

School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

Christmas seems to have come around very quickly as we approach the end of 2015. We have had an excellent term here at school with all kinds of exciting things going on, as you can see on these pages and by visiting the school website at www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk.



Our children have taken part in all sorts of events outside their normal classroom learning, including the pantomime visit, class assemblies, sporting events, forest schools, science & maths workshops, firework night and Children Singing for Children in Banbury. We have made lots of opportunities to invite parents and friends into school and it has been lovely to see so many of you take advantage of these.

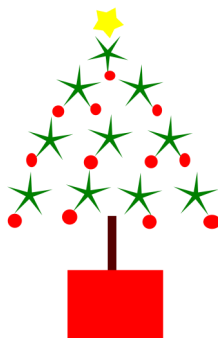
We've also been working with academy colleagues, sharing ideas and good practice to help further improve our wonderful schools.

On behalf of all of the staff here, I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With all best wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan

Headteacher



ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

36 children have been awarded a Special Certificate for having an excellent 100% attendance record for both the Autumn terms. This is a good figure in these cold damp months, but it would be great to get it higher. Attendance does have a significant impact on learning.

We have had lots of opportunities to fund raise for different charities this term.



Children in Need day saw all the children dressed in 'Silly Socks'. They managed to raise a wonderful £135!



Travelling up from their feet to the top of their heads, we had another colourful time on **Bobbie Hat Day**. The grand total raised was £44.35

Year 6 Children in Oak Class had a chance to develop their business skills when they decided to hold a cake sale to help cover the costs of their upcoming IMPs educational trip. They raised an amazing £53.



Children Singing for Children saw pupils from KS2 gathering with children from other schools in the area for a lovely annual event which this year raised **£6,500** for a variety of local and international causes.



Best Class attendance this month: Oak with 98.2%



Children return to school on Tuesday January **5th**, 2016



Acorn Class



This term we have been learning about doubles and halves in maths. This has involved using a 100 square, creating our own double dominoes and then writing the total. We have been practising writing numerals correctly.



We have been improving our fine motor skills by completing the 'Cheerio Challenge!' We see how many cheerio's we can thread onto a tube of dried spaghetti, in one minute. Then we count them and see who the winner is. It is great fun and also helps our fingers become used to small movements which helps in developing writing skills.



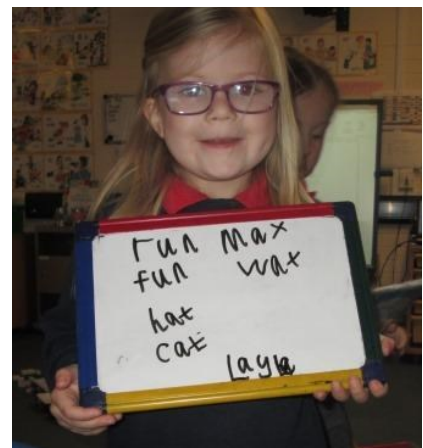
We have been learning about 2D and 3D shape and played shape dominoes on the floor.



During our child initiated time we found a box of beautiful fabric and clothing. We decided to dress up and then Miss Blake put on some beautiful music and we paraded around the classroom. It was really fun and we moved our bodies to suit the mood of the music.



We have also been learning about rhyming words, poems and stories this term and have been reciting lots of action rhymes together. We have made 'rhyming strings' using the whiteboards, the Lego phonics blocks and by finding objects which rhyme with Mrs Higley.





Beech Class News



Beech Class have been doing a lot of learning around our topic of Flotsam and Jetsam. This topic has allowed lots of opportunities to investigate materials and their properties. In Science, we have been learning that the scientific definition of a 'material' is what objects are made from. We have done lots of exciting writing involving stories of making a sand creature on the sea shore made out of materials found at the coast. We have been using our scientific knowledge of materials and their properties to create seascape collages, which look amazing! We have also created wonderful land art outside using natural materials. Finally, we have been investigating how you can change the shape of materials through squashing, bending, stretching and twisting. We used these techniques to change the shape of tin foil in order to create boats. The challenge was to design a new boat for Captain Cook to carry the most cargo! They were very successful boats. We then looked at the concept of floating and sinking as 'flotsam' is related to materials that float or are washed onto the sea shore!



Making



Predicting



Testing



Art using found, natural materials.



Seascape Collages





Willow Class News

This term we have been learning about Antarctica. Firstly we found out where Antarctica is and the type of climate it has. We then learnt about Captain Scott and his epic trip to the South Pole. We then wrote our own stories about a trip to Antarctica. It took us three weeks to write three chapters!

We looked at the type of animals that live in such a cold climate and how they manage to survive.

In D and T, we designed our own penguin models. We could use any materials. Some of us sewed, some of us used bottles for bodies and we even had a papier-mâché balloon for a penguin. We then evaluated our designs, and decided how successful they were and what we had to alter to make them better.



