

# Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School

# SCHOOL NEWS

October 2019

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year. We have had a really positive first half-term in school. Our new Acorns have all settled in well and children across the school are enjoying being in their new classes.

It has been a very busy but focused half-term for the children as they explored new learning topics on the themes of Land Ahoy, Tribal Tales and Peasants, Princes & Pestilence. The children have produced some really strong work across the curriculum with pupils in New School finishing the term with an invitation to their families to come and explore the Maritime Museum they have created in their library. Themes for next term are, Muck, Mess & Mixture, Tremors and Frozen Kingdom.

And we look forward to all sorts of exciting experiences in the run up to Christmas, starting with the fun of the Firework Display organised by our wonderful PTA and friends on 9th November.

We look forward to seeing you all there. In the meanwhile, have a safe and happy holiday.

Kindest regards,  
Jane O'Sullivan



**Best Class Attendance  
this half term:**

**Acorn & Beech,  
both with an  
amazing**

**99%**

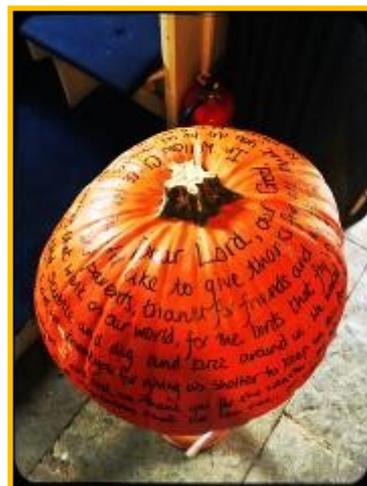


## Harvest Art

One of the very noticeable things about the Harvest Celebration at the Church this term was the beautiful art work, prayers and poems created by the children on their chosen theme of Autumn Colours.

There are some more examples of these further on in the newsletter.

Many thanks for your generous donations and the pleasure of your company.



**Children return to school on  
Monday 4th November**

**Reminder!**

## Formidable Fundraising

The children and staff at Sibford Gower Primary are a caring and nurturing bunch who are also always ready for a bit of fun! Our charity fundraising events combine these two things well and, with your support, the children have raised some significant amounts for worthwhile causes already this term.

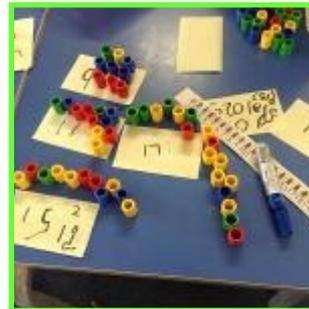
We all dressed up in denim on Jeans for Genes Day raising £104. Some time spent fruit picking in our beautiful Orchard with a playground sale of apples, plums and pears raised £104 for our friends at the Rojo Aids Orphanage in Kenya. The Macmillan Cake Sale raised £254 for cancer research and the sponsorship from the frenetic Sports 4 Schools workshop raised a total of £1,355 with a significant proportion coming back into school for equipment.

# Acorn Class News

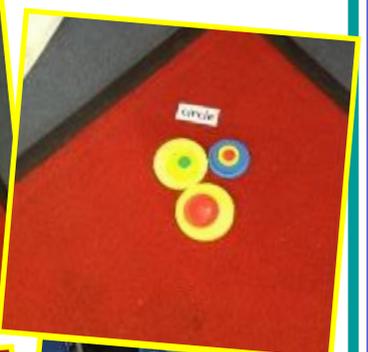
We have been learning about letters, phonemes (sounds) and digraphs (two letters which make one sound) in phonics since we started school in September. This has made our brains 'grow' with knowledge and now we can read words and write down our fantastic ideas.



We have been learning about counting, grouping and writing numbers .



