



April 2022

# SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

The academic year seems to be rushing by. Things are beginning to feel more normal and it is wonderful to once again be running some after school clubs and organising school trips to support and enrich the children's learning. Willow Class have made a trip to Swalcliffe barn to look at all the Roman artefacts there and take part in a workshop. The Oak Class visit to the Banbury Museum was postponed at the last minute but has been rescheduled to go ahead in the first week back after Easter. Acorn and Beech are planning a trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park during the summer term.

We have had guests in school too. Our friends from Sibford School worked with children to plant a small copse in the corner of the Big Field., school governor Revd. Bowler has been in to explore aspects of Christianity with children in support of our R.E curriculum and Rob from Oxford United has continued to make his weekly visits. He and a team of helpers have made a wonderful job of tidying up our raised bed area, with the next step being to paint the outdoor tables and benches once the weather is a bit more reliable!

The children have been enjoying their learning, a very small proportion of which we are sharing in the pages of this newsletter. Next term, as well as the return of statutory SATs testing and the launch of the new Year 4 multiplication test, we are looking forward to exploring new learning topics including Around the World, London & the Great Fire, The Anglo-Saxons, the Vikings and the Battle for Britain in 1066 and The Mayans.

Many thanks to those parents who completed the governor questionnaire. Your feedback was overwhelmingly positive and very helpful. We will be sharing the outcomes of this with you after we have held our next governor meeting early next term.

In the meanwhile, we wish you all a very Happy Easter holiday.

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan



**Best Class Attendance this half term:**

**Willow 97%**



**Children return to school on Monday 25th April**



## Very Well Done!

All term, children in Key Stage 2 have been working with Rob from Oxford United. Although everyone has been great, he picked out two children to receive a special 'character' award in recognition of the way they uphold the values of the school and the respect and kindness they show to everyone. Sarah and Alex have each won tickets to see an Oxford United game with a member of their family.

We are VERY proud of you both.



# ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term we have been thinking about all the growth and changes we see in Spring as part of our topic 'Here and Now'. The children in Acorn have had lots of fun watching winter (very) slowly disappear and the signs of Spring pop up around us here at school. Read on to find out what we've been up to!

Inspired by Jack's adventures up the beanstalk, we decided to try growing our own not-quite-so-magic beans! We used wet paper towels and placed our beans in a warm, sunny place in our role play area. We've 'bean' very excited to watch them grow!



The children have been fascinated by the changes Spring has brought to our school environment too. It's been lovely discussing the differences between the seasons. Of course, not all of these changes happen naturally and some do have to be helped along. In this vein, Acorn class have been busy weeding the planters in their outdoor area to make space for the new bulbs to grow. At Forest School we also enjoyed sketching the daffodils that have popped up in our school field.

We have been learning about how flowers and plants start from seeds and we made our own 'seed bombs' to take home. First we had to cut construction paper into small pieces and soak them in water for about an hour, then (with Mrs Perkins' help!) we shredded the paper in a blender (it was VERY noisy!), we then made a 'seed sandwich' with a pulped paper layer then some seeds and then more mushy paper on top in an ice cube tray and left them to dry in a warm, sunny place. We then decorate our own 'Seed Bomb' packaging, practising our writing and mark making skills, ready to take them home.

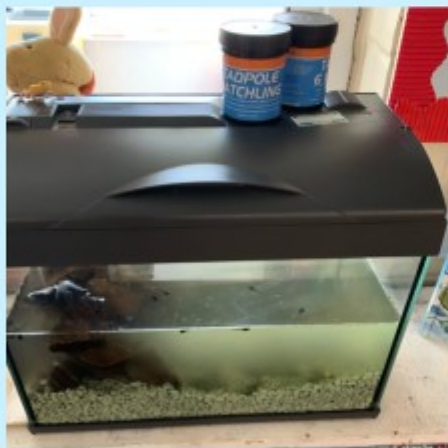






It's not just flowers and beans that have been growing in Acorn class - it's numbers too! This term we've been thinking all about how numbers can grow in different ways! We've looked at splitting a number different ways - helping out Old MacDonald on his farm by moving his animals into equal groups between his fields. We've also started looking at doubling numbers with butterflies and ladybirds. We've also found out how numbers can help us to keep track of how much we're growing too! Do you know how tall you are in pencils?! The children have also been using their reasoning and problems, solving skills when building structures with our very popular Polydron construction.

