

SCHOOL NEWS

www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

Christmas is here and another half term has whizzed by. School life has been as action packed as ever with all manner of events and curriculum enrichment activities going on, including Bonfire Night, the Conover Trip, Diwali and Hanukkah weeks, the Macbeth workshop, Forest School, sporting fixtures including Cross Country, multi-skills and a Dance Festival, the MAX Rock drumming assembly, Christmas Craft activities, the PTA Christmas Fair and the Nativity performance. The children have also been working very hard during lessons. We have had another Peer Review with headteachers from other WMAT schools coming in to explore and assess how things are going at school and to provide their expert advice for further school improvement.

They said, *"Good quality teaching was seen throughout the school. Well established learning routines and behaviours are developed very effectively ...with even the youngest children displaying excellent behaviour for learning. Children recognise that staff have high expectations for them and they value that. They want to do well and they enjoy their learning."*

On behalf of all the staff at our wonderful school, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With kind regards,
Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher



Best Class Attendance this half term

OAK CLASS 98%



43 pupils have had 100% attendance so far this academic year

Children return to school on Wednesday 9th January



Whole school Diwali Week was great fun.

CAROL CONCERT



The Carol Concert at the church in Sibford Gower was lovely; the children sang and 'read' beautifully. Many thanks to all of those parents, carers, friends and family who accompanied the children to the church. Thank you also for your generous donations to the 'collection' which the Revd. Hawkes kindly suggested should go to the charity of our choice. We collected £79 which we will be donating to CLIC Sargent, the cancer charity for children, young people and their families.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you all to introduce our new Governing Body following some recent changes.

The members are:

Jane O'Sullivan – Headteacher

Rachel Blake – Staff Governor

Frazer Argyros-Farrell: Parent Governor, Alex Greenhalgh: Parent Governor, Sarah Coe: Director Appointed Governor, Sue Cook: Director Appointed Governor, Emma Coventry: Director Appointed Governor, Fred Inns: Foundation Governor, Sarah Garstin: Vice-Chair & Director Appointed Governor, Paul Manthorpe: Chair & Director Appointed Governor

The Governing Board is made up, largely, of local people who are all acting as volunteers. Our role is to “have three core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; 2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.”

(Governance handbook For trustees of academies and multi-academy trusts and governors of maintained schools November 2015)

Basically our job is to provide the checks and balances as ‘a critical friend’ of the school. We meet formally at least six times a year, attend training provided by The Warriner Multi-Academy Trust (WMAT) and Oxfordshire Partners in Learning, as well as other Governor meetings within the WMAT. We are also frequent visitors to look at the school in action and attend many of the School events. We are hoping to raise our profile within the school over the next year and so hope to be more visible so that everyone knows who we are and what we do as Governors.

Looking back over 2018 I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for everything that they have done throughout this calendar year to encourage and support our children to achieve their potential. We all understand that this is not an easy or simple task and truly believe that the OFSTED visit and their subsequent judgement that our school is ‘Good’ is a true reflection of the hard work of the staff of the school and the support that they have been given by you all as stakeholders in our school.

Whilst the acknowledgement by OFSTED is satisfying and gratifying we are aware of all of the ‘other’ things that are going on within our school – the clubs, after-school activities, the sport, etc. and the support of our hard-working PTA that make our school so special and remind us, the pupils and their families how lucky we are to have such a wonderful school. We are proud and grateful for all of the opportunities to celebrate the successes and achievements of our pupils and staff.

With many thanks and best wishes for a relaxing and well-deserved Christmas break. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, and prosperous, New Year.

Paul Manthorpe
Chair of Governors.



Acorn Class News

This term in Acorn class we have been celebrating many festivals of light including Diwali and Hanukkah. The children have enjoyed taking part in many creative activities linked to the stories of these festivals. They have also been talking about celebrations where fireworks are used as they created some wonderful firework art.



Our new classroom layout has really encouraged our little Acorns to become more independent learners. They all feel very confident applying skills learned, during child initiated time.



We have been exploring materials and their properties this half term, and describing, grouping and writing labels.



And of course, there is always time for completing puzzles.



