

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School

SCHOOL NEWS

February 2020

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

We really have had a very positive start to 2020 here at school. Our new topic themes continue to be very popular with both children and staff and there is a very creative 'buzz' in all of the classrooms. As part of our revised approach, all teachers are focusing on the teaching of vocabulary with the intention that all our children become increasingly articulate and confident in using their 'word power' both in lessons and in everyday life.

We recently invited other WMAT heads, including our CEO, Dr Annabel Kay, into school to conduct a Peer Review during which they scrutinised books, dropped into lessons and talked with children and staff. They had many positive things to say about our school and our curriculum, including:

"Children throughout the school demonstrate very effective learning behaviours and display a great deal of independence in their learning. Working Walls reflect current and relevant vocabulary for all subjects and there is a clear expectation that this vocabulary will be used in pupil's written work."

"Work in both English books and other subjects, reflects high expectation both by children and teachers in terms of presentation, response to feedback and editing. Because of this high expectation, good progress is noted in the books of all children."

"The wider curriculum has been deliberately and carefully planned to deliver the school's curriculum intent effectively. Coverage and progression have been mapped across the school effectively to ensure that knowledge and skills are developed in a sequential manner. Learning environments are age appropriate, relevant, engaging and supportive and enable independent learning."

It is always helpful to welcome 'fresh eyes' into school to check that our perception of the quality of the education we are providing is accurate and the outcomes of this review confirmed the positive impact of all the hard work and thought our wonderful staff put into their planning and teaching.

Next term's topic themes look just as exciting as those we are sharing in the following pages.

Have a lovely half-term break.

With kindest regards,

Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)



**Children return to school
on Monday 24th February**



**Best Class Attendance this half
term Beech Class 98%**

Photography Competition

**Please do encourage and support
your child to participate in our
photography competition
(information sent out separately)**

Deadline for entries is 20th March

ACORN CLASS NEWS

Our topic this term has been 'Street detectives', we have made observations about the village of Sibford Gower and have looked at photographs and learnt from local resident Fred Inns about how it has changed in the last 100 years. We have been sharing information about our own villages and have made maps with pictures and labels. All the children knew, and were excited to share and compare, the name of their own village pub!



We have made our own 'street' in Acorn Class, named Acorn Street, where we were able to celebrate Chinese New Year with some very special 'dim sum' and fortune cookies made out of felt by the talented Mrs Coventry.

We have been very lucky to be able to welcome into our classroom, some special visitors who work in our local community. We listened to them tell us about their jobs and asked them what they liked the best about their work.

A big thank you to Andrew's mummy, Maisie's mummy and Holly's daddy for coming in to share their experiences.



In maths the children have been adding and subtracting using counters, Lego and by counting on and back using number lines.



The children have been busy listening to, retelling, acting out and sequencing the stories of The Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood. We have also been writing in our role play.

BEECH CLASS NEWS

In Beech Class, we have really enjoyed our latest topic on the theme of 'Street Detectives'.

We have been finding out all about our local area. We have invited in visitors to interview about the history of the village, including our longest standing school governor, Mr Fred Inns. We went on a walk to match photos of the village from the past to what it looks like now.



We have been looking at lots of different maps and identifying places we know. We have drawn routes to get to school from home and to other places we visit regularly such as friends houses or the library.



We found out what life was like at our school 100 years ago and wrote diary entries imagining we were there.

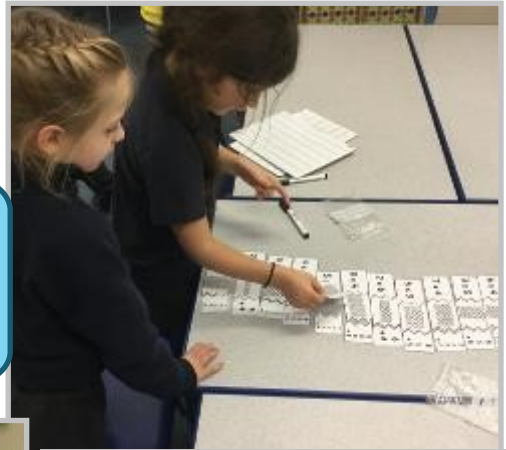


In art we have drawn pictures of some of our favourite village buildings. We have used pencils and oil pastels and are really pleased with the results.

In maths we have been learning about multiplication and division. We created our own scenarios to write word problems about.



I have 2 baskets of 6 pears. How many pears do I have altogether?



