



December 2024

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a really enjoyable, fun-packed half-term. When I come to collate these half-termly newsletters, the range of activities the children are involved in within a few short weeks always amazes me. I do feel that we are very fortunate to have such a successful and happy school with such a supportive school community.

Please read on to explore just a few of the things that have been going on this half-term.

On behalf of everyone at school, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and winter break, and a very Happy New Year.

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan

Headteacher



Best Class Attendance this half term

Oak Class 97%

Children return to school on

Tuesday 7th January



Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

We don't often get the opportunity to have a Snow Day when we are all at school. Fresh snow has to be explored and it was lovely to see the children out in the fresh air, playing happily in the snow with their classmates.

ACORN CLASS NEWS

Goodness! How is it December already?! It only seems a moment ago that we were welcoming all our new Acorns and now we're a third of the way through the year! What an end to 2024 we have had though, read on to find out about this term's learning adventures.



Wonderful Weather

This term we have yet again been able to experience the changing seasons, from exploring Autumn when we first came back after half term in early November to, for some of us, experiencing and creating our first tangible memories of snow.

Hey Diddle Diddle.... It's Nursery Rhyme Week

This term we enjoyed celebrating Nursery Rhyme Week. Each day we focussed on a different nursery rhyme from Incy Wincy Spider, Old MacDonald Had a Farm to 5 Current Buns. We enjoyed saying and singing these rhymes together, many with actions to help us remember them. On Friday, we enjoyed 5 Current Buns with Mrs Benjamin's knitted props, we enjoyed taking turns being the bakers and buyers. We also had a special 'Nursery Rhyme Themed' Story Dough session where we were challenged to make a new item for the bakery. One day we also enjoyed making our own boats to 'row row row' - we loved exploring floating and sinking in our outdoor area.

"Play dough, play dough, sitting in a tree, Dreaming of marmalade 1,2,3..."

Story Dough is filled with imagination and nonsense rhymes!



In Story Dough we build our muscles with the dough and practise our mark making with the Secret Code. Reception children also practise their phonics as each week there is also a 'magic sound'.

Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream, merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream!



"My boat is floating!"
"Oh no! It tipped over!"

Let's Celebrate!

There have been a flurry of birthdays in Acom Class, the children have been very excited to see their friends moving 'up' a number balloon. We have really leaned into this 'festive feeling' by having a party role play area, with the children setting up a 'party tea' for their friends and recreating favourite party games such as pass the parcel and musical statues. The children also enjoyed using their phonic knowledge and mark making skills to write 'gift lists' in our Message Centre. Christmas has also featured heavily this half term and there has been a buzz in the air as children have enjoyed talking about the Christmas lights, putting up their decorations at home and watching the annual Tractor Run. We have enjoyed playing with gingerbread play dough, practising our fine motor skills by creating our own Christmas Tree designs with both paint and loose parts and building with our Christmas blocks. We also learned about the Christian tradition of the Christingle and enjoyed making our own to take home.

Development of fine motor skills whilst manipulating small parts to create our Christmas trees.



Tower building promotes collaboration and problem solving. Working together to build - and knock it down!

Carefully creating our Christmas Tree prints, carefully building a tree shape and considering which colours to use.

Gingerbread and cinnamon play dough is a real treat for the senses as well as encouraging creativity and building strength!

We learned what each of the different parts of the Christingle represent.



Placing the sweets and fruit on each cocktail stick required a lot of concentration!

Role-playing 'birthday parties' is important as it directly relates to the children's own lives and interests.

We use our sound sheets to help us write more independently. Our teachers are so proud of us all!

BEECH CLASS NEWS

In maths we have been exploring number bonds, with a particular focus on how to represent these using the part-whole method.



Science: We all love the practical lessons in Investigative Science. Here you can see the children designing, making and testing boats to see if they will float or sink. We used marbles as cargo to see how many the boats could hold before sinking. Some were more successful than others and it helps if you load your cargo carefully!



