



December 2022

SCHOOL NEWS

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



Dear Parents & Carers,

What a lovely half-term it has been. Although the end of term was very cold and icy, it was also very beautiful and it was a rare treat for children to have the experience of snow just before Christmas. The school grounds looked lovely for days as the temperature remained below zero.

Lots of exciting learning and a number of whole school events have been taking place over the past weeks, as you can see within this newsletter. It has been a real pleasure to come together as a school community for events like the Nativity performance and the Christmas Carol Service.

The end of the year brings sadness as we say good bye to Mrs Coventry who has had a long connection with the school. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her well. It also brings a sense of possibility though, as we ring in the New Year with all sorts of exciting things planned for the children.

On behalf of all the staff here, I wish you a safe and happy holiday and a Very Merry Christmas!

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)



HO HO HO!

The ASC Christmas Party may have been the social event of the year! Huge thanks to Mrs Coffey for her wonderful party planning, Mrs Williams for her support and to our very special party guest...
Father Christmas!



Carol Service at the church

It was lovely to have the whole school community together



Best Class Attendance this half term: **Beech 97%**



Children return to school on **Thursday 5th January 2023**



ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term the children in Acorn have been very busy thinking about the change in seasons from Autumn to Winter, learning about animals that hibernate and celebrating different festivals including Diwali and supporting events such as Children in Need. We have also been really focused on our phonics and maths learning this half term too.

Marvellous Maths!

We have been really focussing on our maths skills this term in Acorn Class - looking really deeply into numbers 1,2,3,4 and 5 and also Zero who is very important too! We love to explore the world of numbers with the Numberblocks and then do lots of hands on activities to find out more. We have been busily using tens frames to help us count, playing games with them and even using them during morning self registration. We have also started to explore the 'part part whole' model for showing how numbers can be made up of other numbers such as 2 and 3 making 5 altogether. As the Numberblocks would say, 'There's so much more to explore!'



Celebrations and Events

The children started the half term looking at the festival of Diwali and were enthralled by the story of Rama and Sita - particularly enjoying counting all of Hanuman's monkeys making the bridge!

This term has also seen Remembrance Day where we read a story about why people choose to wear poppies, watched a moving but age appropriate animation called 'Poppies' from CBeebies and talked about that poppies can be in other colours too - white for peace and purple to remember the animals in war. We also enjoyed creating our own 'spotty art' based on the artist Kandinsky to tie in with Children in Need.



Learning through Play

So much we do in Acorn Class is learning through play. Resources are available throughout the day for the children to select independently and explore. We also use lots of these resources in our adult lead learning and it's lovely to see the children choosing resources previously used and finding even more ways to play and learn!

And finally...

To hear Acorn Class sing a song about Autumn leaves scan the QR code to the left of this box.

Beech Class News

Every day in December we have been writing and drawing what we are grateful for. The challenge is finding something different every day. We have attached the leaves to make a wreath. The children will take these home before Christmas to share with you all .



As scientists, we have been sorting materials into 2 categories, human-made materials and natural materials. This supported interesting conversations about a range of materials. The children loved it! And learned a lot.



We had a wonderful day of spots and stripes creating artwork using a range of circles and lines. Mrs. O' Sullivan led an art teaching session for us in the morning. Beech Class had great fun working with Willow Class. We have displayed our 'circle' art work all over the school. It looks really lovely and brightens things up.



We enjoyed dressing up for the Nativity .

We have had some really good mathematics sessions . The children have all worked so very hard. The learning ranged from number bonds to 10, 20 and 100! We used 10 frames and numicon to support learning and the children were really concentrating. All children will really benefit from practising these number bonds at home.



In history we learned about why Hadrian's Wall was built. We got in role as Emperor Hadrian, Roman Soldiers and 'The Picts.'



We learned about Kukulcan (Koo-kool-kan) the feathered serpent god in the mythology and religion of Mesoamerica. The children made their own versions of Kukulcan.

We built El templo, known as the Temple of Kukulcán, the Mesoamerican step-pyramid that dominates the center of the Chichen Itza archaeological site in the Mexican state of Yucatán.



