

School News

Dear Parents,



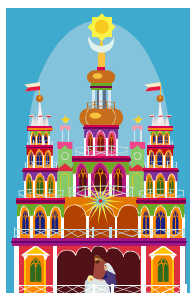
As Christmas arrives and another term ends, we say goodbye to Miss Farrant as she begins her new life in Northampton and Miss Ocana Gil who is heading off to Bicester and her new job at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. We thank them for all they have brought to our school community and wish them every success as they move on. We also say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Jill Davies who has been teaching French and Music to our KS2 pupils over the Autumn terms.

In Mrs Davies' place, we welcome Mrs Benjamin who I am sure will become a familiar face over the coming months. Also, we welcome Miss Kempson and Mr Warrilow who will be teaching in Beech and Maple classes, respectively.

It has been an incredibly busy term, as always! From the Year 5/6 residential at Conover, to Children Singing for Children in Banbury, the whole school involved in Cross Country Competitions, the Christmas Carol Concert, singing at the Village Hall with members of the Fielding Day Centre, and the delightful Nativity Performance by our youngest pupils. Every class has managed to lead at least one class assembly and it has been wonderful to welcome parents into the school to join us for these. Keep looking on the school website for other events and opportunities coming up, including Stargazing which we hope will now happen in late January.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone,
With all best wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan
Headteacher



Thanks to all of you, we have raised money for some excellent causes this term.



On Children in Need morning, the pupils from Years 1 to 4 all came together to have a 'spots and circles' morning, involving a series of workshops where they created art work using paint, pastel, printing, pencil and pen. The creative results were fantastic and have really brightened up the whole school. They also managed to raise £101 for Children in Need, with some help from their younger friends in Acorn Class. Thank you to Mrs Higley for the truly spectacular biscuits!



Children Singing for Children in Banbury raised a spectacular £6000 for a variety of international and local causes.

On Christmas Jumper Day, as well as looking fabulous, children and staff raised a splendid £ 80 for Save the Children.



ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

THESE PUPILS HAVE BEEN AWARDED A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE FOR HAVING A BRILLIANT 100% ATTENDANCE RECORD FOR THE TERM. (TO 17.12.14 !)

Thomas Arniboldi, John Coplin, Lucas Court, Roan Court, Rawdon Donovan, Daniel Fovargue, Isabella Gaal,

Thomas Glazebrook, Esme Greenhalgh, Summer Hudson, Poppy Kisley, Eva Morbey, Amelia Morgan, Satu Noble, Thomas Platt, Joshua Rowley, Elliot Sabin, Lauren Sabin, Felix Springate-Drew, Olivia Taylor, Harry Westwood

Best Class attendance this month: Oak 96.5%



Willow Class News

We began the term with a joint topic with Oak and Maple. We learnt about The Golden Age of Islamic Civilisation. We discovered that this was a very important time in history when many inventions were made which form the basis of a lot of the things we use and take for granted today. Willow particularly enjoyed knowing that cat gut was used to stitch up wounds! During the afternoon we mixed up the year groups and enjoyed making Islamic art, drama and designing a flying machine, which we tested in the hall. Some were successful and flew, others even managed to go backwards.



During the second week of term we spent a busy and enjoyable couple of afternoons outside with year 4. On the Tuesday we planted in excess of 350 bulbs in the orchard and wild area. Let's hope the school will look really beautiful in the Spring, and hopefully the local badgers will not eat too many of the bulbs. Thanks to all the helpers and suppliers of bulbs.

"This is me and George flying our machine. We came sixth in the competition. We used lots of materials."— Thomas Glazebrook



On a very damp Thursday afternoon we made a bug hotel and also cleared the vegetable gardens. We used 5 wooden pallets to form the hotel and then filled the gaps with a variety of natural materials to provide accommodation for the bugs of Sibford. We then went on a bit of a bug hunt. It's amazing how exciting it is when you find a bug!

Many thanks to all the parent helpers and to those people who brought in all the tools and materials to make this venture such a success and so much fun.

Finally, we are working hard on all our other subjects, of course, and we are even sounding pretty awesome in our recorder playing!