We are always happy to welcome new faces to Acorn Class and this term we have been joined by some very interesting new friends! They started off looking like this.....



Then they grew little tails and have started swimming around! They like to swim to the bottom to eat special food and also swim to the top to get their tastiest treat - cucumber!

We found out about the life cycle of frogs and know that after tadpoles they will become froglets before finally becoming frogs and going back to their pond. We have also enjoyed singing lots of songs about frogs to learn about pitch in music.



We have been having great fun in our Garden Centre role play areas. The children helped plan what they needed for their garden centre from thinking about what garden centres sell to what you can see and do there - the cafe garden centre is very popular and they do a great cup of tea and copious amounts of cake!



## BEECH CLASS NEWS

**Design and Technology:** Our design brief this term was to design and make a sock puppet out of recycled materials and it's safe to say we had a great deal of fun doing this!



**Maths:** We've been on an incredible journey with shape this term. First we explored the properties of 2D shapes. Then we used our reasoning skills to apply our knowledge to solve problems.



One challenge we tackled was to take 15 lollipop sticks and make three 2D shapes using them. Some people made 3 pentagons, then they challenged ourselves to find other shapes we could make using all 15 sticks.



**PE:** In PE we have been doing lots of circuit training with a focus on fitness. The children have begun creating their own course of circuits for others to complete.







**PSHE:** In PSHE we explored the meaning and importance of kindness towards others. We made cards for each other as a 'Random Act of Kindness.' Here are some photos of us having a mindful moment during one of our PSHE sessions. The children have expressed how they feel, 'calm and happy' after we pause to breathe mindfully.



**Science:** We explored the life cycles of butterflies and frogs. Afterwards the children wrote about the stage of each life cycle. We then learned about Venn Diagrams and used them to compare the similarities and differences between the life cycles.







# Willow Class News



## Planting a tree (or 37!)

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, Willow Class had the fantastic opportunity to plant tree saplings on our school field, to form a new copse. The choice of trees to plant was Rowan, Hazel and Wild Cherry.

After a Health and Safety discussion, each child then stood on a cross, which had already been marked on the ground, so we could space out the trees and avoid overcrowding. This is where they would plant their tree.



**We planted HISTORY!**



Each child, going down a spade depth, then dug out a square of turf, put this on the side and chopped off the turf, so leaving the soil ready to infill. The children were then given a sapling plug, fanning out the root ball, placing this in the hole, making sure to plant at the correct level to avoid rotting. Some of their friends helped to hold the sapling in place whilst they infilled the hole, and heeled to ensure no air pockets. This was then watered and the turf replaced around the sapling.



Each child was then given a stake to place in the ground next to the sapling, and a guard which they wrapped around both the tree and stake to protect it from rabbits and deer nibbling at the tender new shoots. Then a disk of cardboard, which had a split was placed around the tree, forming a collar to suppress grass from growing. On top of this, two buckets of mulch were used to provide the tree with nutrients as it starts its life in our field, ensuring that around the base of the tree and root ball remained free of mulch so rotting does not occur.

Huge thanks to our friends at Sibford School for organising this and spending the morning with the children. We learned a lot and had great fun.



### Quotes from our children

“It was really fun!” Aura

“I liked finding all of the worms when I was planting my tree.”

Ivy

“I like learning about the different trees.” Freddie

“Watering the trees was really cool, I didn’t realise how much they needed!”

Isabella





## Oak Class News

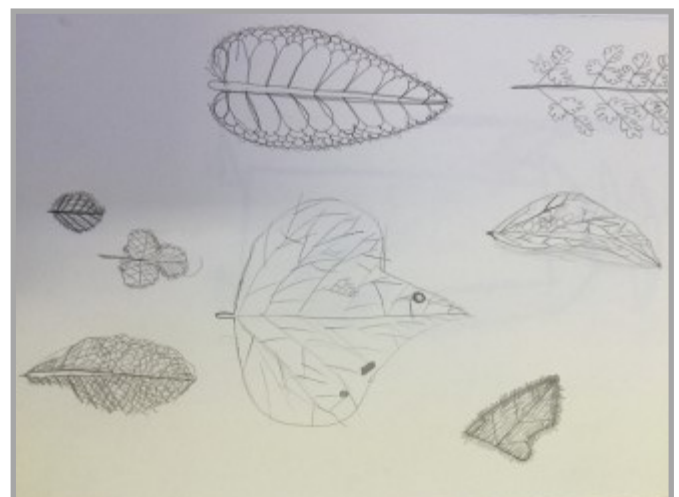


Another term has flown by and as always in Oak, we have been so busy and working exceptionally hard. I am so proud of all my children, who never cease to amaze me with their work ethic and commitment to their learning.