We created Firework Art, inspired by Bonfire Night and Diwali!



We used a combination of painting and printing techniques. We loved our finished work!

We loved our Snow Day in school. We wrapped up warm and went out to explore the Big Field. What a great opportunity to talk about the seasonal weather changes to support our learning in Science.



Children in Need Day:

We learned about some of the amazing challenges people take on in order to raise money for children in need. We looked at the map to see how far Paddy Mc Guinness had cycled & discussed some challenges we could take on to raise money for charity.



Beech Class went to the Dance Festival at the Warriner. The theme was based on the book, Tiddler by Julia Donaldson. We danced and embraced the roles of various sea creatures. The octopus with it's tongue sticking out was a clear favourite!



Across the school, we raised **£123.40** for Children in Need. Thank you so much.

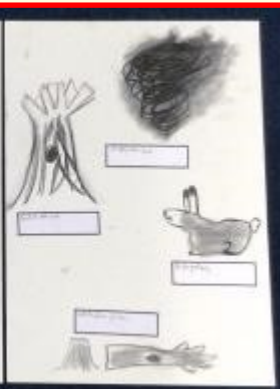
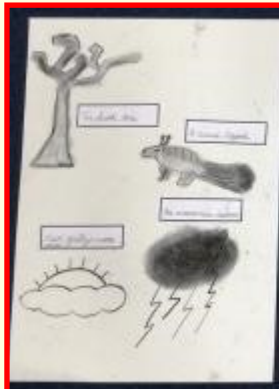


Willow Class News : It has been a lovely term; full of learning, hard work, resilience and, of course, a few giggles along the way.

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 decided to explore more mediums and stretch our learning. We moved on to... 'charcoal'.

It was VERY messy but we had a wonderful experience and enjoyed learning about the different techniques needed to use it to full effect. Putting all our new skills into practice, we were then able to create our amazing 'Stories through drawing'.



The children had the chance to further apply their pastel skills to create beautiful fox & owl pictures, inspired by our Christmas tree. (See p. 14 of this newsletter)



Light and Lenses

The children have become really immersed in their learning this term. A particular favourite has been learning about the Northern and Southern lights and they have produced some **outstanding** work as a result of their exploration of this theme.

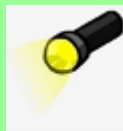


The children have been working really hard this term on their writing. One of their favourite pieces of writing was a persuasive text encouraging people to visit Norway!

I think you will agree, their work is wonderful! Their writing was so persuasive that, as a class, we have decided that going to Norway should be our next school trip! We wonder if Mrs O'Sullivan will let us?

LIGHT (our science theme)

Science is a favourite subject of Willow Class; it is wonderful to see the excitement take over every lesson! We took part in an investigation as we have been learning about reflection and shadows. The pure joy on the children's faces when I brought out the torches was priceless!



Oak Class News

Oak Class's biggest event of the term was the ...

CONDOVER HALL 2024 RESIDENTIAL

Attending the residential marks a real achievement for many of the children (and their parents!). For some of them, it was their first stay away from family and the prospect of the trip was both exciting and daunting. Once they set off though, the children really threw themselves into things and had the most amazing time. They took part in a huge variety of activities over the four days they were there, and behaved themselves beautifully. They really made the most of the whole experience and we are immensely proud of them.

Huge thanks to Mrs Humphrey, Mrs Downes, Mrs Davies and Mrs Williams for volunteering their time and being away from their own families to make this possible for the children.



More Oak Class News ...