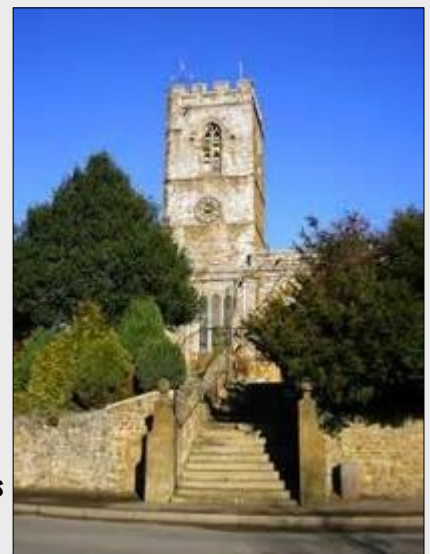
While the year 5 & 6 children were off at Conover Hall on their residential trip the Year 4 children from Maple Class worked with Willow children. One frosty morning, Ms O'Sullivan found some strange things in her shed. She brought them into school to see if the children could help her find out what they were. Meteorites, dinosaur eggs, pieces of the moon? We practiced 'careful looking' and recording our observations in detail. We made predictions. What would happen if we put them in water? Why did we think this? We recorded our observations and ideas in diagrams and text. We never found out for sure. By the next morning, the 'ice eggs' had disappeared!



Please remember that the children do not come back for the new school term until Tuesday 6th January 2015. The teachers will be busy in school on the 5th to be ready for their arrival and the start of term.



Many thanks once again, to all those who worked so hard to make the Christmas Service at Swalcliffe Church a success. A special mention for Pippa Jones and her team for organising the parking, the mince pies and the delicious mulled wine.



KS2 are taking part in a sponsored skip - 'Jump Rope for Heart' - in January to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. Children will therefore be learning new skipping skills. It would be great if they could keep trainers in school. We welcome them bringing in their own skipping ropes, especially to practice at playtime. Sponsor forms will be coming home in the New Year.



Science in Oak Class

In science we have been carrying out a range of investigations to test the properties of different materials. So far we have looked at absorbency, solubility and the ability of different materials to conduct electricity. We have learnt how to write a prediction, a method, and record and interpret our results.



Two Year 5 & two year 6 children were also chosen to work with children from Radcliffe's Primary School. They had a great time and manage to make a working vacuum cleaning out of a plastic water bottle!! Thank you to Sue Rowley for taking them.



Anti-Bullying Week

We recently took part in Anti-Bullying Week. This gave us an opportunity to talk about how we can make sure that our school is a happy and safe place for everyone. There was also a national focus on bullying and the disabled. We started off the week with special assemblies in KS1 and KS2 and then children continued exploring this theme through classroom work. You can find our anti-bullying policy on the school website.



Oak Class had a disabled visitor called Jen who came to visit for the morning to discuss life as a wheelchair user, difficulties disabled people could face and about bullying. Jen has cerebral palsy.

'It made me realise that if you come across a person with a disability they are no different to any other human being so don't treat them badly, and help them to understand things.' – [Todd](#)

'Jen used an electronic wheelchair and that made it difficult for her to use the steps in our school so we had to use ramps to help her get about. I enjoyed Jen's visit and learnt how hard it was to be bullied and have special needs, I would really like to help people with special needs when I am older.' Toby

'I now understand that it can be very hard for people in a wheelchair, and Jen' Satu

'Jen told us that life in a wheelchair can be hard, you can't always go in the shops you want to like Next, but life can also be fun. My favourite part was when we chased each other in the playground. I really enjoyed Jen's visit and I will treasure it for ever.' Helen

'Jen told us that it made her sad when she was bullied. It is vital that we all remember how important it is to make everyone feel included.' Francesca

Thank you to Maggie and friends from the PTA for the time and care you took in putting up the Christmas decorations. You made the whole place look sparkly and magical for our children ! It made a wonderful back drop for the PTA disco (thanks again!), the Christmas parties and the Nativity.