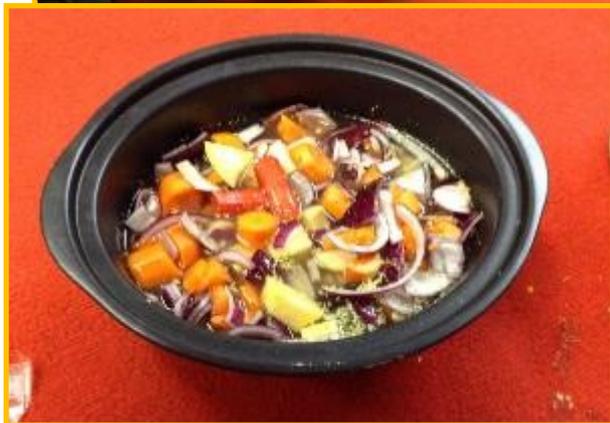
We have been exploring 2D (flat) and 3D (solid) shapes. We grouped them by shape and used the hammer and nail set to create pictures of boats, islands and to represent adventures.



We love to learn in Acorn Class!



**There has been lots of seasonal cooking going on in New School. All the children in Acorn Class worked together, peeling and chopping Autumn vegetables. They put them all into the cooking pot to make some wonderful, warming Harvest Soup.**



**They were also responsible for the delightful harvest mouse bread rolls that were on display in the church as part of our Harvest Celebration.**



## BEECH CLASS NEWS

Beech class have had a fantastic start to the year with our topic Land Ahoy! We have found out all about boats, explorers and pirates. We started the term with a fantastic trip to Stratford Upon Avon where we cruised up and down the river on our own boat and even got to ride the chain ferry! Back at school we wrote recounts of our trip, made books about Captain Cook and wrote poems about pirates.



In maths we have been using lots of practical equipment to explore different numbers. We have learnt lots of new ways to represent them and found out all about place value.

We have been learning all about different boats, what they are made out of, how they float and how their shape helps them to carry a load. We tested lots of different materials, drew pictures and made boats in a variety of different shapes to see which will float for the longest.



We have really enjoyed exploring maps, we have been finding cities and countries we have visited and plotting Captain Cook's route around the world!



We made rafts and boats out of natural materials during forest school and tested them to see if they would float! Some of us even added sails made of leaves to help the boats to move.



We have absolutely loved our forest school sessions. We have been working hard on our noticing skills by spending the first few moments looking and listening to our environment. We have also been developing our map skills and finding out about having a "birds eye view". We then created our own maps and swapped these with friends to help us to find hidden treasure.

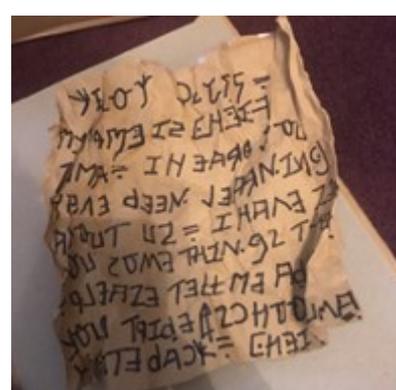


## Willow Class News

What a fabulous term we have had in Willow Class. We have learnt lots of new and exciting things and have developed many *'learning muscles'* in the process.



We have enjoyed getting to know each other and becoming one *class family*. At the start of the term we explored many team building games. This was one of our favourites. We had to work together as a team to dress our team captain. Don't you think these children look like wonderful, creative 'Willow Trees'?



We have been working extremely hard at our writing this term and have produced some amazing, creative work. We had a very special, surprise delivery! As some of you may know we have been learning about different tribes. Chief Zumma (Chief of the Zulu Tribe) sent us a surprise parcel. We had no idea that a parcel was coming and we were so very excited to write back to him.

***"I was SO excited and shocked that Chief Zumma sent us a parcel."***

Isobel Whitehouse

***"I couldn't wait to taste the tea he sent us."***

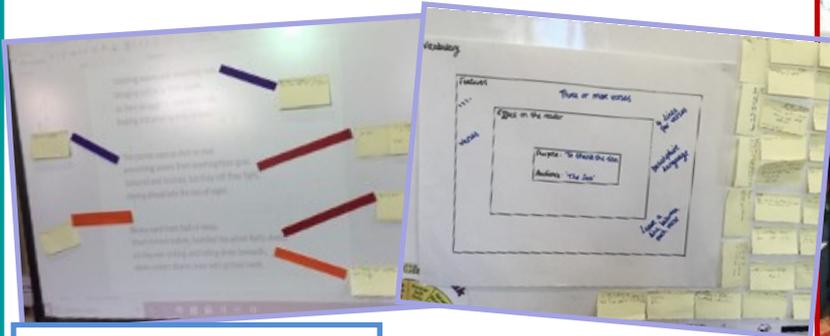
Amber Steenkamp

***"I had so many questions to ask him. I couldn't wait to write my letter back to him!"***

Flora Ransom



Our class book this term is 'African Tales'. We have really enjoyed reading the different traditional stories. 'Girl of the waves' was our favourite story. This inspired us to produce our very own sea poems (Please pop in and see them).



