



School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

It feels as though Spring has finally arrived, with the site covered in daffodils and primroses, blossom on the trees and the sound of birdsong everywhere.

Our Forest school Leader training has started and Miss Grantham, Miss Roseblade and Mrs Williams have been out in the grounds with colleagues from other partnership schools, building fires, sawing and whittling, den building and much more, as part of this. They will not be fully qualified until well into next academic year, but the children will have opportunities to work with them on specific projects during this time, in addition to all the time we spend learning outside in our beautiful grounds already.

On the staffing front, you will all be aware that we have appointed two new teachers for next year. Mrs Humphrey will be teaching Year 4/5 in Maple Class, and Miss Murdoch will be teaching Y5/6 in Oak. Both are experienced teachers and come highly recommended. They will have a chance to meet their new classes before the end of the summer term. In other staff news, as Charlotte Dudfield moves on, Carol Luke has been appointed as our new After School Care playleader. Carol knows the children, the routines and many of you, and we are hoping that this will aid in a smooth transition. We do still need to find a playworker for ASC. If you know anyone who may be interested in this role, please direct them to the job vacancy page of our school website.

When we come back after Easter, it will be SATs time for our Y6 pupils, from 8th to 11th May. Please support your child by ensuring that they complete any homework or revision which is set for the holiday but do ensure that they get time to relax and have fun too.

As always, it has been an incredibly busy term, as you can see from this newsletter.

Have a lovely Easter holiday!

Kind regards

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher



Best Class attendance this month: Beech **97%**



Easter Celebrations at Sibford Gower

Have a lovely holiday



Have you ever thought about working with children?

Perhaps you are looking for a change of direction or for a way to return to work?

We have an opening for a Play Worker at our After School Club, caring for children aged 4 to 11, 3pm to 6pm Monday to Friday.

We offer ongoing training, staged support and opportunities for career advancement in a caring and welcoming local primary school.

If you would like to find out more please email office.3005@sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk or call our school office on **01295 780270**



We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY APRIL 24TH



Acorn Class News



In Acorn class we have been exploring Measures by weighing, filling containers, using tape measures and telling the time.



We have been learning all about the author Julia Donaldson, who is well known for her brilliant rhyming stories, and have been creating information posters about 'Snails and Whales'.

The children have been learning about materials which are man made and natural and which materials are used due to their properties. The Stickman by Julia Donaldson was used as the inspiration for the children to make their own stickmen.



We have made our own giants and have made a town like the one in Julia Donaldson's story, 'The Smartest Giant in Town'.

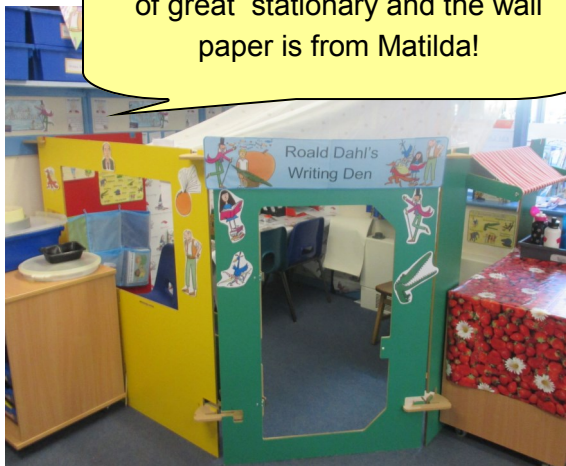


The children have been learning about signs of spring and have been keen to bring things in for our spring and Easter table. We have enjoyed exploring our amazing school grounds looking and listening for signs of spring.

Beech Class News

Beech class have had a fantastic time this half term with our topic 'Book Worms'. We have focused on Roald Dahl as our classes inspiring author and looked at a wide range of his stories and poems. We have been reading Esio Trot, The Giraffe, The Pelly and me and The Twits as part of our guided reading. We have been finding out all about Roald Dahl's life and creating fact files in our Roald Dahl themed writing den.

I love the writing den , its got lots of great stationary and the wall paper is from Matilda!