The real Temple of Kukulcán.
Can you tell the difference?

Willow Class News

It has been a lovely term; full of learning, hard work, resilience and of course a few giggles along the way. Willow Class always work hard but I have been really impressed with their increased levels of motivation and participation this term.

This term in RE we have been considering the question...

"Is light a good symbol for celebration?"

We looked and compared the Festivals of Light of three religions, Diwali, Hanukkah and Advent. The children found there were many similarities, for example, a story, celebrations including food and presents, meeting with friends and family and LIGHT. We have completed our work through discussions following watching videos from children of each religion, talking about their celebrations and traditions, comic strips retelling the stories of Rama and Sita and looking at the symbolism of the Advent wreath and its candles. This led beautifully into our end session; the children created their very own 'Class Advent Wreath'- *Stunning!*



Story telling through drawing

We started our journey by exploring the artist 'Laura Carlin'. Her chosen mediums are colouring pencils and pastels. We were amazed at the level of detail you could achieve with colouring pencils. We explored this for ourselves in our sketchbooks. We then moved to 'discovering charcoal'. We then moved to 'discovering charcoal'.

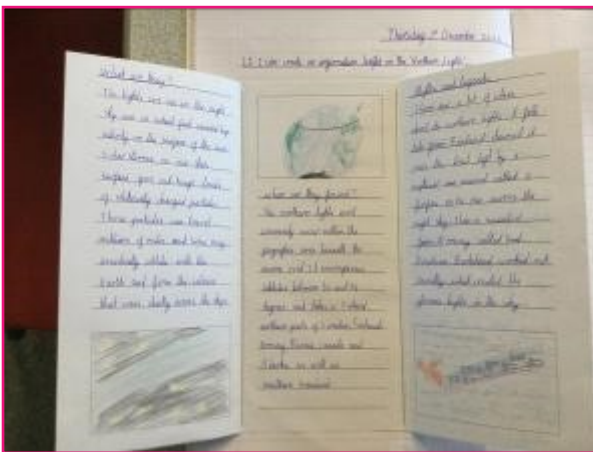
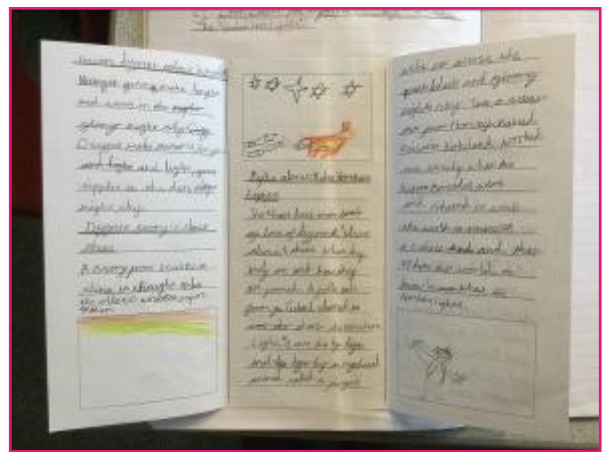


This was VERY messy but we loved experimenting with charcoal and exploring the different mark-making techniques you can use. Putting all of our new skills into practice, we were then able to create our amazing 'Stories through drawing'. The children worked so carefully and I am one proud teacher!



Northern Lights

The children have absolutely thrived, enjoyed and loved learning about this theme this term. They have explored and experienced many skills and areas and produced some outstanding work.



From everyone in Willow Class,
we would like to wish you all a
very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.
All our love x



Willow Class also had an art lesson with Mrs O'Sullivan and Mrs Downes where we worked collaboratively to make large collages exploring cool and warm colours.

Oak Class News

What an amazing term we have had in Oak. As always, we have been so busy with our learning and having fun. It has been lovely to have Mrs Humphrey back and we are enjoying Thursdays with Mr Cameron too!



The focus of this term's science in Oak Class has been all about light. We have been finding out what light is and how it travels, including a trip to the PTA cupboard under the school to discover whether we could see our hands in front of our faces in pitch darkness! We have been learning about different sources of light, including bioluminescence in animals and the mysterious Northern Lights. After discovering how shadows are created and manipulated, we created some fabulous shadow photography. One of our early morning tasks was to create a lighthouse using some basic equipment and then to change one variable to make it brighter and for the beam of light to rotate.