### Super Science

Fantastic Fossils- This has been a great topic in science. We have loved learning about fossils and Mary Anning, we also made our own clay fossils!

*"Rock detectives was my very favourite science lesson. Miss Grantham hid clues around the classroom for us all to find. We then had to piece the clues together to identify the different rocks!" Ben Whitehouse*



**Forest School** has been great fun this term. We have made dens (African huts and stone age caves), used tools to create stone age hunting forks and refreshed our knots and weaving skills. Even in the rain, we still made it out each week. **WE LOVE FOREST SCHOOL!**



### Marvellous Maths

This term we have been learning about place value. This consists of rounding, 100 more/less than a number, missing numbers, ordering numbers and column addition.

Haven't we been busy?



**5-9 climb the vine  
0-4 slide on the floor**

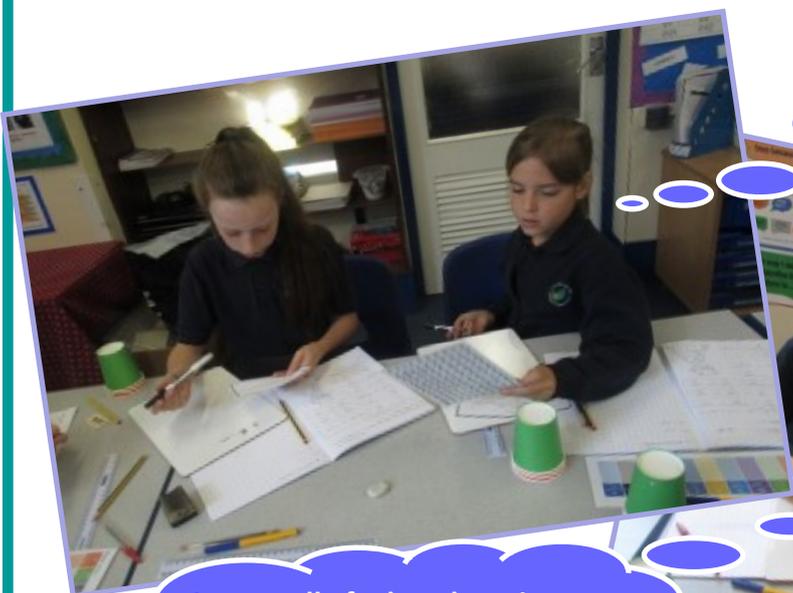
## Oak year 5&6

It has been a very busy first term back with lots of learning. The children have thoroughly enjoyed our humanities focus this term and also the class text we have been studying. We have done some drama which has led to some amazing writing. We used a particular drama technique called 'Conscience Alley'. This strategy is used at a key point in a narrative and is a way of exploring a particular dilemma of a character at that particular moment. We had great fun and the children were very responsive.



In literacy we have been reading our class text: *Fire, Bed & Bone*. Set in the medieval era, the book follows the unique narrative of a hunting dog. During our lessons Oak 5 have explored this character and their story. They have produced some fantastic pieces of writing where they have written in role as the hunting dog and her puppy. Furthermore the book has allowed us to find out more about the medieval era, in particular the 1381 Peasants' Revolt. Oak 5 have used role play to develop their understanding about why this took place.

The children have enjoyed getting into the mind-set of Wat Tyler and recently wrote speeches attempting to persuade an audience of peasants to join his revolt.