We have been very busy carrying out lots of investigations to do with measures as part of our maths work. We have explored capacity and practiced reading a variety of scales, continued to work on telling the time and had the challenge of finding an item in the classroom that was exactly 15cm long to help us to practice developing our estimating skills.

We have also carried out an exciting smarties investigation to help us to develop our data handling skills. We created tally charts, bar charts and pictograms and then used our smarties to try and create our own way of displaying what we had found out.



We had a fantastic cross curricular week where we focused on Roald Dahls Revolting Recipes. We identified the imperative verbs in a range of recipes, practiced writing our own and followed the recipe to make "plush nuggets"!

We have been keeping very active and have been to visit the Warriner twice this term, for the dance festival and for the multi skills event. We had a great time on both occasions and really enjoyed working in teams.



We have all worked so hard to get our Total Recall badges. This is how many our class has got altogether this term!

Willow Class News



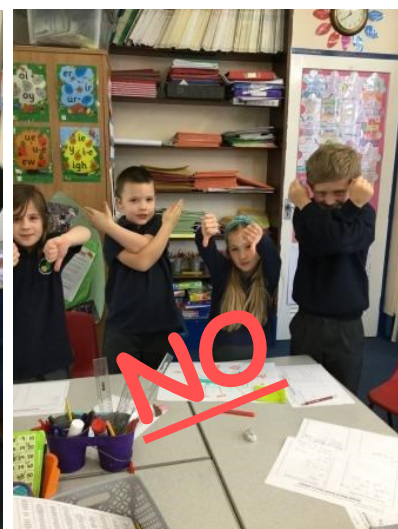
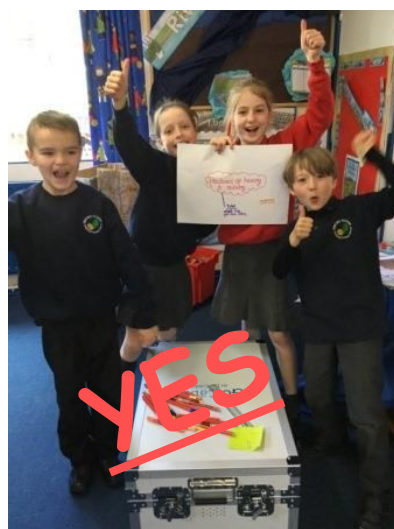
What a wonderful term four we have had. We have really enjoyed learning about canals and railways for our topic. We have researched into many canals and produced amazing leaflets to show all our findings.



"We loved using the maps and symbols to find out where the canals were." Harry H. and Ethan

Should Sibford Gower have a railway?
 We have really enjoyed debating about whether Sibford Gower should have a railway way or not. We had to present our ideas and beliefs to the council (Miss Grantham and Mrs Court) and watch others debate too. The council couldn't decide on a final vote so we had to write letters to help them. The final decision was...
 Sibford Gower WILL NOT have a railway!

"We had to use our *collaboration learning muscle* to help with our researching." Harry Allen



Super Science:
 Our topic this term in science has been sound. We have really enjoyed exploring sound and the process of the ear.
"My Favourite part of science this term was making and using the string telephones- it was so fun!" Arabella.
 We even used play dough to create our very own ear to help us understand the process sound goes through.



Marvellous Maths
 This term we have been looking at length, perimeter and fractions! We have really enjoyed measuring the height of our fellow class mates- even Miss Grantham!
 "Fractions are now my favourite- creating a fraction wall really helped me" Izzy Stebbings

We have managed to pack an awful lot in to this term and we hope that the climax to it all will do justice to all the hard work the children have put in...

Maple Class News

P.E. As well as continuing with their swimming lessons at Sibford School, we have had an introduction to orienteering this term, which saw the children make checkpoint flags and design courses for each other. It turns out that they are much better at doing this than Mr Cameron!



Year 5 Science

The children have learnt a great deal about electricity and circuitry since January, and this is evident in the way in which they are able to manipulate electrical components and to plan circuits for very practical purposes. We also had a fantastic night under the stars as we found out what life would be like with no electrical gadgets - helped, of course, by homemade burgers and a camp fire!