As part of our home learning, lots of us made our own dream houses to bring in and share.



On our walk around the village Henry took this beautiful photo of pond cottage reflected on the village pond. We all agreed that it worked best this way up. Great job, Henry!

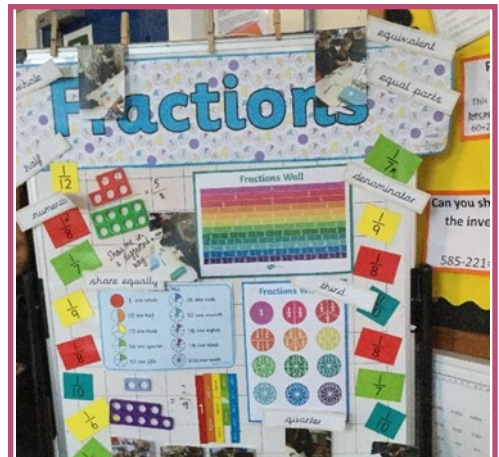


Willow Class News

...Another brilliant term! We have been super busy with our learning and working hard to stretch our learning muscles. We have learnt many new skills and cannot wait to continue our learning into term 4.

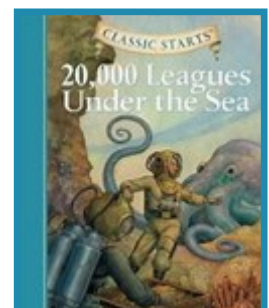
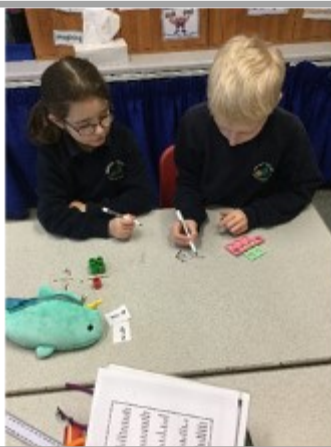
Marvellous Maths:

We have had a busy term of non-stop fractions! We have gone from worrying about fractions to now enjoying them. We can now identify, add and subtraction fractions. as well as finding a fraction of a number and calculating equivalent fractions.



"Our working wall is so helpful. I always use it when I need to check something"

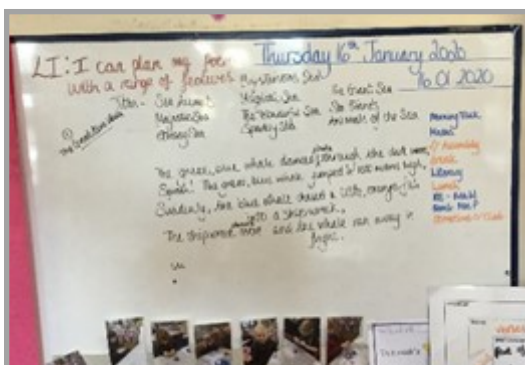
Thomas F



"This has been our favourite book so far!"

Alfie Snow

Literacy - We have had a wonderful and exciting term in literacy. We have been exploring poetry and dilemma stories. To inspire us we had a 'dolphin researcher' in who shared her story and dilemma with us (*She looked just like Miss Grantham!!*)



We have been working on our creative vocabulary this term and came up with some wonderful words for our stories.

We have also enjoyed sharing our poems and stories with each other .



Blue Abyss: We have really enjoyed our topic this term. We have fully immersed ourselves into the deep wonders of the sea and oceans. We have explored the five oceans, fantastic creatures, sea pollution and historical features of the ocean!



To kick start, our topic we decided to adopt a sea creature. We were given a sea creature and in our groups, we had to research and produce an information poster. Miss Grantham then sent our posters off to WWF who chose which animal we were to adopt ...**A hawksbill turtle!** We would like to introduce our lovely turtle 'Kamaria'.

We wanted to use our money made from our Christmas fair to help towards our turtle. (A good deed!)



My name is Kamaria and I have been adopted by Willow Class (Kamaria is Swahili for bright like the moon)



We have been using our map skills to identify the oceans and species around the world.

We have also been looking at a range of aquatic animals and investigating their groupings and classifications.



We loved learning about the layers of the ocean. We were amazed that there only five layers!

Oak year 5&6

Our Stargazing trip to the History of Science museum.