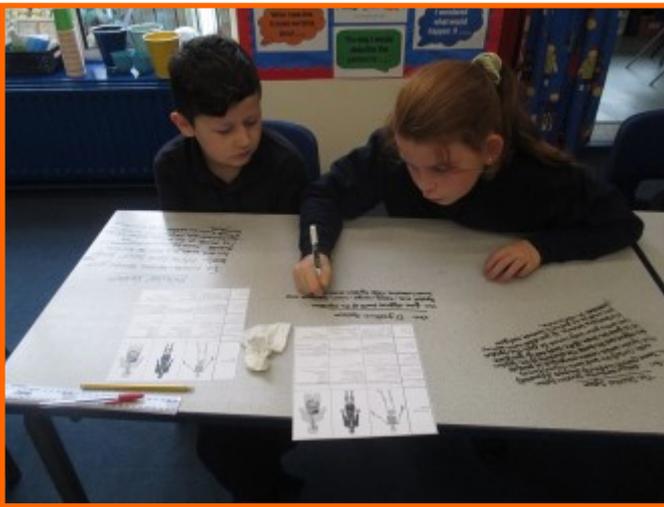


What a fun way to use our maths knowledge.

I can really feel my learning muscles stretching!



In Maths in Year 6, we have been focusing on Place Value and rounding. The children thoroughly enjoyed working out our 'Decimal Riddles' They were great fun and helped the children consolidate their previous knowledge and understanding.



In Science, Oak 6 have been learning about how our bodies work, focusing on the different systems that our bodies need to function. The children used iPads and books to do their own research and then write up an information page about each of the systems.



In Science Oak 5 have become astronauts studying Earth & Space this term. We have explored the solar system in the playground and learnt about how the earth and moon move. Oak 5 particularly enjoyed discovering early theories about the Earth's movement through singing the horrible histories 'Space song'!

In maths this term Oak 5 have also been concentrating on place value. A highlight has been working together during competitive dice games where the class had to use their rounding skills to score points.

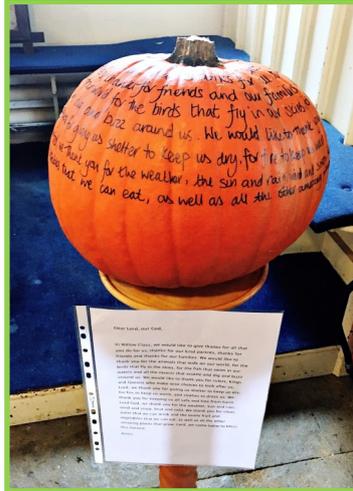


In humanities, amongst many things, we have been looking at banquets during the period of history we were studying. To help understand what food was eaten and why, the children did their own interpretation of a piece of art depicting a full banquet, looking very closely at the detail.

# A Celebration of Harvest

Many thanks to those of you who joined us for the beautiful Harvest Celebration at the church in Sibford Gower. Thank you also for the generous donations to the Banbury Food Bank which were received with thanks.

The service was very lovely, with some beautiful singing, very clear readings from our older children and some very beautiful artwork (and definitely not forgetting the charming Harvest Hedgehogs made by our younger children!)



## A Sense of Autumn

Where the wind blows humidity away,  
It's a breath-taking season with a shorter day.  
Fruit-filled baskets outside every door,  
Full of ripeness, to the core.

Ivy crawling up every khaki tree,  
Picking coffee-coloured conkers to live with me.  
Fungi hidden between layered sticks,  
A moss covered coat over nearby bricks.

Dappled colours lightened through the trees,  
Plump plums ready for the bees.  
Thank you farmers for what you have done.  
Autumn has been so much fun.

By Ava Lea-James



## WOMBAT NEWS

Our Wombat School Council have been democratically elected by our student body following classroom 'hustings'. This is a really effective way of developing our pupils' understanding of British Values and representative democracy. It is always a pleasure to see how proud the representatives are to be elected to this role and how seriously they take it. Wombats really do make an active contribution to our school. They have held their first meeting and have already discussed matters such as whether plastic wristbands as sponsorship awards are something we wish to continue supporting in the light of our awareness of the impact of plastics in the environment. The School Council are always able to provide a clear insight into possible issues at school with discussion ranging from taps that don't work and school dinners to behaviour in school and both local and global environmental issues. Their next mission is to talk with their classmates to identify any Hot Spots and Grot Spots around school so that these can be addressed through the School Development Plan.