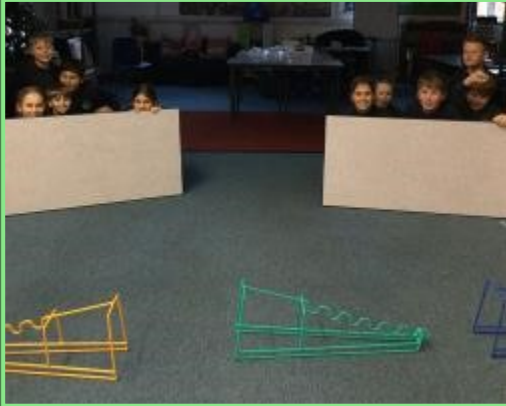


Shadow Science

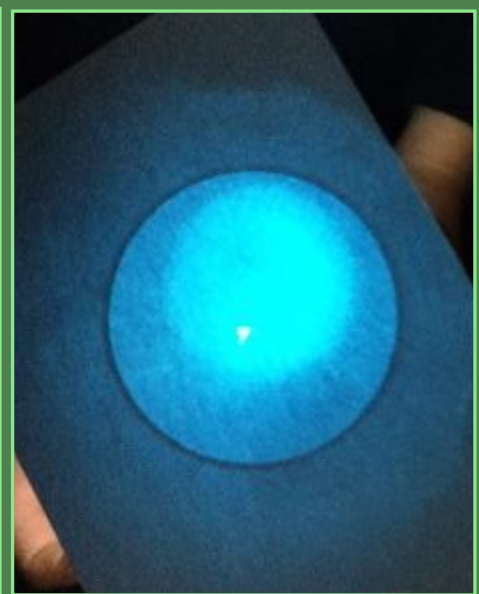
Back at school, the children have had great fun exploring the theme of 'Light' in their science lessons this half-term. One lesson focused on investigating 'shadows' and they spent a happy and creative half hour producing shadow images as they learned.



Oak Class children had a very active History lesson in which they explored the chances of making it across 'no-man's land' upon leaving the trenches. The odds were not high!



As well as stained glass poppies, the children crafted large purple or white poppies for crepe paper. Do you know who/what these coloured poppies commemorate?



Oak's investigative Science lessons, exploring the scientific properties of light AND how we see, continued up to the end of term. They really are very engaged scientists.





As part of their learning linked to the theme of Remembrance, the children in Willow Class made drawings of poppies. It is always so interesting to see their different interpretations of the same theme.

LEST WE FORGET



Oak Class made these beautiful 'stained glass' poppies. They layered cellophane and tissue paper to beautiful effect.

**We raised £143.72 for this year's Poppy Appeal!
Thank you everyone.**



The children in Beech Class made Remembrance Wreaths.



Across the school, the children learned about the significance of Remembrance Day and the meaning of the poppy. We held a 2-minute silence on Armistice Day.

Bonfire Night and Firework Display



This annual event, organised by our wonderful P.T.A was a huge success. Thank you so much to everyone who helped to organise and run this event, and to everyone who turned up to join in the fun.



With thanks to parents, Tim Hearn and Stuart Wright for the terrific photographs.

An Olympian Visitor...



... and her medal

We were all so excited to welcome an Olympic Champion into school. Hattie Taylor is a member of the Team GB Rowing Team and attained a **Bronze Medal** at the recent Paris Olympics. She came into school to give a special assembly for the children and talk about her journey to participation in the Olympic Games. Hattie was very approachable and made time for the children to ask all sorts of questions about her experiences. So much of what she said reinforced what we discuss at school all the time, including the importance of commitment, practice and hard work to learning well and achieving your ambitions. Hattie began the assembly by handing her bronze medal to the children, allowing them to pass it around while she spoke and letting every single child in the school hold it! It was surprisingly large and very heavy. We are sure that this encounter is one that all our children will remember. Thank you, Hattie!

The theme of **Anti-Bullying Week** this year was **Choose Respect!**

The children gave some suggestions of how they could show respect to others.

- By helping each other
- By being kind and sensible
- By listening
- By valuing others opinions
- By considering peoples feelings
- By being a team player and a good sport
- By valuing differences, not making fun of them
- By showing good manners
- By not judging others
- By looking at people nicely
- By following the school RESPECT Code

And by being bold and showing our odd socks on Odd Socks Day ...