Thank you to our friends at the Fielding Day Centre for making the children feel so welcome and appreciated when we walked down to the Village Hall to sing at the Christmas Lunch. It was a lovely atmosphere and such a good opportunity to bring some of the youngest and oldest members of our community together.

A special thank you from Ms O'Sullivan for my wonderful Christmas Lunch. It was a pleasure to come and spend the time with you.



Guy led a wonderful guitar assembly to showcase all his talented students.



The children loved it and it was great to welcome the parents.

Maple Class News

In literacy we have been studying 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs. We have been working on some poetry to describe the flight taken by the boy and the snowman through the sky.

*"Can you hear the sound of the majestic wind,
Howling through the magical, frosty hills.
The trees swaying back and forth,
Sounding like the waves in the sea."
By Ben and Isaac*

In maths we have been learning how to multiply and divide numbers that are bigger than the times tables! We have found that practising our tables at home has really helped us in class!

"Division was really hard at first, but with a lot of practice I now find it quite easy!" Polly

In PE we have been learning some country-dancing routines. This week we will be making up a dance to go along with 'The Snowman' soundtrack.

We have continued to learn the songs for Young Voices and for our carol concert. Keep practising at home!

A big thank you to all Maple Class parents for your support at our class assembly – we had a great time challenging you to 'Are you smarter than Maple Class?!



WOMBAT NEWS



Chairperson



Chairperson

All wombats class representatives have now been elected.

The School Council have been holding lunchtime meetings to talk about all the things we like about our school and the things we would like to improve. We are making a presentation of 'Hot Spots & Grot Spots' for a special wombat assembly and to share with school governors.

Wombats will be meeting on the first Friday of every month to discuss items found in the suggestion box and plan all sorts of things to make our school even better. We will also be coming up with fundraising ideas for our new school charity—more news of this in the New Year!

What have the children in Acorn Class been enjoying learning about this term?

Playing with the marbles' – Jacob

'I liked making a Christmas tree with green paper' – Esme

'We have been doing the Nativity play' – Ollie



'I liked singing in the play' – Isabella Freeman

'I have enjoyed

jumping off things in PE' – Isabella Gaal

'I liked going on the stage, it is very high' – Eva Morbey

'My favourite thing was making a bauble with sparkles, I had to stick them on with glue'

Our class Advent calendar is lovely, we give a chocolate coin to someone each day! Yum! Yum!' – Olivia



Beech Class has been very busy this term 'remembering'. We celebrated Firework's night with lots of fluorescent painting as a night-time backdrop to our Houses of Parliament in watercolour inspired by the style of Paul Klee. His use of lines and geometric shape complimented the children learning of 2D and 3D shape in maths.

The sounds and sights of firework night were celebrated with poetry writing using lots of whizz, bang and crackle onomatopoeic language. The villain of the piece, Guy Fawkes and the reason behind the plot was discussed, the persecution of Catholics and the intrigue of priest holes. His gruesome ending naturally captured all their imaginations!



As time travellers we did not travel too far and found ourselves in the midst of the Great Fire of London. We became diarist in the footsteps of Samuel Pepys and learned about the 'evidence' for history. As reporters and eye-witnesses we explored the ways and effectiveness of how the fire was tackled and how Londoners reacted.

Timber-framed houses, a hot summer and the strong wind explained the ferocity of the Great Fire and led us into our science topics- exploring materials and their properties, together with the weather and the seasons. We designed dens for the garden that would be strong, warm, allow light in and resist the rain. In Design and Technology the children chose a weather instrument to design and build- weather vanes, rain gauges and anemometers.

In perfect spirit the children have culminated a successful term, rising to the occasion with their nativity performance 'Angel Express'.

My last words are for the Beech children- it has been a pleasure and fun teaching you all this autumn and I hope you carry-on working hard, enjoying school and looking after each other.

Happy Christmas... or in Spanish ...Feliz Navidad!

OUR NATIVITY



The Beech & Acorn Nativity performance was delightful. A huge thank you to the staff and children for all your hard work, with a special mention for Carolyn Heather—the costumes looked fantastic.



**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year**