We painted penguin pictures. We could only use black, white and yellow, a range of different paint brushes and we now have displayed them in our classroom against our 'cold' background.



We have been very busy in maths learning about fractions, telling the time and putting information into graph form. Of course we are still learning our times tables!

In PE we have been playing bench ball. It was quite a challenge to start with, but we are now pretty good at marking, dodging, catching and throwing.

We began this term by looking at what a body needs to keep healthy. We found out how different nutritional groups benefit the body and used this knowledge to design healthy meals. Each week a group of children have become chefs and cooked a meal using fresh ingredients that we have all shared to give us a much needed energy boost on a Friday afternoon! We all now know what happens to food when we eat it... using a masher (molars), water (saliva), funnel (oesophagus), plastic bag (stomach), coke (bile / enzymes), pair of tights (small intestine) and rolled up paper towels (large intestine) we managed to 'digest' a peanut butter sandwich! We have also welcomed Dave and Barbara to Willow class. Our resident skeletons have helped us learn about the functions of a skeleton, the names of bones and how joints and muscles help us to move. If you're out and about in Oxford in the holidays, why not pop into the Museum of Natural History to discover even more skeletons! For pictures of us cooking, look on [Willow Class Page](#) on the school website.



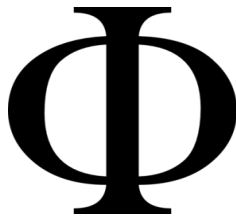


Maple Class News

There has been so much to pack in this term, I'm not sure where the time has gone! The children have been developing all sorts of skills in all sorts of different areas, including a spot of detective work...

Maths

The children have been working hard on improving their agility in mental calculation with Big Maths this term. We've also been looking at the properties of shape, carrying out investigations in the class, making 3D shapes out of nets and even playing battleships as part of our work on plotting co-ordinates. We have also had to look into the work of 13th century Italian mathematician, Fibonacci. This is because of some strange activity in Maple Class involving the Golden Ratio, pictures of the Mona Lisa, coded notes and Phi symbols... If anyone knows what's going on, do please let us know!



English

With the focus on everything rainforest this term, our class novel has been *Journey to the River Sea*, which has taken us on an adventure right into the heart of the Amazon. This setting also inspired one of our Big Write sessions recently. This term has also seen the start of The Grammar Game, which is helping the children to quickly be with a whole host of grammar and punctuation devices. Finally, the intrepid rainforest explorers of Maple Class have been preparing documentaries on the various species currently "living" in our own rainforest - watch out for the recordings on our blog...



Topic

This term's rainforest theme has proven to be very inspiring - we have created our very own rainforest in the classroom, which we hope you will come and visit. Our main focus has, however, been on one of the most popular rainforest products: cocoa! The children have set up and run their own chocolate company: Yum Yums. We have been working on every aspect of the business: from marketing to design, sales to product development, finance to communication. We hope that the end result will be to your liking...



P.E.

Ball Sports: We have continued to work on aspects of teamwork in football this term, as well as skills and strategy. We also had a brief look at some other ball sports, which we will develop further in the coming months - including sit-down volleyball!

Dance: Our choreographed dance to "Staying Alive" is ready to record and, because it was such good fun, we're going to do another one, this time to "A Little Less Conversation" by Elvis Presley.



Year 4 Science

We have been exploring how classification keys are used to identify living things, as well as considering some of the difficulties in finding new species, with a particular focus on the ocean, where so much is unexplored. We have also created our own water cycle model and we have been trying to germinate melon seeds in mini biodomes. These can be found somewhere in the heart of the Maple Class rainforest...



Computing

Hopefully you will have seen some of the work that the children have been putting in to the Maple Class Blog. We will continue to update this part of the website on a regular basis. The class has also been using computers for many aspects of running the chocolate company business!





Oak Class News



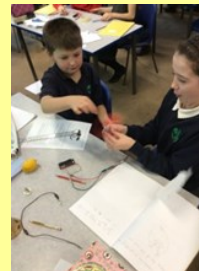
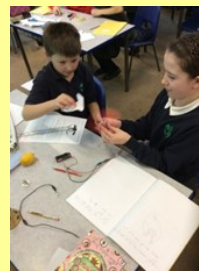
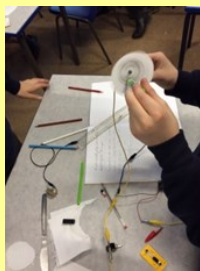
English

Our focus this half-term has been on Journalistic and Instruction writing. We have explored the features of both types and with Journalistic writing the children looked at a range of different newspapers and thought about who the target audience is for the newspapers and the style of writing in each newspaper.



Science

The science topic for this half-term was electricity which gave all the children the opportunity to find things out for themselves and to follow their own independent lines of investigation. So, having learned about: the working of various circuit components, what electricity is, the difference between series and parallel circuits and how electricity can be used to make electromagnets, the children chose their own areas for investigation and here they are at work.