History and D & T



We have spent this term, as we did last term, on our very ambitious project to turn Maple Class into Crystal Palace for our own modern-day version of The Great Exhibition of 1851. As I write, most of the exhibits are ready to go, but the whole project has been a very important lesson in trial and improvement, problem solving and huge amounts of creativity! We have also incorporated a section on Scottish industry, which is the result of internet research the children did in groups.



English Our class novel for most of the term has been a Scottish ghost story called *Chill*, which proved to be very popular... and now we have started to read *Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde*! Our Big Writing has included some wonderful shape poems, a guide leaflet to the Great Exhibition and a fantasy adventure story. Also, of course, there was the newspaper article about the Ant Funfairs they created with Willow and Oak classes...



Art & Design

Our Turner-inspired artwork has come to a beautifully colourful climax, and the children have even made their own frames to display them in their best light - just in time for the Great Maple Class Exhibition. We have also managed to paint 42 metres of sky onto rolls of wallpaper, which (hopefully) will be adorning the ceiling of Maple Class until the end of term!



Maths

As the weather has improved, we decided to take our work on fractions outside, where we added, subtracted and converted fractions made of sticks and stones. We have also continued with our learning of plotting, reflecting and translating shapes on quadrant grids. The original and entertaining maths games have contributed to our CLIC sessions too.



Oak Class News

Throughout this term we have maintained our regular P.E. sessions during which the children have had opportunities to practise their gymnastics –



In addition, we have made good use of our Orchard area and the field with its wonderful array of daffodils (at this time of year) for sketching practice, as a writing stimulus and as a means of encouraging the pupils to experience a host of golden daffodils, as portrayed in William Wordsworth's poem which they were asked to learn:



The Year 5 Oak Class children have spent time working with their peers in Maple Class, out and about in the school grounds taking part in Ant Maths, and making products for the Crystal Palace Grand Exhibition.

This has also been a very busy term for the Year 6 children who have been working hard in preparation for the SATs which they will take two weeks after the Easter holiday.

We would like to ask for your help and co-operation over the Easter holidays in getting the children to work through the materials they will be given so that they continue to practise the things they have learned and review their areas for development.



We all dressed up for World Book Day



Governor News

Our school governors have been busy supporting the school in lots of ways over the past few half term, through visiting the school and by supporting in the interview process for our new teachers. Nicky Cullen has been in to get a sense of how maths is taught in Key Stage One. Paul Manthorpe has been in as our literacy link governor to develop his awareness of how we teach English across the school. Chair of Governors, Julian Ransom, Andy Whitehouse and Emma Coventry spent full days in school as part of the intensive but successful interview processes to replace Mr Cameron & Mr Lecznar next year. Andy Whitehouse, Warwick Knowles, Emma Coventry and Nicky Cullen joined Rachel Blake and Jane O'Sullivan for the governor drop-in session back in February. Thank you to those parents who came along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



Sporting Update

A huge amount has been going on on the Sporting Front, just in the last half term. As always, our children have represented the school brilliantly and we are very proud of them all.

A huge thank you to those parents and governors who have been supporting sporting achievement by running clubs and taking children to events.

We couldn't do it without you!



Year 5/6 Tag Rugby at Sibford School: We won all our games!



NOSSP Year 5/6 hockey tournament at Bloxham.

Our team won 3 games, drew 2 & only lost 1, coming third in our group.

Cross-Country County Finals: Scarlett Ward came an incredible 16th out of 80+ contestants.

NOSSP Year 5/6 Football at Deddington: We won 4 out of 5 games and came 3rd in group.

NOSSP Small Schools netball at Sibford: Joint winners

National League 5-a-side at Oxford City: We came 1st in group, narrowly losing in the semi-finals to the overall winner.

NOSSP Year 1/2 Dance at The Warriner



Year 1/2 had great fun at the Multi-Skills festival at The Warriner

Year 3/4 Football County Finals: the children played brilliantly and did a fantastic job of representing the school against stiff competition.



*Sibford Gower Primary School PTA –
Committed to supporting the School to enrich and enhance our Children's experience*

Dear Parents,

*We have had an amazing term and **a HUGE thank you** to you all for your continued support, we really do appreciate it.*

We started off in January with our annual Jumble sale, kindly organised by Debbie Court. We received some fabulous donations and we made a whopping £431. We then held our 2nd Bag2School collection of the year and this raised a massive £108.