Beech Class News

Beech class have had a brilliant half term with our topic 'The Wind in the Willows'. We have been learning about different native British woodland animals and enjoyed following the adventures of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad. We have really enjoyed being journalists and writing our own newspaper reports about Toad's escapades.



We had a fantastic time at the Cross country, cheering on our friends and trying our best with running.



We have absolutely loved our PE sessions this term. We have been learning about defending and intercepting the ball as part of our work on ball skills. We have all really developed our team work skills.

We really enjoyed our trip to Sibford School for an author visit. It was so exciting to hear the stories performed by the people who wrote them.



We have had some fantastic forest school sessions, during which we have been very artistic. Amelia created this beautiful picture using natural materials! We also practised our weaving skills.



We have really enjoyed creating firework art using everyday objects instead of paintbrushes.



We have been using practical equipment, number lines and written methods to practice addition and subtraction.



Willow Class

What a busy yet wonderful term it has been...We have learnt lots of new things and had so much fun along the way!

Lovely Literacy: We have had a wonderful time in literacy. We have really enjoyed our class book, *Macbeth*. We have created some brilliant pieces of writing and even made our very own 'sleeping potion' (This was great fun!!)



"I loved making the sleeping potions. My favourite part was when we crushed the spider legs!"
Nancy



We loved making our potions... We then had to order our photos in chronological order! This helped us when we came to

Lady Macbeth's Sleeping Potion

Have you ever wanted to make a king fall asleep forever?
Then this is the potion for you...

Ingredients

- 150ml of wicked water
- 2 tea spoons of red blood beetle juice
- 3 tea spoons of secret sugar
- 5 spider legs



Equipment

- Potion bottle with a secret label
- tea spoons
- Measuring jug
- super stirring stick

Instructions

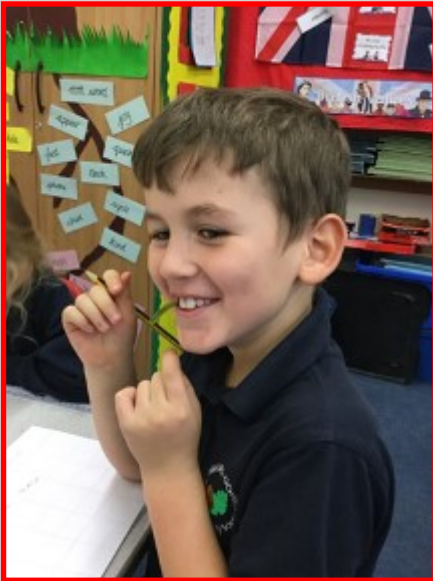
1. Pour in 150ml of wicked water into your potion bottle
2. Stir four times and say "wicked wicked wicked wicked water"
3. Crush each spider leg
4. Put each spider leg into your potion bottle
5. Pinch secret sugar onto your teaspoon (do this twice)
6. Stir well with your super stirring stick
7. Measure 2 tea spoons of red blood beetle juice
8. Mix it together and whisper "sleep sleep sleep sleep"
9. Place lid on your potion bottle and label it secretly

PE This term in PE we have been doing netball. We even moved on to High 5s. We have really enjoyed using learning about netball and the different passes needed for a game.

"I love the warm up games" Harry



Willow Class



Our Sweet Shop (ICT): We have loved making our own sweet wrappers. Year 4s had their turn this term and absolutely loved creating their wild and wonderful wrappers

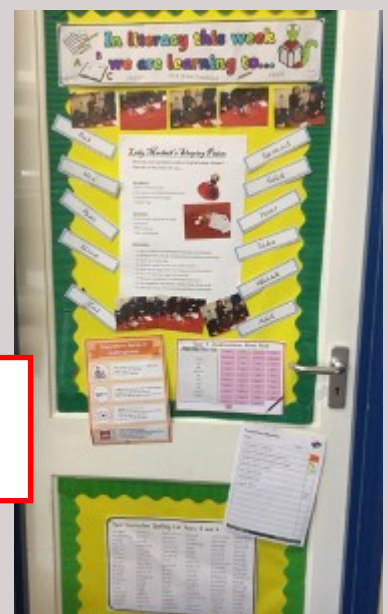


Super Science: We have loved learning about the human body this term. We particularly liked learning about the skeleton and all the bones. We have also been learning about a balanced diet and we got to taste lots of different fruits and vegetables. This was yummy!



