town Estates have also given significant additional financial support which has enabled us to rebuild the wall around the Old school classroom. This means that we can proceed to Stage 2 of developing this area into a safe and stimulating outdoor classroom directly accessible from each of the Key Stage 2 classrooms. During the half term holiday, we are re-roofing the conservatory in Acorn classroom as part of our programme of site development across the school. We need to thank WMAT colleagues for coordinating the grant application for this work.

Our new WMAT caretaker Mr Wiggins is busy on site each morning, ensuring that the site is safe for the children and making all sorts of improvements.

Next term is likely to be just as exciting. The Year 5 & 6 children are off for their residential trip to Conover Hall in Shropshire. While they are gone, we have plans for a whole school cross-curricular project in school, with children from different age groups working together indoors and outside, in addition to their core learning in literacy and maths. The feedback from the children is that they love these projects so we intend to ensure that they continue to be a regular feature of our curriculum.

Have a lovely half term break.

With kind regards, Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)

Children return to school on Monday 31st October.

PTA Bonfire Night is the following Saturday on 5th November.

Reminder!

Best Class attendance this term:

Willow **99.3%**



Harvest Festival Celebration

Once again, we journeyed down to the church in Sibford to join with family and friends in the annual Harvest Festival Celebration along with friends and family. Each class explored a different aspect of the journey of wheat from the seed to the supermarket, through poems, art work, prayer, performance and an amazing variety of facts!

Small Beginnings Poem

Things great have small beginnings.

Every downpour is just a raindrop,

Every fire is just a spark,

Every harvest is just a seed,

Every journey is just a step,

because without that step there will be no journey,

Without that raindrop there can be no shower,

Without that seed there can be no harvest.

(Poem chosen & performed by Torin Baud)

Find out later in the newsletter which children made this beautiful harvest loaf



Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to the Banbury Foodbank.

Chris Rattenbury is a powerlifter with cerebral palsy who has been ranked 3rd in the world. He is also an ambassador for the charity 'Wheel Power', and visited our school to talk to the children, bringing with him, an original 2016 Paralympic Torch!





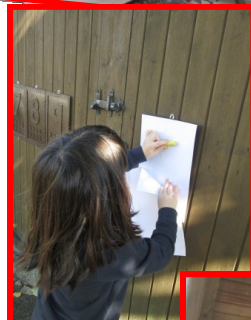
Acorn Class News

It has been a very exciting first term in Acorn class and our new Foundation Stage children have settled in really well. This term we have been learning about what it means to live in Great Britain and why Britain is Great. We have been learning about famous Britain's and will be visiting Blenheim Palace in November to learn more about Winston Churchill. The children have worked hard in school and at home to create our super London display. In music we have been learning to sing London's Burning in a round as well to complement our topic.



We have also been learning about why we are all special in our RE lessons with Mrs Higley. The children in Acorn class have realised that we are all special for many reasons. A few suggestions shared in the class were: "I help my daddy check the caravan"- Theo, "I am special because I have special googles in the bath" - Joe, "I can go really fast and get dressed" – Isobel, "I like baking cakes with mummy especially chocolate cake!" – Inca

In maths the children have been learning all about money and have enjoyed counting, sorting and play-



We have taken our learning outside and have been solving problems and working as a team to build structures and collect building materials.



The children have also been enjoying our new number and letter plaques which have very kindly been bought by the PTA and put up by Mr Wiggins. The children have also been writing on clipboards and helping Miss Blake by writing who is going home on the bus and writing their names!



Our Autumn Table



Beech Class News



This has been a very busy and exciting first term for us in Beech class. We have been exploring the topic "We are Britain". As part of this, we have found out about British values and linked this to developing our class rules and thinking about what makes us as individuals and special as a class. We have all really enjoyed looking at our large floor maps and discussing places in the United Kingdom that we have visited or lived in.

The children have shown real talent in art and design this term. We have created fantastic self-portraits in a variety of media and then discussed each medium's strengths. We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to make a traditional harvest loaf which was an incredibly interesting experience. As part of healthy week the children enjoyed their healthy breakfasts and made delicious fruit kebabs!



In maths we have been developing our understanding of number through ordering numbers, looking for patterns, and finding out facts about two and three digit numbers.



In English we have been reading lots of stories with familiar settings and have enjoyed discussing these and acting them out. We have used actions and symbols to learn the Gruffalo and enjoyed writing character and setting descriptions as well as retelling the story in our own words. We visited the orchard and used our imaginations to think about what we might see, hear, smell, taste and touch in the Gruffalo's wood!



We have also all been working hard on our "Learn its" and using real life objects to help us with multiplication. One group even pegged out the socks of some of our favourite characters to help them to develop their counting in twos.

Willow Class News



What a fantastic first term we have had! We have loved learning about 'Egyptian's and finding out about their life style and historical features.

We loved our 'challenge afternoon'. We were in groups and were given different materials to make a pyramid with. We had to work together as a team and use our knowledge of what a pyramid looked like. The materials that we had were sand, card, playdough, wooden blocks and polystyrene. It was such great fun! The wooden block team won....

They were rewarded with a gift from the dip box!



Team Work

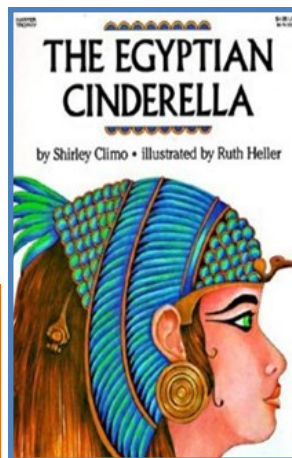
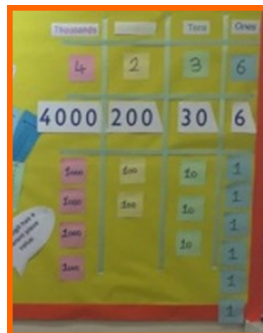


"This was the best afternoon ever"- Louis Allen



We really enjoyed our DT lessons- WE GOT TO MAKE OUR VERY OWN EGYPTIAN CLAY POTS.

We have all been working really hard in **maths**. We have been focusing on 'number sense'. We have been learning about place value of a number, rounding to the nearest 10 and 100, ordering numbers and lastly, learning about



Blue, calm river with smooth waves.
Harry Hughes

In **literacy** this term we have been following the traditional Egyptian Cinderella. We have loved reading it and getting lots of ideas for our own traditional story.

We love the River Nile- we looked at a brilliant poem which inspired us to write our very own 'River Nile' poem. We loved creating 'expanded noun phrases' that flowed gently into our poems just like the Nile.

Please pop in and see our book of poems!



Maple Class News

The start to this year has been a proper rollercoaster ride - it's difficult to believe that only one term has gone by. Here are some of the highlights...

Maths

The children have been getting up to speed with their mental maths in CLIC, as well as doing a lot of other intensive number work. There have been weekly problems to solve, the return of the Cloak of Divisibility (while exercising our French) and carrying out investigations involving estimating and calculating a range of different measures.

Computing

It has been great to see what Purple Mash has to offer, and we are now on a mission to revamp our blog with exciting news stories brought straight to you from our intrepid Maple Class reporters...



Art & Design

We've been out foraging for materials to make our own natural paint (which got quite stinky), and the children have been using it to make designs on papyrus. We've also been making our own Egyptian cartouches with names written in hieroglyphs.



English

Our class novel this term has been *The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan, which has added a lot to our learning about Ancient Egypt. In Big Writing, the children have written diary entries for their trip to the Ashmolean Museum and fabulous nonsense poems, reports for the Maple blog and descriptions about the autumn. Meanwhile, The Grammar Game is back, and competition is already fierce!



P.E. We've been making the most of being outside this term, and we've been focussing on team tactics, fair play and communication in our work on tag rugby and football. It's been great to see some of the fantastic results of this in recent football and tag rugby tournaments, in which some of our Maple people have been involved!

Year 5 Science

It's been all about Evolution and Inheritance this term, which has mainly involved the Year 5 children studying beaks, looking at what Charles Darwin found out about beaks, carrying out an investigation with our own versions of beaks... as well as looking at how other animals have evolved and why the Galápagos Islands are such a special place.

Topic

With the theme of Ancient Egypt, the job of Maple Class has been to look at gods and beliefs - mainly learning about what happens in the afterlife. It turns out that there are one or two fairly unpleasant Ancient Egyptian gods... We've made a whole-class scale map of Ancient Egypt, which has pride of place in our classroom. We've been looking at pyramids, mummies, canopic jars and cartouches... and, of course, the curse of Tutankhamun...



Oak Class News

In PE the children have been working hard developing team work and multi-skills, with a focus on Tag Rugby.

We have been supported by sports coaches from Ignite who have helped to ensure that the children are developing skills at a high level and are working alongside teachers to further develop best practice.



Year 6 Science

This half term the Y6 children have been finding out about the planets and space. Here are some paintings of the planets drawn to scale. We have had great fun creating these, with the children collaborating well and applying their mathematics to ensure their scaled drawings are accurate as well as having an excuse to get the paints and brushes out. Now these are finished we will be displaying them in the classroom.



Oak Class Assembly

For their class assembly, the children showed a selection of things they have been involved in over this half term. These have included: sketching in the Pissarro gallery at the Ashmolean museum, painting a life size picture of Queen Cleopatra, sharing some interesting vocabulary, performing an original Egyptian rap and explaining the process of mummification.



Our Y1 & 2 girls came 1st in the Warriner Partnership Cross Country Race which took place at The Warriner School. All the girls took part and did an amazing job.



A special mention for Olivia, Bella, Ruby and Esme who all came in the top 11, and Flora who attained a very impressive 18th place even though only in Year 1. Well done!



The boys also did brilliantly and achieved a very close 2nd place.

A special mention for Lucas who came in 2nd out of all the boys.



Ready to run ...

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

Sport at Sibford Gower

Our children's sporting brilliance continues into the new academic year.



The Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Team came 1st in the Warriner Tag Rugby Festival



Our Year 3 & 4 football team then matched this by coming 1st in the Warriner Football Festival!



Our children also took part in a Triathlon Event held at Sibford School. They performed really well and showed great team spirit in the face of some extremely tough competition.

We are very proud of :

Bella Mountford, Amelia, Arabella, Imogen, Heidi, Bella Boyles, Ollie L-T , Tolly, Ethan, Shane, Oscar, Thea, Poppy, Ben L-T and Tom Wood

OUR SPORTS COUNCIL



Some of our Year 5 & 6 pupils have trained as Sports Leaders and regularly donate their lunchtimes to encourage our younger pupils to get active and have fun in the playground, taking part in all sorts of physical activities and games.

SAINSBURY'S SCHOOL GAMES



For the past two academic years, we have achieved a BRONZE AWARD for participation and inclusion in sports at our school and beyond. This is a brilliant achievement and one of which school

have been rightly proud. This year we achieved a fabulous and very well-deserved SILVER AWARD. As well as all the events children take part in during school time, this award also recognises participation in school clubs and all the work we put into ensuring that sport at Sibford Gower is inclusive and that children of all ages and abilities are encouraged to be active and to enjoy sport.

Special thanks to Mr Cameron, particularly for the huge amount of work he puts in behind the scenes to enable our participation at sports fixtures. Thanks also to those adults who make our Sports Clubs possible—Sue Rowley, Nicky Cullen, Emma Coventry, Peter Ward, coach Ros Kelling, Lauren Grantham and the chaps from Ignite.

We try to provide access to as many sporting activities as possible.

Here are some of the events coming up later this year ...

November

Swimming Gala (Years 3-6)

Cross Country (Years 3-6)

Swimming Gala (Years 5-6)

Dance Festival (Years 1-2)

December

Dodgeball (Years 3-4)

After Christmas...

Sportshall Athletics

Hockey (Years 5-6)

Multi-Skills (Years 1-2)

Oxfordshire School Games Festivals

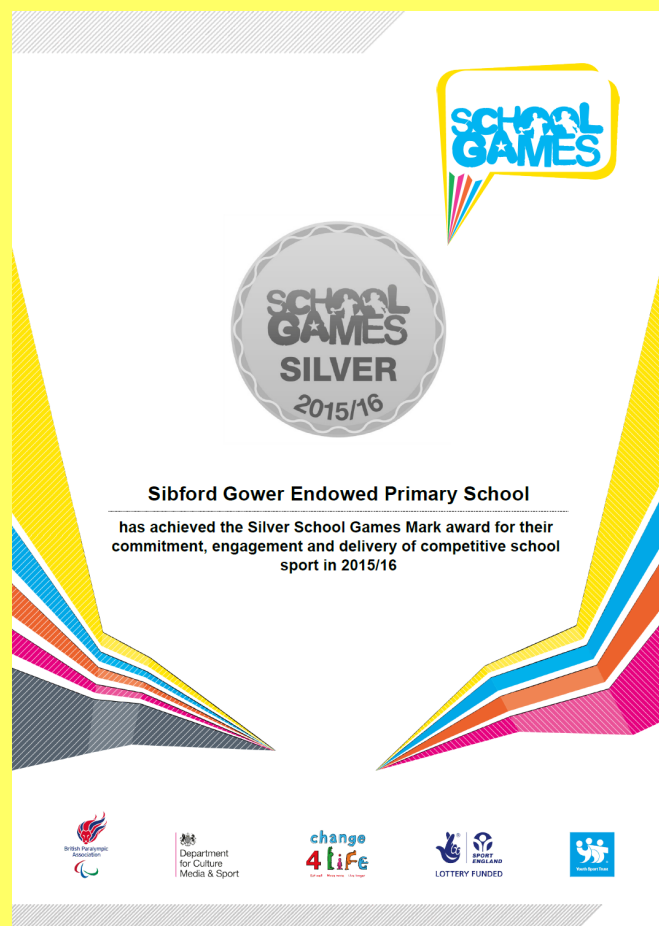
Quad Kids Athletics

Kwik Cricket

More Football

More Tag Rugby

More Swimming Galas



At our school, we encourage the children to show care and support towards others in lots of different ways. One way is to have regular fundraising events, which can also be great fun!



