

School News

Dear Parents,

Another year is over and the Summer holidays have arrived. It is time to say goodbye to the Class of 2015. They are a fabulous group of young people and the school will be a very different place next year without them. We wish them all well as they move on to their new schools.

Thanks to Year 6 and their parents, we now have an Oak tree growing in the Orchard which, hopefully, will still be there when some of them return with children and possibly grandchildren in years and decades to come.

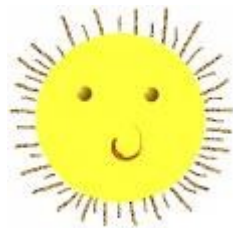
We also have to say goodbye to Julie Bruggenwirth, Sally Gray, Sarah Harrison, Richard Warrilow and Adrian Lamb, all of whom have left their mark on the school in their different roles. They are, of course, all welcome back for future events and occasions.

We welcome new staff members, Mr Carrick Cameron, Mr Edward Lecznar, and Mrs Vicky Fletcher who will be teaching in Willow Class on a Friday as Mrs Layer reduces her teaching commitment to four days a week.

Mrs Lucy Price will be teaching alongside Mrs Higley in Acorn Class on a Friday, releasing Miss Blake for leadership duties.

We will be welcoming the children back on Thursday 3rd September. Enjoy the holiday !

With best wishes,
Jane O'Sullivan
Headteacher



Best Class attendance this term: Willow at 95.7%



The Wind in the Willows

The children from Willow, Maple and Oak put on a fantastic performance of Wind in the Willows. With some brilliant acting and excellent singing, this was a really enjoyable production for all who had the opportunity to see it.



There were some truly memorable performances from core members of the cast and some excellent collaborative work. As always, it was a pleasure to see how our children support each other.

A huge thank you to Miss Harrison and all the other adults behind the scenes who made this possible.



ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS



THESE PUPILS HAVE BEEN AWARDED A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE FOR HAVING A BRILLIANT 100% ATTENDANCE RECORD FOR THE YEAR .

Jack Rowley, Tom Rowley, Esme Greenhalgh, Roan Court, Elliot Sabin, Poppy Kisley, Rebekah Arnaboldi, Olivia Taylor (YR)

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



Please remember that the children do not come back for the new school term until Thursday 3rd September. The teachers will be busy in school on the 1st and 2nd to be ready for their arrival and the start of the new school year.



Graduation Ceremony for our littlest Acorns.



Alicia Bishop from Oak Class came first in the Deddington poetry Competition. Here is what the judges said about her work.

"There is something incredibly magical, almost mystical, to this wonderful poem. It made me think of fairy tales and strange folk tales about foreign lands and ancient times. The vocabulary used is very impressive. For me though, what makes this so startling and beautiful is the final words. It takes courage to end a piece with a simple word, and although I love the alliteration used in these last two lines, it is the simplicity that evokes all sorts of emotions and, on reading it, actually brought a tear to my eye. Brilliant."

Crystalline

The snow underneath my boots shimmered like diamonds.
The moonlit trees radiant under the stars,
silhouetted by the moon,
the spectral light shone down on my face,
giving a crystalline appearance to my skin,
and to all crepuscular animals around me.
Shining, shimmering,

Special.

By Alicia Bishop

MAPLE CLASS NEWS

The children of Maple class have worked really hard this term. Their attitude and determination is commendable and they should be really proud of their achievements.

In maths, there has been a major push on learning their times tables this term. The children especially enjoyed playing battleships using their understanding of coordinates. During literacy the children worked on improving their grammar and punctuation and have focused on exploring and using a range of complex sentences. Our topic has been Ancient Greece and the children have shown some fantastic acting and memory skills in their re-enactments of the Trojan War. In P.E. the children have continued to progress in their gymnastics thanks to lessons with a professional gymnastics coach.

In science they have been exploring photosynthesis using cress seeds – simple, but effective! In art lessons, some fantastically imaginative work has been produced, including collage using leaves from the orchard, creating animals using 2D shapes and using their engineering skills to produce a bridge out of only paper, which was then tested to see who's bridge could hold the most train carriages. The final two weeks have, if it's possible, been even busier! The children were fantastic in the KS2 performance of *Wind in the Willows*, showed great sporting prowess and sporting at Sports Day and enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with their new teachers.

Keep up this fantastic attitude, Maple class!

Well done.



Cameron's Corner

We have been noting the seasonal changes in the orchard since it was created: early summer brings us banks of poppies, cornflower and teasels, and the apple trees are full of rapidly growing produce.