Marvellous Maths: This term we have been learning about grid method, bus stop method and shape!

"The working door helps me to do my literacy work"
Monty

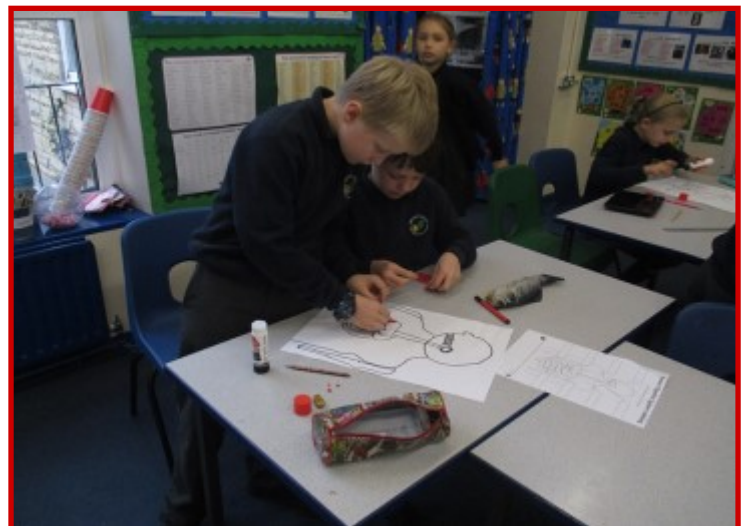


MAPLE & OAK

We have had such a lovely term with lots of learning and things going on. On returning from Condover Hall, Oak Class visited the Remembrance exhibition at the village hall. This really was a *local* history lesson and there were lots of facts and information about Sibford and the school which were so interesting to learn. Many thanks to ex-governor Maureen Hicks for inviting us and taking the time to talk.



We took part in National Parliament week this November and both Maple and Oak studied the suffragette movement which they were very enthusiastic about. They produced some amazing research posters (using a range of sources) in readiness for writing a biography about Emmeline Pankhurst.



Year 4 in Science have been looking at the human digestive system and have produced some thoughtful and detailed artwork illustrating this, and consolidating their learning about the different parts of this system. They have also been finding about teeth and have conducted a practical experiment to explore the effect of different liquids on tooth enamel, using eggs, coca-cola, vinegar, fruit juice, milk and salt water, with some important lessons learned!

Macbeth Drama Workshops 22.11.18

We were lucky enough to have The Young Shakespeare Company, visiting our school this term. The children absolutely loved it and it was a truly memorable learning experience for them all.

Prior to the workshops, the children in Willow, Maple and Oak Classes had spent some weeks exploring aspects of the play 'Macbeth'.



The workshops served as a wonderful finale for this work as the children acted out the whole story and became immersed in the richness of Shakespeare's language. The children brought the day as well as a lot of prior knowledge about Macbeth which this was commented on by Andrew, the actor who led the workshops. It was such a joy to see all the children taking part in such a memorable and enjoyable learning experience.



OAK CLASS ART & DESIGN



In Oak Class, the children have been creating their own 'Folk Art'. We started off the half-term with a focus on mark-making and explored and experimented with a variety of ways in which we can create interesting textures and patterns with drawing implements. Then we looked at examples of Folk Art from different cultures and considered definitions of 'folk art'. The children then combined mark-making and imagination to create their own folk art images using the motif of flowers.

The finished works are really beautiful!



YEAR SIX SCIENCE



Year 6 have been looking at the topic of electricity this term in science. Over the last few weeks they have been using their knowledge of circuits to create Christmas decorations. They have had to design their decorations and then make them using batteries, bulb holders, bulbs and wire. Over the last couple of sessions they have had to use problem-solving

AMAZING MATHS



Earlier this term, eight year sixes attempted the Primary Maths Challenge. We went into the hall and took the test. Here are a couple of questions from the test for you to try:

2002 is a palindromic year which means it reads the same backwards as forwards. The previous palindromic year was 1991, 11 years before 2002. How many years will it be between 2002 and the next palindromic year?