To launch our new theme of 'Stargazers', we went on an amazing trip to the History of Science museum in Oxford. Whilst at the museum we enjoyed a talk from one of their curators about the history of stargazing and space. The museum is closed to the general public in the mornings, which allowed us to explore the whole place on a gallery hunt. It was also lovely to explore Oxford itself and enjoy lunch under the sunshine at one of the University parks.



We dressed as famous figures in the history of stargazing. Can you guess who this famous gentleman is? He created a well-known telescope.

In literacy this term we have been reading and writing myths, to deepen our understanding of them the curator read the children an ancient Mayan myth. It had beautiful descriptive language and explained how the milky way could have been created. After the trip year 5 and 6 created their own fantastic 'stargazers' themed myths.

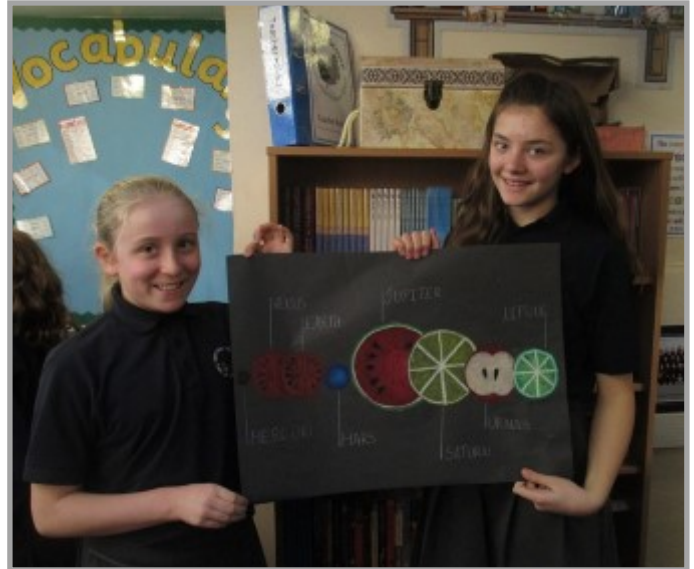


To finish our session we created our own Mayan calendars, which children were able to take home as a reminder of our trip.





Through the medium of pastel chalks we depicted the solar system using fruit to help understand the proportional size of each planet. We discovered that the sun is so big compared to the other planets that we couldn't even include it on our sheet!



Year 6 really enjoyed their IMPS visit to the Horton Hospital, as you can see from the photographs it was a very practical and beneficial morning. We learnt about basic life support and first aid. This trip would not have been possible without the support of Oak 5, who baked some delicious cakes to raise funds.





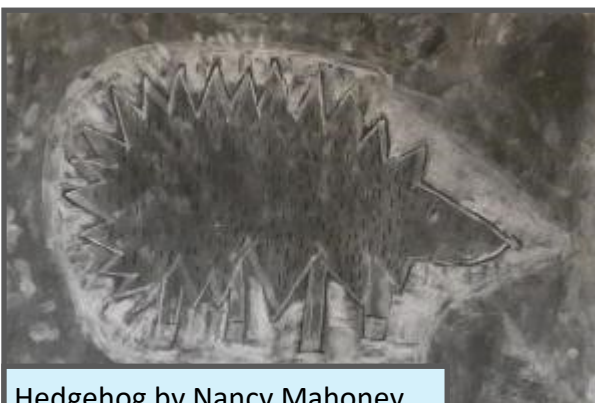
ART in Oak Class

Oak Year 5 children recently spent a lovely afternoon immersed in Art. We began with an exploration of portraiture, as the children created new pictures of staff members. These can be viewed on the 'Our Staff' display in the school Reception area.

After this very controlled session, the children spent time working on a much larger scale, creating some powerful images with only a piece of paper, a stick of charcoal and a rubber. We had great fun experimenting, with some lovely results.



Jacob Herd created this impressively atmospheric image of the Australian bush fires. If you look closely, you can see the silhouettes of the firefighters towards the bottom of the image.



Hedgehog by Nancy Mahoney

Images of animals were very popular. To see more of the children's artwork, please look on Oak Class page on our school website.



Bird by Bella Gaal

FRENCH AND MUSIC

The children across the school have been very busy with their French and Music learning. At Sibford Gower the children start their language learning in Acorn Class and the children have been learning some French greetings through their music lessons with Mrs Perkins. Scan the link to the right of this box with your tablet or mobile device (you'll need a QR reader which are free to download) to hear them sing!



In Willow Class, the children have been enjoying their 'Blue Abyss' topic and in French have been designing and describing their own sea creatures. The children have been great at identifying different parts of sentences, using cognates to help them with translation and learning about masculine and feminine words. They used their new knowledge to help them write descriptions for their own creations.