Exploring the natural textures and patterns – making a rubbing of a tree





A huge thank you to all who have sponsored Heidi. She completed her 5k race for life in 35 minutes and at present has raised a total of £490 for Cancer Research. We are hugely proud of her and really appreciate all the support she has received. Thank you again. The Greenhalgh family.



The Lloyd-Thomas boys also took part in the race, along with their mum, Lynn, and their aunt. They are all gifted runners and have so far raised an incredible £1,127.10

Beech Class News

What a fantastic last term! Beech class have done so much incredible learning about the 'Big, Wide World.' They have excellent geographical, world map skills looking at continents and oceans but also, which foods are grown and produced in different countries all over the world. We have taken our learning journey to both hot and cold places within the world learning about the different kinds of art and also the culture. We have created Inuit, Aboriginal and African art. The children have learnt to count to ten in Swahili as well!



We have also been doing lots of scientific learning through looking at hot and cold animals, their habitats and placing them into food chains.

Finally, we have been pioneers and explorers in our learning, not quite like Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus however! I personally have thoroughly enjoyed our last terms learning and want to thank Beech class for being so engaged and working so hard!

Well done you!

Miss Kempson

Musical Success

Well done to all the children, who have been under the tuition of the multi-talented Keith Allen and took formal music examinations this month. They achieved splendid results.

Keith organised a Special Assembly to showcase the musical talents and skill of his students. He also taught us all a lot about the children's instruments and their origins.

Does your KS2 child want to play the flute, clarinet or saxophone?

Keith will be running a free 'hands on'

taster session on Wednesday 9th September from 3.00-4.00 pm in the ICT suite . Parents and children WELCOME !



Willow Class News

Our Class Assembly

At the beginning of our assembly, we picked up our Roman shields and I shouted "we are the Roman army. Two steps forward, one step left, two steps to the right." We made a lot of noise.— Tom R.



Reading Challenge

For the last two weeks of the term, we have done a reading challenge. For some people it is easy, but for others it is quite hard. I have read 'Olympia, the games fairy' by Daisy Meadows. I really like it and give it 8 out of 10. Tali has already read 7 books. He is a great reader.
Issabella Coventry



Sports Day

Sports day was really good fun. We did running, skipping and three legged races. In the morning we did lots of things like speed bounce and football dribble. We got points if we won. I won skipping, bean bag balance and came second in running.
- Amadea Baxter



Mini Project

We have been learning about Dorset. We had to find three facts for our homework and then we swapped information. We went outside and worked at the picnic tables. Some people shared facts, and other people collected facts. We made our own books using the information. There is a prize for the best book. I hope it will be me.
Thomas Arnaboldi



Football Club

I played in a big match and a small match. There were lots of goals.
I scored 5 goals.
Shane Edgar



Bastille Day

On Bastille Day we had to wear red, white and blue. There were lots of different activities. In the café you could have a croissant, pancakes with lemon and sugar and to drink, there was grenadine.
Alex George



Science

We have been learning about fossils and rocks with Mrs Price. We learnt that granite comes from a volcano.
- Thomas Platt