10 B. 11 C. 101 D. 110 E. 1001

A recipe for chocolate chip cookies uses twice as much flour as butter. If I use 300g of flour, and butter is sold in 4 oz packets how many packets of butter do I need? Hint 0.0353 ounces in a gram.

1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 E. 5

When we came out it felt like a weight had been lifted off our shoulders although the test was fun. After waiting a few

SPORT AT SIBFORD GOWER

We have taken part in lots of inter-school sporting events this term and it has been great to watch the children compete so enthusiastically in all events. As always our children stand out because of their good sportsmanship and teamwork.

KS2	KS1
Football Tag Rugby Cross Country Multi-skills Swimming Gala	Dance Festival Cross Country



SPORTS LEADERS

We have had a very eventful term, organising our lunchtime activities. We have a great group of children volunteering to deliver and lead sport and craft activities. It has been a huge success so far and all the children (and members of staff) have joined in!

Last year the sports leaders asked for new playground equipment- a huge parcel achieved at the beginning of the year full of new skipping ropes, big snakes and ladders, shoot the hoops and much more!



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Years	Venue
7th February	Indoor Athletics	Years 5 & 6	The Warriner School
1st March	Hockey	Years 5 & 6	Bloxham School
7th March	Multi-skills	Year 1 & 2 Boys	The Warriner School

These events may change and more events may be added- you will be notified of any changes

CHRISTMAS AT SCHOOL



Here is the happy band of 'elves' who helped to decorate the Christmas Tree.

Many thanks to them and our PTA for making school look so Christmas-



A total of £ 848.46 was raised, half of which has been donated to cancer charity CLIC Sargent. (£424.23)



The PTA Christmas fair was great fun and very well attended. Thank you to everyone who turned out to support this festive fundraiser.



THE NATIVITY



The children in Acorn and Beech classes have been very busy over the last couple of weeks, practising and practising and practising for their Nativity Performance, just like



the angels in the choir!



They did an amazing job and everyone played their part; narrators, camels and kings, shepherds, innkeepers, angels and their excellent conductor, the donkey, Mary and Joseph and, of course, the beautiful sparkling star. Many thanks to Miss Blake, Miss Roseblade, Mrs Heather, Mrs Coventry and Mrs Cook for all their hard work. The costumes were lovely and the performances were delightful.





FRESHSTART CHRISTMAS DINNER



The Freshatart Christmas Lunch was excellent. The hall looked lovely with long, white table cloths and simple decorations and the Freshatart staff looked gorgeous in their very stylish hats! The really excellent food was served to the children by the school staff.



The staff and children said a very special thank you to Sarah, Claire, Emma and Jo, not just for all their hard work for this special occasion, but for the effort and special care they put into every day .

We think they're brilliant!

KS2 CHRISTMAS CRAFTS



Jigsaw piece wreath and reindeer 'baubles'



These delightful little fellows are 'tomtees' and were hand-stitched by our older children as one of their D&T Christmas Craft activities.

Thank you Mrs Heather.

A Letter from our P.T.A.

The PTA have had a very busy term with lots of very well attended events and we have managed to raise lots of money for the school as well as helping some charities which are very close to our hearts. We started off with our fabulous Bonfire & Firework Night. It was lovely to see so many families supporting the event and also to welcome villagers and people from further afield. There was a super atmosphere and a huge amount of money was raised! Huge thanks to Claire Evans & Chris Cullen and all their team, plus all the helpers and old school parents who spared their valuable time. It really was a fantastic event!

I'm sure that many family members have been enjoying receiving the beautiful Christmas cards that your children designed. Thank you all for supporting this venture. The children love to see their designs in print and I know some of you bought the mugs this year which looked fabulous too! Thanks to Carol Taylor for organising the Christmas Cards, we made £175 for the school.