Through experimentation they learned that sometimes things do not always work and they have to persevere to find out why.

P.E.

In our P.E. lessons the children have further developed their multiskills and have had the opportunity to use a variety of pieces of equipment in the hall.



Our topic this half-term has been 'Climate and Deserts'. The children worked in pairs carrying out their own research on a given desert and at the end presented their findings at an information market place where they shared their findings with everybody else in the class.





NATIVITY PERFORMANCE

By Acorn and Beech Classes



The children of Acorn and Beech Classes put on their own delightful version of the nativity, 'Born in a Barn', told and sung from the point of view of the animals.

For the final performance, the hall was filled with parents, grandparents and friends. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and put in some really confident performances.

Well done!



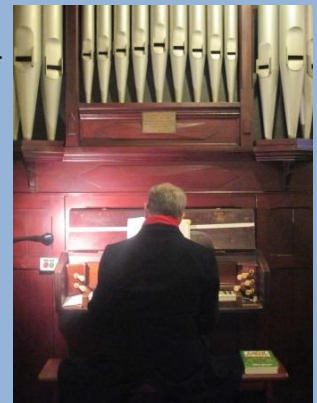
A huge thank you to staff and children for all the effort they put into this. A special thank you to Carolyn Heather and Emma Coventry for organising and making costumes and props. Stunning!



Carol Service at Sibford Church



It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you to the church for our Carol Service, and very nice to see so many ex-pupils in the pews. The children sang and read beautifully. Many thanks to teachers and pupils for all their work in preparing for this, and thank you to our PTA for providing Christmassy refreshments.



Singing at the Village Hall for the Fielding Day Centre.

Pupils from Willow and Maple Classes walked down to the Village Hall to sing carols for local OAPs and community members. The children sang beautifully, yet again.

It was lovely to have some of the oldest and youngest members of our community together in what has become an annual tradition.



On Saturday 28th November 2 of our Year 6 girls were at Shottery Christmas Craft Fair selling their handmade pressed flower cards and handmade jars of fruit jelly.

They have spent some time making and packaging their products as part of their small artisan enterprise. With beautifully displayed goods and a great job of selling them, they are pleased to have made a profit on the day.



"After going to see Jonathan Stroud I would quite like to write a ghost story." Barney

Scario awesome!
- Sam Herd



Pupils from Years 5 & 6 attended an audience with children's author, Jonathan Stroud.

Sporting Achievement

Sport at Sibford Gower going from strength to strength.

Children from across the school have taken part in a number of events this term, including the swimming gala, cross country, inter-school football, dodgeball and tag rugby.

Our under-9s football team
Under 9s Football Team came
1st in the North Oxfordshire
Sports Partnership Primary U9
Small Schools Football
Final 2015.



Two squads took part in the annual Swimming Gala at Sibford School. All the children did brilliantly, swimming to the best of their ability. Max Lloyd Thomas, Ben Lloyd Thomas and Gemma Craig came first in their heats.



48 of our children from across the school took part in the inter-school Cross Country Event. Of these 48, 5 children qualified to take part in the North Oxfordshire Finals. Out of these children,

Ollie Lloyd-Thomas came **1st** in the Year 1 & 2 final, **Tom Rowley** came **1st** in the Year 3 & 4 final, and **Max Lloyd-Thomas** came **1st** in the Year 5 & 6 final.



A squad of our Year 3 & 4 children went off to the Warriner to take part in a dodgeball competition. They did a brilliant job, playing with energy and enthusiasm on behalf of their school. We are very proud of them.

Tyler received a special certificate for 'passion' in his play. Well done!



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR P.T.A



For the events you have organised and the things you have made possible.



The children had a fantastic time when they visited the theatre in Chipping Norton to watch a pantomime of Robin Hood. Many thanks to the PTA for making this possible by covering the transport costs.



The fabulous playground markings which have brightened up our school. A special thank you to Juliette Glazebrook and Amanda Ransom for sneaking in at weekends to paint the Acorns playground too!



The brilliant Bonfire and Fireworks night and the splendid Christmas disco!

Could this be Mr. Cameron ?



Thank you for giving up your time to provide tea and coffee and cake to make occasions even better, whenever we have asked.

The fabulous Cauliflower Cards fundraiser, which has made everybody's Christmas brighter, and coming in to put up Christmas decorations.



Not to mention classroom rugs, playground plaques and vacuum cleaners



WOMBAT NEWS



All Wombat Class representatives have now been elected by pupil vote. We have been meeting on the first Friday of every month and have now decided to make meetings fortnightly as there is always so much to discuss. We are currently reviewing our Hot Spots and Grot Spots and have had to make lots of changes because of all the brilliant things that have happened in response to last years Hot Spots and Grot Spots assembly. You can look at our webpage on the school website at www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk to find out about some of these.

We will present our new Hot Spots and Grot spots at a school assembly early in the new term.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !