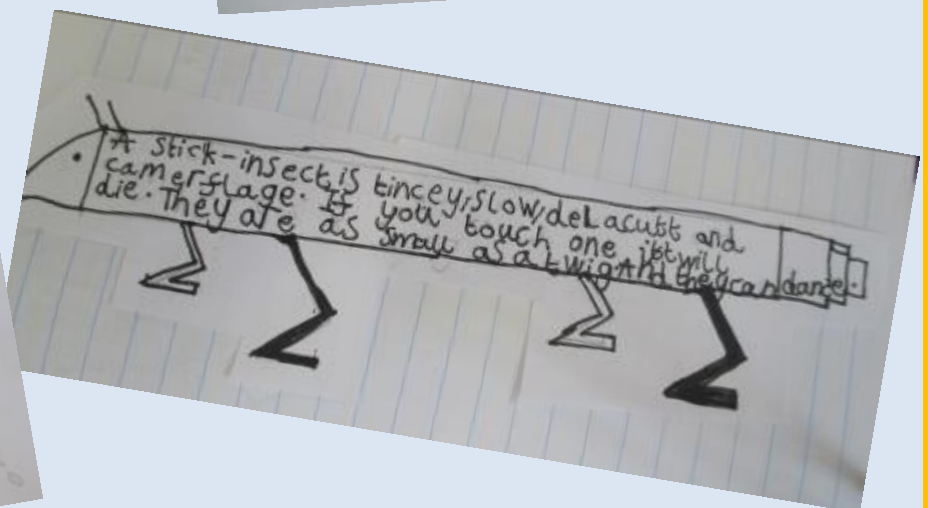
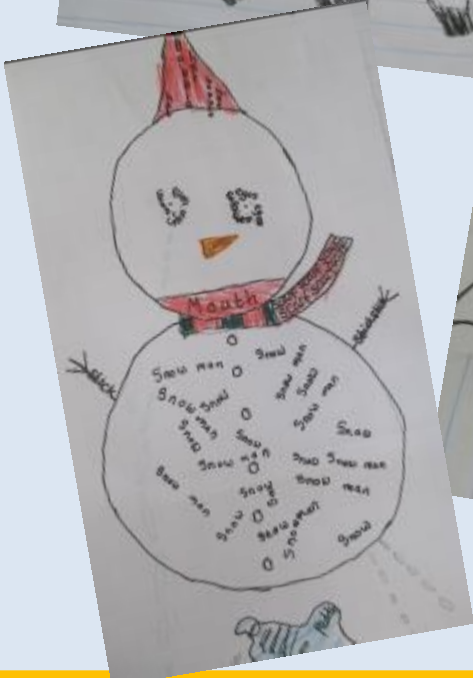
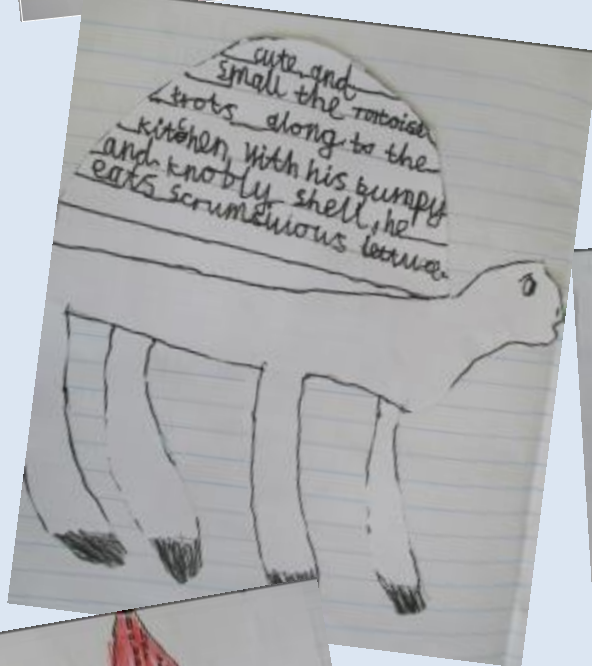
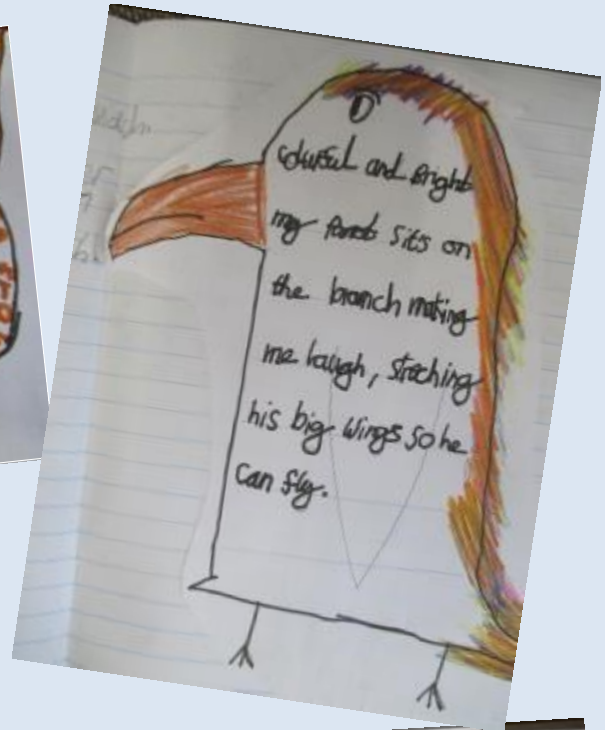
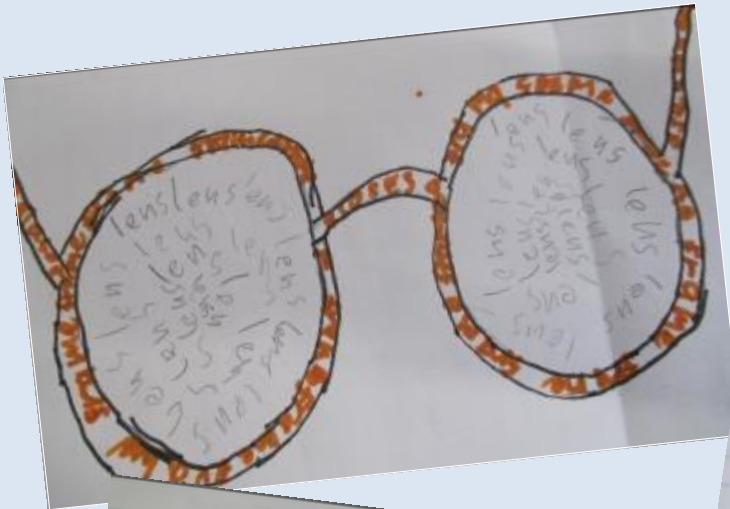