The last event was The Christmas Fair which really got everyone in the Christmas spirit! Hopefully most children came home with a teddy, something they had made and of course some chocolate! One very lucky Foundation Stage girl also took the huge fluffy unicorn home that Mrs Heather had kindly donated to the raffle! There were a lot of children persuading parents to buy lots of raffle tickets to be in with a chance of winning that prize! Thank you all for your support on the day but also in the lead up with all your chocolate contributions, jam jars, raffle prizes, teddies and helping on the stalls. As well as raising funds for school this event was also supporting the CLIC Sargent charity. We will give you a final amount raised very soon!

Thanks to Lynn Lloyd -Thomas for organising our first Rags2Riches clothing collection. There is another collection planned for March, so please have a sort out in the new year!

The PTA have also been able to fund the transport to the Pantomime this term. Its always lovely being able to get the whole school out for a treat!

Finally, please put the date for the school disco in your new year diaries! Join us on Wednesday 16th January. Hopefully your children have brought home a flyer in their book bags this week with details. Thanks to Helen Argyros-Farrell for taking the lead on organising this event. Please get in touch with her on helena@haramon.co.uk if you can help on the evening.

Next PTA meeting 29th January at 7.30pm in KS1 staffroom - All Welcome!

Thank you for all your ongoing support we couldn't put on these events without the help of the parents, carers & teachers.

Shelley Dawson (Parent of Sidney Yr3 & Ronnie Yr1)

Sarah Garstin (Parent of Ruby Yr4 & Ivy FS)

Chairs of PTA

After School Care



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



The children made their own tea-light holders during Diwali Week and also made some lovely model fireworks in celebration of Bonfire Night.

Competition Time

The children took part in Biscuit Decorating competition.

	KS1	KS2
1st	Thomas F.	Harry W.
2nd	Amber S.	Rosie P.

Apple Bobbing was great fun, with everybody getting wet and lots of laughter. Christmas has meant a lot of Christmas Crafts, with the children making salt dough mobiles and snow globe jars. They decorated their own ASC Christmas Wreath which Jacob H. won in the raffle.

ASC also took part in Christmas Jumper Day

The final week of term meant Christmas parties! These were planned by our very own Ethan W.

He chose the games and helped to order the Christmas food in line with the ASC budget—excellent party ideas and good money management!

“Thank you, Ethan”



The amazing ‘Decorate the Gingerbread Man’ competition

Pass the Balloon



MAX ROCK ASSEMBLY

Jord from MAXROCK in Banbury came to lead a special assembly. Everyone joined in, whether it was stamping along to 'BOOM BOOM BAP' or coming up to the front to play the drums in front of the school.



WOMBAT SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Wombats have met and their formal roles have been agreed—chairperson, secretary, treasurers and class representatives. They have begun identifying their Hot Spots and Grot Spots and decided to have behaviour in school as an agenda item for each meeting so that they can share their thoughts about this with the grown-ups.



On Christmas Jumper Day, the children in KS2 had a 'Design a Christmas Jumper' Competition

The winner was JAKE.

Very well done!



The day raised £77.66 for Save the Children

CHARITY FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Children in Need 2018

We decided to hold a Blue Peter Bring & Buy Sale in school to mark Children in Need this year. This was really successful and the quality of donations was very high—thank you.



The fundraising element of the day raised £ £187.57 and everyone had something lovely to take home!



Some of our Oak Class children also decided to hold an all day sponsored silence to raise even more money.

The impressively silent 4 were Bella M, Bella B Arabella A-F and Scarlett W. They raised a fabulous £43.75.

Very well done to the girls and thanks to all the generous people who sponsored them!

RAGS 2 RICHES raised £90
Cauliflower Cards raised £175
Collections for CLIC Sargent raised:
Carol Concert: £79,
Nativity Performance £82

Have a very
MERRY
CHRISTMAS

READING REALLY MATTERS!

Please don't forget the importance of your child reading and sharing books regularly over the holiday period. Reading should be a joy, not a chore, and encouraging and actively supporting your child to become a regular reader is one of the most positive things you can do for them. Regular reading makes a huge difference to their word power and their progress in other subjects too, and will support them to become lifelong learners who are interested in a wide variety of things.



Source: <http://read20.org/2014/11/19/read-20-minutes-a-day/>