### Bikeability

The Year 5 children have loved taking part in the Bikeability course. Cycling is more than a hobby, it's a life skill and the children have mastered the basic skills to support them to cycle safely now and in the future. They did so well, with all participating children achieving the level 2 award. The instructors commented on what a well-behaved and respectful group they were.



### Art & Design

This term, we have been studying William Morris designs. We did some observational nature drawings from nature which we then translated into line drawings for our print motif. The next step is transfer these onto a polystyrene tile as part of our exploration of two-colour printmaking.



## British Science Week

We celebrated British Science Week and the children had the best day, carrying out a variety of investigations and experiments. The children had to create a creature with the characteristics that would enable them to survive on Mars and after learning about DNA, created their own DNA model.



Willow Class had a wonderful time during their visit to Swalcliffe Barn. The trip was organised to support and enrich their work about the Romans and it was wonderful for them to learn about local Roman settlements and to view mosaic pieces and Roman coins unearthed in Broughton and Swalcliffe Lea.

### The Fabulous ASC Easter Party !

After School Care is always great fun but even more so when it is party-time! The Easter Party was no exception; the food was excellent and everyone had fun. Thank you to Mrs Coffey for organising this lovely event and to Mrs Williams for helping out.





# ACROSS THE SAHARA IN A SANDSTORM !

We are all so proud of Donna Boyles, mum to Henry in Year 4, who recently returned home after trekking across the Sahara Desert. The trek was in memory of Henry's brother Oliver, who also came to our school, and to raise money for Helen & Douglas House Hospice in Oxford who look after children with life limiting illnesses. Donna has shared some photos and a message.



*I wanted to let you know that I had the most incredible experience trekking the Sahara desert which was extremely challenging both physically and mentally. The last day we walked over 20 miles in a rare sand storm in a 33 degree heat.*

*I also want to say a massive thank you for everyone's support and donations. Between the 12 of us who took part in the trek, we have raised over £28,400 for Helen & Douglas House Hospice which is absolutely fantastic."*



**If you would like to read Oliver's story and/ or support Helen and Douglas House charity, please click on the link.**

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/donna-boyles1?utm\\_source=sms&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=donna-boyles1&utm\\_campaign=pfp-sms&utm\\_term=f1cbdfb9544495aa8f2a1858c7aa086](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/donna-boyles1?utm_source=sms&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=donna-boyles1&utm_campaign=pfp-sms&utm_term=f1cbdfb9544495aa8f2a1858c7aa086)






# Please Remember...

During the holiday, and as we return to school after Easter, please remember the importance and joy of regular reading to, by and with your child. Even though this chart refers to test outcomes, regular reading and sharing of books has an enormous impact on their learning, their word power and their educational outcomes.

When we return after Easter, we will be continuing with our Total Recall initiative with children awarded badges for their swift recall of number facts. Children from across the school have responded really well to the challenge of learning these (all part of the National Curriculum) and we have lots of colourfully decorated school jumpers.

## WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

**WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.**



## P.T.A Cake Sale

Huge thanks for all your support with the PTA cake sale, whether you baked or bought or both. Once we have a figure of the amount raised, we will share it with you.



Cake makes me happy!



We also managed to raise over £100 for Comic Relief.

Many thanks for your contributions.

# TOTAL RECALL



## FINGERTIP QUICK NUMBER FACTS AT SIBFORD GOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Yellow - one more, one less
- Orange - number bonds to 10
- Green - number bonds to 20
- Pink - number bonds to 100
- Bronze - recall of 2, 5, 10 times tables
- Silver - recall of 3, 6, 4, 8 times tables
- Gold - recall of 7, 9, 11 times tables
- Black - 12 times table plus TOTAL RECALL OF ALL TIMES TABLES AND NUMBER BONDS TO 100

# HAPPY HOLIDAY