Gymnastics

On Friday afternoons we have learning interesting gymnastic moves. Our gym teacher was called Carl. He was really nice and he could do some cool moves. We learnt moves like forward and backward rolls, handstands shoulder stands, but the bridge was very tricky! Some of the main moves were in tuck, straddle and pike.
Roan Court.

Shape Poems

We have been writing shape poems and calligrams. It was difficult to fit your poem into a shape. I enjoyed writing a calligram. Cicely Glazebrook



In topic Oak have finished making their Victorian carts. They have also made a 3D horse to fix on the harness!



Our Victorian topic culminated with our final market place.



Oak Class News



We have also painted some pictures for the front cover of the Sibford Scene. We have looked at painting with only one colour and making different shades by adding black and white paint. We have also looked at painting watercolour landscapes. Our third painting focused on buildings.

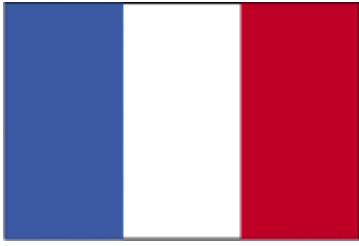


Oak had a visitor in from the Warriner School to teach an afternoon of maths. He looked at business maths and how interest and inflation worked. A fun afternoon! Might not sound like fun to many of us, but the children thought it was fantastic.



Congratulations to Jack, Gemma, Barney, Toby, Rebekah, Freddie, Alicia B and Luca who competed in a football match against Sherington and won 4-0. Thank you to Sue Rowley for accompanying and supporting the children.





Bastille Day was a huge success, thanks to the planning and organisation of Mrs Perkins. Everyone looked very smart (and very french) dressed in red, white and blue.

The children spent the afternoon exploring different aspects of French culture, customs and cuisine.



The whole school gathered in the playground where we split into mixed age groups to begin the carousel of activities.

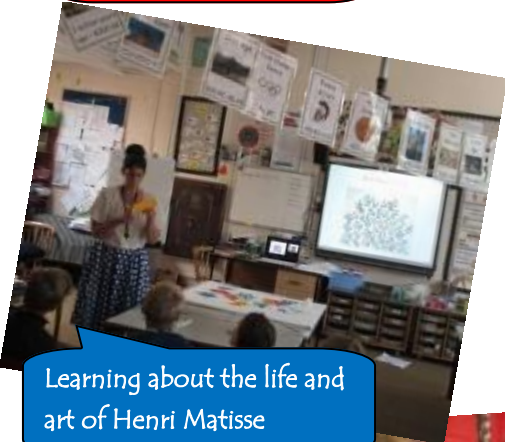
Crepes and croissants in the French Café run by the Year 6 children. Yum!



A game of Boules on the Big Field.



Developing our French language skills in the ICT suite.



Learning about the life and art of Henri Matisse

French Country Dancing in the school hall.



Working together to create artworks inspired by Matisse's 'cut-outs'.

And who could forget Sports Day...



A fabulous day in the sunshine with the whole school, families and friends. Many thanks to the PTA for the refreshments and Miss Blake for organising this event so successfully. Red house may have won the 'Heather Cup' but everyone did their best and we all had great fun.

Summer Reading Challenge Record Breakers 2015!

Are you ready for a 'Record Breaking' summer at your library?

The adventure begins on Saturday 11th July and finishes on Saturday 12th September.

The challenge is to read 6 library books, and as you read you can collect rewards working your way around the different categories discovering astonishing real-life achievements and world records.

Ask at your local library to get your Record Breakers poster to start this thrilling journey!

Check out the fantastic collection of new books. Look out for exciting puzzles and fun activities at your local library throughout the summer holidays. Visit the brilliant interactive website:

www.recordbreakers.org.uk



We had a special assembly with a visitor from the Public Library who introduced the Summer Reading Challenge.



Phonics

We like phonics because we read tricky words, we play hangman and we write on a white board. The fox, the snake, the mouse and the bee help us in phonics to read and write. We like the phonics pictures on the wall too because they help us when we have to write on our own.