*The most recent event was the Art Fair, kindly organised by Kate Allen and what an event it was!!! The pre-view night was very busy and over the weekend we sold bacon rolls, sandwiches, cakes, tea & coffee, we helped children make crafts to take home, there was a lovely raffle, we had several craft stalls selling beautiful home-made chocolates, cards, friendship bracelets, glass art and pottery, and of course our School Hall was full of beautiful pieces of art to buy. If you couldn't attend the event this year, please do look at the photos on our Facebook page. The team involved worked so hard to make this event the success it was and to raise money for our wonderful school. The final amount raised was a huge **£4270!!!** £427 will be donated to See Saw, who were our chosen charity this year, and the remaining £3843 is for the PTA. This event is our biggest fundraiser of the event and we are so thankful to everyone who supported it.*

We have made some great purchases this term:

- 1) We have bought 15 fleece lined raincoats for our children to wear when they are away at School Sports Events.*
- 2) We have bought welly racks*
- 3) We have bought lovely blue and white table cloths for our children to use at lunch times.*

Over the next few weeks we will be making lots more purchases which will benefit our children and so please keep looking at our PTA Hub for information.

Some dates for your diary:

Monday 24th April (first day back at School) – the Art Competition deadline – please bring all artwork to the School Hall. There is a prize for each class winner so please do try and encourage your child/children to make a masterpiece over the holidays!

Tuesday 2nd May – PTA meeting, 7.30pm in the Staff Room, everyone is welcome.

Sunday 2nd July – Orchard Summer Festival – this event is going to be so much fun with live music, Splat the Dad, coconut shy, raffle, Pimms, Cream Tea's, cake, Orchard Trail, Face Painting, Lucky Dip and more!

We always welcome new ideas and any feedback so please do contact me on andrea.rutledge@hotmail.co.uk

Have a wonderful Easter

Best Wishes

Andrea

PTA Chair



<https://www.facebook.com/sibfordgowerprimaryschoolPTA/>

What a difference our PTA makes...



The sports squads look really smart when they are out, representing our school in their new jackets.



The hall looks bright and fresh at lunchtime and it is much nicer for the children to eat here with the new tablecloths.



We have donated wellies ready on the smart new welly bank **Any more welly donations would be gratefully received.**



World Book Day



Art Competition

The PTA are looking for an artwork for the

Orchard Summer Festival

Poster

We have set up a competition to find a winning picture to use for the poster and flyers to advertise this wonderful event to be held on Sunday 2nd July.

Artwork theme to be based on The Orchard and all things summertime.

Colourful painting, drawings or collage in A4 or A3 to be received on Monday 24th April 2017 in the KS2 School Hall. Winners prize for each class

STRANGE HAPPENINGS AT SCHOOL...

Strange things happened at school on the night of 12th/13th March. There had been a spectacular full moon and children and staff arrived at school on Monday morning to find evidence of uninvited visitors. A note from the cleaner spoke of strange lights and noises coming from the school hall. When we went into the hall, positioned right in the centre of the room, we found a tiny chair made out of sticks and decorated with cherry blossom, along with some tiny carved wooden dishes and a bowl! There was a white trail leading from these, across the floor and toward the open window....



What could it mean? Who or what had been here? Why had they come and would they return? These were some of the questions the children asked as we began to investigate. The children worked in mixed age groups, from Reception to Year 6, thinking up ways to communicate with our visitors and making gifts to ensure they knew we were friendly.



The next morning, we were amazed to find a message from the Elder Faerie. It took a while to decipher but, thanks to a code created by Thomas Pand Tali, we had managed to develop a common language (almost!). Mr Cameron's skills as an interpreter came to the fore and we were able to discover that we had witnessed the aftermath of the crowning of the Faerie Elder, an event that happens in that exact spot every 500 years.



The children filled a box with items to tell the Elder Faerie all about us. They crowned Ms O'Sullivan to show her position as 'elder' of our 'commune'. At the Elder Faerie's request, we re-positioned the throne and the path of dust and the next day ... our visitors had gone. We wonder what will be in their sacred spot when they return in another 500 years?