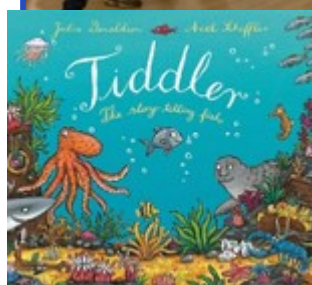


Sport at Sibford Gower

What a **fantastic** Autumn term it has been. We have taken part in many great tournaments and are looking forward to our planned events in the New Year. All the children represented the school brilliantly, showing amazing teamwork, resilience and perseverance. We were extremely proud of them all.



Beech Class went to the Dance Festival at the Warriner. This is a really inclusive annual event which all of the children enjoy. It is a lovely opportunity for them to meet up with children of their own age from other local schools.



The dance and movement had an undersea theme and was based on the book 'Tiddler', by Julia Donaldson.

Dodge Ball Success!

What a fabulous time at dodgeball. The children enjoyed every moment and were super-excited to show off their newly learnt skills!



Huge congratulations to Liam, Holly and Cecily who qualified for the North Oxfordshire Cross Country Final.

Liam- 26th

Holly- 5th

Cecily- 10th



The 2024 Santa Fun Run went really well. All our Santas are pictured here, donning their hats and ready for the starting shout! Bravo Santas!





Carol Service

The Carol Service at the Church was lovely. All the children sang beautifully and it was a real treat both to hear songs from the New School Nativity again, and to hear our KS2 Choir perform. Thank you for joining us for this special event. Your generous donations raised £90 for The Children's Society.



The little fox thought he was alone in the wintry forest. Then he looked up ...



Our contribution to the Christmas Tree Festival at the church this year was on the theme of 'Christmas Wonderland'. It involved a small fox on a wintry night and paper owls, made by the children, roosting in the branches above him. Eleanor described it as being "like a story inside the tree".



Our thanks to our wonderful P.T.A. for decorating the Christmas Tree...ready for the PTA Christmas Fun Event ...which helped ensure that all the children were able to attend Christmas Jumper Day looking festive. The Great Christmas Jumper Swap was such a positive, and environmentally friendly, idea.





ACORN & BEECH NATIVITY



The Nativity performance by the children of Acorn & Beech classes was absolutely delightful. It was wonderful to see all the children taking part—they acted and sang really confidently.

Huge thanks to Ms Blake, Mrs Oliveira, Mrs Perkins, Mrs Benjamin, Mrs Evans, Miss Reeves and Mrs Jones for all the hard work and patience that went into making this such a heart-warming success. A special thank you to Mrs Evans for all her work with the costumes.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!



A message from our Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Guardians of Sibford Gower Primary,

As we approach the festive season, I wanted to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to the school's many successes this past year.

Firstly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated school staff. Their hard work, passion, and commitment to providing the best education and support for our children do not go unnoticed. We are truly grateful for all their efforts and thank Jane O'Sullivan for her leadership in preparing our children for the future.

I would also like to thank my fellow governors for their unwavering support and dedication. Their volunteer efforts have been instrumental in steering our school.

To our wonderful parents and guardians, thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Your partnership is invaluable.

If you are interested in volunteering and becoming more involved in our school, we would love to hear from you. Your time and skills can make a significant difference, and we welcome the support dedicated people can offer.

Wishing you all a joyful and restful Christmas break. May the New Year bring happiness, health, and success to you and your families.

Warmest regards,

Phil Tattersall-King, Chair of Governors



WOMBAT Corner



Our pupil School Council have an 'eco' focus this year, exploring ways in which we can become more environmentally friendly across the school and at home, and celebrating the good things that we already do.

They are working really well as a group and will be leading their first WOMBAT Assembly for those they represent (their classes!) next term.



The children really enjoyed the Freshstart Christmas Lunch. Thank you to Tina and Jodie for all your hard work and preparation. The iced Christmas biscuits were beautiful!



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
EVERYONE