As part of our Art this term, the children have focused on '2D drawing to 3D making' linked to our humanities theme of WW1. The children explored how mark making, line, tonal value, colour, shape, and composition can be used to inform the final piece. A key focus of these Art and Design lessons was to understand and carry out scaling-up with their project.



Our morning of Art for Children in Need

We finished off Anti-Bullying Week by marking Children in Need with a morning of Art & Design with the theme of Circles and Stripes. The morning began with a special assembly to focus the children's minds on the reason for the day and then we all rolled up our sleeves and got on with a range of art projects. One of our aims was to explore a range of creative techniques and media.



The children from Beech and Willow classes organised themselves into mixed-age groups and pairs. One of the activities they could choose began with them exploring **collage** by cutting circles and stripes from colourful card and making arrangement which they then glued onto paper. They then explored the technique of **frottage** to make an image by placing paper over their textured collage and rubbing this with a wax crayon to make a second image.



Another activity involved exploring colour whilst developing our ability to use chalk pastels. Inspired by the colour studies of Wassily Kandinsky, the children become highly absorbed in

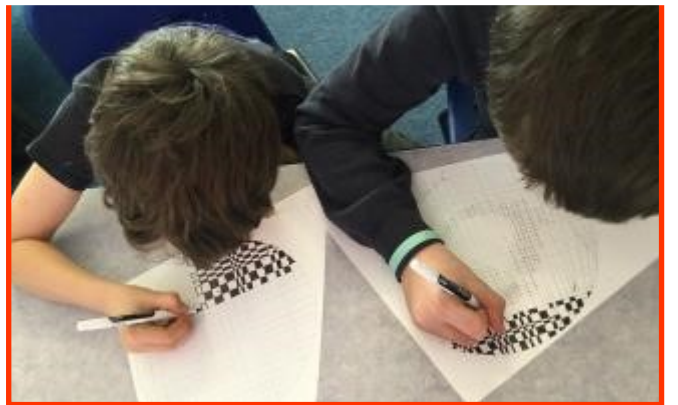
creating their own artworks, making thoughtful colour choices and exploring the techniques of smudging and blending. They worked really well together and the results were stunning.



To see more pictures of the children at work and their beautiful creations, please look on the Our Art Gallery page of the school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/our-art-gallery.html>



The children in Oak Class looked at examples of Op Art by artists, Victor Vasarely and Bridget Riley. They created their own pieces (still within the circle theme), which we 'collated' into a kinetic art work for the library.



Celebrations & Festivals of Light

Fabulous Fireworks

The half-term began with the very welcome return of the PTA Firework Extravaganza. This family-friendly event was truly spectacular and well worth the wait, with an excellent turn-out, from both the school and local community. Thank you P.T.A



The Drama of Diwali

All of the children have explored the festival of Diwali, through assemblies, story & story-telling, Art & Design and R.E. They have made diva lamps out of paper, card or clay and really enjoyed learning about this important world-wide celebration.



Will Rama and Sita escape from the evil ten-headed demon, Ravana ?



We enjoyed making diya models out of card, and paper.
It's fun to learn with our friends!



Christmas celebrations have been great fun too...

For the second year running, we contributed to the Christmas tree Festival at the church in Sibford. Last year, our Christmas tree was made from sticks that we collected from across the school site. This year's tree continued our eco-friendly approach with a focus on recycling and the use of biodegradable materials. Children from across the school brought in toilet roll holders (thank you everyone) and a team of Oak Class children took responsibility for painting these in different shades of green. We then threaded these together around a stick frame to make the tree.



Amber helped to prepare the painted toilet roll tubes for threading.



We re-used the clay decorations the children made last year to add some colour ...

Christmas Jumper Day coincided with the Nativity performance for the staff and children, which felt just perfect!

...and found a cardboard 'star' from some packaging to go on the top. We were very pleased with the finished tree.