**GO YOU WOMBATS!**



## Sporting Achievement

Our very own Arabella Argyros-Farrell has just been given a place on the Banbury Blues U13 Netball A team. This is an impressive achievement at such a young age. Arabella's coach said, "We would like to move Arabella to the A team going forwards. She has certainly proved herself over the past few matches." And this, on top of a very successful season so far playing for the U13s B team. As well as being recently named Player of the Match, Arabella has been the constant highest rebound taker for the entire league.

**We are so proud of you, Arabella!**



Our new outdoor 'circuit' equipment has been installed on the big field and our younger children have had great fun using this. It has certainly enhanced our outdoor provision for active learning. Thanks go to our Sports Leader, Miss Grantham, for making this happen.

# Sibford Gower Sport

It has been a busy term already for sport. We have competed in Tag Rugby, Girls football and Multi skills. The children have shown great sportsmanship and team work throughout the events. Some of our children really stood out from other schools and were awarded certificates for great collaboration.

## Girls Football- Years 3 and 4



## Tag Rugby, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October



We came an amazing 2nd overall!



Sports Leaders

## UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS (Please be aware that these events may change)

DATE	EVENT	YEARS	VENUE
KS2 Cross Country	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Pupils will race according to age and gender	Sibford School 2:00-3:30
KS1 Cross Country	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Years 1 and 2	Sibford School 9:30-10:30
Year 5/6 Swimming	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Selected children	Sibford School 2:00-4:00
Year 3 and 4 dodgeball	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Selected children	The Warriner School 9:30-11:00

We have been very busy this term organising our lunchtime activities. We have a great group of children volunteering to deliver and lead sport activities. Before the summer, the sports leaders had some brilliant training- they learned many new games and activities to play! It has been a huge success so far and all the children (and members of staff) have joined in!

# SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES IN SCHOOL

We love to invite visitors into school to lead Special Assemblies for us and to organise our own. We have held a number of these this term including:



The Summer Reading Challenge Celebration Assembly

Luke Delahunty's inspiring assembly on how he faced the challenge of being paraplegic to become a Paralympic athlete and aeroplane pilot.



Miss Roseblade's informative assembly on Genes for Jeans Day



And the NSPCC ChildLine assemblies which link very well with the Protective Behaviours lessons the children will take part in next term.



# Bonfire & Fireworks

## Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov



**Sibford Gower Primary School**  
Gates open: **5.00pm** Fireworks: **6.30pm**

**Mulled Wine**

**Burgers**

**Soft Drinks**

**Hot Dogs**

**Homemade Soup**



ADVANCE

FAMILY £15

ADULT £8

CHILD £5

ON THE DOOR

FAMILY £20

ADULT £10

CHILD £6

(Family = 2 adults and 3 children, Adult 16+, Child 2-15)

Advance tickets available up to 3pm Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Contact for tickets: [veemulley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:veemulley@hotmail.co.uk)

*Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School PTA*

Our fabulous PTA have been involved in all manner of events already this year, including Meet the Teacher, the MacMillan Cake Sale, the Bags 2 School collection and Cauliflower Cards, with all sorts of things planned for next term, including the Firework Display shortly after the half-term break. Our thanks for all the time, thought and effort they put into supporting our lovely school and making a difference for all the children.



# After School Care



We have had a busy half-term at A.S.C

Elizabeth Coffey has been a brilliant addition to the ASC team and has settled in really well. Carol and Elizabeth have been working really hard to make sure the children have a great time at ASC and do a wide variety of things.

This half term the children have celebrated or taken part in:

**Roald Dahl Day:** with Alfie Snow and Jake Steenkamp winning the colouring competitions

**Talk Like a Pirate Day:** with Harry Spann winning the flag colouring competition

**World Heart Day, Rosh Hashanah, World Animal Day,  
National Heroes Day and Fire Safety Week**

They finished the term with an amazing **Halloween Party** in which the children took part in a Dress the Mummy competition, Hang the Donut, Apple Bobbing, Biscuit decoration and a visit to a haunted house!



# HAPPY HOLIDAY!