Back in September, Oak Class raised a wonderful £67 for our friends at the Rojo Rojo Orphanage in Kenya, by just picking fruit from our own Orchard and asking for your donations in exchange.



The whole school joined in Jeans for Genes day to raise money for the charity Genetic Disorders UK. Pupils and staff donned the denim to raise money for a fantastic cause. On the day, we raised a fabulous £116 simply by asking everyone to bring in a £1 coin. Well done everybody!



The Macmillan cake sale was an excellent, and very delicious way to start the day which had everyone baking for another very worthy cause. Thanks to everyone's generosity and hard work, we raised an impressive £200!



Mrs Knowles, James' mum, donated some delicious blackberry, apple and spelt muffins, made with apples from our Orchard. Thank you



Whole School Reading Week

As part of our whole school focus on encouraging a love of reading and the written word, we invited all parents to come in for the first half hour of each morning to share books with the children. This was really successful and a lovely way to start the day. A huge thank you to all those parents and grandparents who were able to join us. We are planning to hold one of these weeks each long term during the course of this year.



ASHMOLEAN TRIP KS2



The children from went on a trip to the Ashmolean to enrich their understanding of the culture and history of Ancient Egypt, and to inspire further learning on this fascinating subject. You can see more pictures on the school website which can be accessed at

www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk

TOTAL RECALL



FINGERTIP QUICK NUMBER FACTS AT
SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Yellow - one more, one less
Orange - number bonds to 10
Green - number bonds to 20
Pink - number bonds to 100
Bronze - recall of 2, 5, 10 times tables

Silver - recall of 3, 6, 4, 8 times tables
Gold - recall of 7, 9, 11 times tables
Black - 12 times table plus TOTAL
RECALL OF ALL TIMES TABLES AND
NUMBER BONDS TO 100

Total Recall is an initiative we are introducing after the half-term holiday to encourage the children to develop the quick recall of number facts that is essential if they are to be successful within the new National Curriculum for maths. The children are awarded different colour button badges when they reach certain milestones (in order):

Numbers

Orange: number bonds to 10 (e.g. $9+1$, $3+7$)

Yellow: one more and one less to 20 (e.g. one more than 15, one less than 12)

Green: number bonds to 20 (e.g. $18+2$, $5+15$)

Pink: number bonds to 100 (e.g. $54+46$, $33+67$)

Tables

Bronze: 2,5,10 times tables (up to $12 \times$)

Silver: 3,6,4,8 times tables (up to $12 \times$)

Gold: 7,9,11 times tables (up to $12 \times$)

Black: 12 times table and TOTAL RECALL of all previous tables and number bonds.

The expectation in the new National curriculum is that all children should know their 2x, 5x and 10x tables by the end of Year 2 and all tables up to 12×12 by the end of Year 4.

CHILDREN MUST PRACTISE AT HOME. They must be quizzed by their class teacher for each badge and Mr Lecznar, Miss Blake or Ms O'Sullivan will double check their fingertip quick number facts for speed and accuracy before a badge is awarded.

Once the children have achieved these badges, there are more to come...

Wombat News

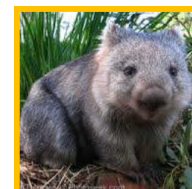
All our children have had the opportunity to vote for their school council class representatives. The WOMBATS have been duly elected and we have already managed to hold three meetings. The board have agreed on their Chairpersons, their treasurers and their secretary. The first project has been to review the impact of their predecessors last year, by looking at how many of their identified 'Grot Spots' have been dealt with. They have now started work on identifying their current Hot Spots—the things that look great/work well in our and their new 'Grot Spots' that pupils, staff and governors will work on sorting out over the coming 12 months.

You can look at the School Council page on our school website at www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk to find out more.



"In meetings, we talk about the school and how we can make it better. If it is good, it is called a Hot Spot. If it is not good, it is called a Grot Spot" -James Morbey

"I became a Wombat because I wanted to help the school. Sometimes, when I have ideas, they are pretty decent"—Tolly Patrick



Is your child due to start school in September 2017?

**Sibford Gower Primary School
would like to invite you to our**

OPEN DAY

Tuesday 15th November 2016, 9.30 to 11am



Come & have a look around, meet the staff and find out about all the things our friendly and welcoming village school has to offer your child.

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

If you know anyone with young children who is currently considering where to send them when they start school, please let them know that they are more welcome to attend this event to find out more about us.