The Santa Fun Run really was fun! It was far too cold and icy to run outside so the children had relay races in the school hall.



The Acorn & Beech performance of the Nativity story was lovely and very funny.
It was wonderful to welcome families into school to see this.
The children sang and performed really well and everyone enjoyed themselves.



BAA-RMY BETHLEHEM
A nativity story



Freshstart Christmas Dinner



The Freshstart Christmas dinner was excellent! Huge thanks to Sarah, Emma and Kate for all their hard work. It was Emma Cran's first Christmas as 'head chef' and she did us proud! The children had a lovely time and, thanks to our wonderful PTA, had Christmas crackers and special Christmas tree cakes too.

Back to the Carol Service...



It was a cold walk to and from the church for the Christmas Carol Service. We received a warm welcome from The Revd Neill though, who had been up early to make sure the church was nice and warm for everyone.

Cross-Country Champions

We are so proud of all the KS2 children who made it through to the second stage of the Oxfordshire Cross-Country County Competition. Firstly, for representing our school so brilliantly by all giving of their very best on the day and behaving with courtesy and respect (as always) towards the other competitors. Secondly, because they all did so well. A special mention goes to Andrew Rutledge who came in 1st overall in the Year 5 & 6 boys event.

This was a first Carol Service for many of our younger children with some of our oldest children feeling the poignancy of giving their last Christmas reading while pupils at our school. The service was lovely. All the children sang beautifully and everyone was moved by the voices of our 'trio', Poppy, Isobel and Theo, and the solo by Andrew Cran.



WOMBAT SCHOOL COUNCIL

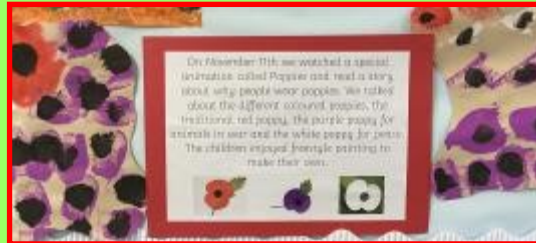
The class representatives have been meeting regularly and have now completed their identification of priority Hot Spots and Grot Spots. It is always really helpful to have the children's perspective of what is going well or not so well at school and this includes their experience of the school site. The aim is to get as many of the Grot Spots sorted out during their tenure (the academic year) as we can. To find out what they are, and to see the impact of this aspect of the School Council's work over previous years, please look on the Wombat page on the school website.: <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

Remembrance Day

On 11th November, the children across the school marked Remembrance Day with care and respect. As well as taking part in the two minute silence, the children learned about remembrance poppies and explored this theme. As a school, **we raised over £165 for the British Legion**. This is a record for us and we thank you for your generosity.



Beech Class worked together to make a poppy wreath in remembrance.



Acorn Class talked about the different colours of remembrance poppies and explored paint and colour to create their own poppy pictures.



Willow Class created poppy lanterns. They went into the hall to share a remembrance reflection time together.

Remembrance fitted well with the Oak Class topic, exploring World War One.



For her topic homework linked to the Oak Class learning about World War 1, Molly Edwards made the most amazing cake, depicting a trench and no-man's land, complete with sandbags, soldiers and a poppy field. The detail was incredible and reflected things that Molly had learned in history lessons. It tasted lovely too! Very well done, Molly!



THANK YOU P.T.A

- For all the thought, care, dedication and sheer hard work that went into the organisation of Firework Night. It really was a night to remember.
- For decorating the school hall ready for Christmas and providing us with crackers, cakes and lovely things to make our Christmas lunch extra special.
- For organising and running the school uniform give-away

If you would like to find out more about our PTA and ways in which you could support, please contact;
Ali Smith seacho10@gmail.com



Governor's Corner

We are delighted to welcome another new Parent Governors to our local governing body. Mr Joshua Knight attended his first committee meeting this term.

To find out more about our governing body and the responsibilities of this important role, please look on the school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/governing-body.html>

Dear Parents & Carers,

On behalf of the governing body we would like to wish all members of our school community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alex Greenhalgh, Chair of Governors

With all our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year