The children in Oak 5 and 6 have been learning about space as part of their 'Stargazing' topic. In music they learned about a musical trailblazer, Delia Derbyshire, who worked in the BBC Radiophonic workshop to create the original Doctor Who theme - really groundbreaking for 1963! The children made their own graphic scores to show the bass and melody line of the music and then created their own version of the theme using a variety of tuned and untuned instruments. Have a listen below by scanning the QR codes on your tablet or mobile device.

In French, the children have been undertaking a wide range of activities from reading and writing their own horoscopes to inventing and describing their own planets. Their descriptions have been incredible, with many children wanting to extend their vocabulary by using a bilingual dictionary. Bravo!



Doctor Who Theme imagined by
Oak 5



Doctor Who Theme imagined by
Oak 6



News from our wonderful P.T.A.



A huge thank you to our own Tony Cran who once again did a brilliant job as DJ and helped us raise in the region of £300! Amazing!

The PTA Discos were great fun. Feedback is that the earlier time made things much easier for the adults, without any impact on the fun had by the children. A huge thank you to the PTA team who organised this and to all those adults and staff who gave up their time to support on the night.



What's coming up ?

TABLE TOP SALE – SATURDAY 14 MARCH 1-3PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Come and pick up some bargains and quality items at the PTA Table Top Sale. There'll be toys, bric-a-brac, decorative items, books / DVDs, second-hand uniform and lots more – as well as tea and cake for sale!

Toys, unwanted gifts, books, bric-a-brac and decorative items will all be gratefully received and re-homed.

Times for bringing donations to school:

Friday 13 March – 3-5pm

Saturday 14 March – from midday.

We unfortunately can't accept any donations of clothes, apart from those of second-hand school uniform. Donations of cakes and biscuits for the Café would also be gratefully received – all nut-free please.

Finally, if you would like to help at the Sale, or on the day before taking in donations at school, please contact Isabel at isabelgeorge4@gmail.com.

If we could ask that any clothes donations be re-directed to the Rags-2-Riches collection please which is taking place on Wednesday 11 March. Rags-2-Riches also raises money for the school;

Next PTA meeting Tuesday 28 April, 3.15pm in Willow Class - **Everyone welcome**

A big thank you to those of you who brought your Christmas Tree from Hill Farm, Shenington. This raised a fabulous £48 for our school.



Sibford Gower Sport

Upcoming Sports Events

Date	Event	Age Group	Venue
Friday 28 th February	Hockey	Years 5 and 6 (Selected Children)	Bloxham School
Friday 6 th March	Netball	Years 5 and 6 (Selected Children)	Sibford School

These dates are subject to change and more events may arise as the term progresses.

Some children in years 5 and 6 went to a wonderful event this term, **Indoor Athletics!**

They participated in a range of events such as; high jump, running with hurdles, throwing and jumping!

"My favourite activity was the high jump- I loved it!" **Kierra Knight**



"I really enjoyed it, it was great fun!" **Izzy Stebbings**

Our wonderful sports leaders hosted their very own assembly this term- they were all so brilliant and clear! They performed how to behaviour during their lunchtime activities (and how not too- a great role-play performance here). They also spoke about our school values and how these are featured in their games.

Well done sports leaders- you are all brilliant!



READING REMINDER

Please do make sure you take the time to read with your child during the holiday and encourage them to read for pleasure themselves.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day	Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day	Student "C" reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nazy & Herrman, 1987)

Reading At Home...

Can Make A HUGE Difference!



Choose Books That Are At An Appropriate Reading Level For Your Child

- Use the five finger rule. Open the book to any page and ask your child to read. Put up a finger every time your child does not know a word. If you have put up more than five fingers before the end of the page, this book is too hard for your child.
- Choose books that match your child's likes and interests.



Make Reading A Part Of Your Family Time!

Family time is so important.. Why not make reading part of this valuable time with your kids?

Here are some tips for Integrating reading into our daily Family activities:

- Read bedtime stories
- Play a board game
- Visit your local library
- Read a recipe and cook something yummy together!
- Create a comfy reading space in your home.
- Put your child in charge of reading the grocery list at the store.



Keep plenty of reading materials in your home: books, magazines, newspapers, and comic books. Children enjoy having a variety of reading materials!

Happy Holiday

from everyone at

Sibford Gower

Primary