Tag Rugby

Tag rugby is a popular sport and Tag rugby is very fun and lots of people like it as well. We like scoring Try's and we like having the ball. We also like winning the game.

By William and Ollie L-T

Acorn garden

We have grown flowers. We have planted carrots. We have grown lettuce. We have grown tomatoes. To make sure our plants grow we need to water them. The lettuces are nearly ready to be harvested and Pepper is looking forward to eating the carrots.

By Bella G, Eva, Rafa, Nancy, Penny.

Construction club

We like making things. We used boxes. We made a carpark. We made things out of connex. We made things out of Lego, we did Junk modelling. We used cardboard.

By Rosie, Evie, Daniel, James, Oliver, Rinan, Harry

Acorn Class News

Wombat Corner



The letter to ask PTA to fund a 'friendship bench' has now been handed in and we are to consider 'buddy bibs/badges' so that anyone who needs support to find a friend has someone they know they can approach.

We have not yet finalised our school dinner survey although we have begun work on this, collecting ideas for questions we would like to ask. This is a priority for the new year.

Next year we will be moving to a fully democratic process to decide Wombat membership, with each class electing two children to represent them. Positions such as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be filled by the oldest children and will be decided by the committee. This will help us to begin meetings as early as possible in the new term.

Parents—you can help the Wombats by ensuring that their special yellow enamel badges are removed and replaced when their uniforms are washed so that the other children can identify them.

YOUR PTA



This past PTA year has been so fruitful.... The children and school have been benefiting from PTA purchased cameras, football posts, iPads, garden sheds, gardening tools, new doors to the bat cave and last but not least the newly renovated orchard. Plus we have also shared some of our good fortune with the Katharine House Hospice.

A huge thank you to all parents and teachers for helping us raise the funds.

And don't think that we are resting on our laurels over the summer; actions are afoot to level the playing field and to replace some of the ancient books in the two libraries. There are lots of ideas in the pot for next year from outdoor classrooms and fencing, carpets, benches and raised beds to playground toys, night cameras for the orchard and wet weather gear for outside activities.

The PTA is now structured with a core committee of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Catering team, Marketing manager and then we have individual events managed by different people which helps share the load. If you feel passionate about an area of the school that needs some 'PTA love', or would just like to be involved, please drop us a line to sibfordprimarypta@gmail.com.



The new team from September:

Chair and Co-Chair - Juliette Glazebrook and Kat Davison
Secretary - Isabel George
Treasurer - Lynn Lloyd-Thomas
Catering - Alex Tait and Anne Downes
Marketing - Emma Coventry



Enormous thanks to our outgoing treasurers Harriet Mountford, Pip Morgan and Hannah Baud, who have worked so hard this year keeping tabs on all the finances.

What have we already got planned for the coming terms?

16th Sept, 7.30pm School - PTA Meeting - all are very welcome

7th Nov Bonfire and Fireworks

3rd Dec Disco

Our Christmas fundraiser this year is individually designed Christmas cards.

In 2016 we have the 20th Anniversary of the Art Exhibition and Craft Fair which will run over the week-end of 18th-20th March.

I wish you all an enjoyable holiday and thank you once again for all your support.

Sue Arnaboldi, Chair

How have our non-staff governors been actively involved in School Life this year?

Julian Ransom is a driving force behind The Orchard Project, a real success story of this school year.

Vicky Pougatch ran a popular Creative Writing Club, and has had regular meetings with staff about SEN pupils.

Nicky Cullen has been involved in running Sports Clubs and taken part in Learning Walks at the school.

Maureen Hicks invited the children to sing in the Village Hall at Christmas.

John Skinner has been in for regular finance meetings and been active in moving the school towards Academy.

Brian Heather has taken a leading role in the Academy Conversion process.

Nicky, John, Vicky, Maureen, Julian, Brian, Penny Parsons and **Richard Earle** have all actively supported with staff recruitment.

Mike Lewis organised the replacement windows and the new doors for the Bat Caves.

All our governors regularly attend meetings as part of their commitment to supporting the school.

Children from across the school have been growing things with stunning results.



Vegetables & flowers in Acorn.



Wildflowers planted by Gardening Club.



Courgettes and beans planted by Gardening Club.



Wildflowers in The Orchard planted by the children.



Revd. Ronald Hawkes came in for his final assembly of the year with two special friends, Fred and Bert.

He talked about conscience and the importance of making the right decisions about things we do, even when no-one else is around.

A final planting for our Year 6 children - an Oak tree in our Orchard. Thank you to all of Year 6 and their parents.



Farewell to our Leavers—The Class of 2015