

School News

Dear Parents,

It has been a typically busy start to the year here at school with all sorts of exciting things going on; Young Voices, Jump Rope, the whole school visit to the pantomime, Sulgrave Manor, Stargazing and much, much, much more.

Our new teachers Mr Warrilow, Miss Kempson and Mrs Perkins have settled in well and each one has already made a significant contribution to school life. Thanks to all of you for welcoming them into our school community.

Thanks too, to those of you who attended the 'Information to Parents Evening' where I was able to let you know about some of the initiatives for school improvement that we have already introduced and share some of our plans and hopes for the future of the school. Your feedback has been very useful.

There are more thanks & acknowledgements to be found within this newsletter for many of those people who give their time and effort to make our school the wonderful, vibrant place that it is. Read on...

With best wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan

Headteacher



Best Class attendance this

term: **Oak** with **98.2**



Those of you who came to the Parent's information evening will be aware that work is due to start on developing The Orchard as an outdoor learning environment between 23rd and 25th February.

This is being made possible through the generosity of Julian & Amanda Ransom and their colleagues & the PTA .

YOUNG VOICES

Our KS2 trip to the LG Arena in Birmingham for Young Voices was a huge success. All the children had a fantastic time! If you are interested in ordering a DVD of our performance, they cost £15 (and we ask for a 50p contribution for P&P) please see Miss Harrison.

Fraser: When we went to Young Voices I had an extremely fun time because I had lots of friends there and I really enjoyed the music.



Alicia S: It was AMAZING and the best school trip I've been on so far!

Todd: It was so loud and the singing was amazing. I had a fabulous time because we got to go during school time and home really late.



The sponsored skipping went down a treat with children working hard for the timed skip and learning new skills for the competition later that afternoon. Congratulations to all the children who decided to take part in a mini competition. A huge well done to Max and Cicely for winning the cross over skip and to Thea and Bethany, and Freddie and Issac for winning the paired cross competition. We would like to thank all children for taking part in this worthwhile event and helping to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. Thank-you for your support and generosity. The children raised an incredible £548 !



St John's Ambulance came to school to teach Years 5 and 6 about emergency first aid – 'First Aid in a Day'. The children had an exceptionally eye-opening experience learning how to help in an emergency from putting an unconscious casualty into the recovery position and completing the Primary Survey, to dealing with a severe bleed. The children also learned about medical conditions which they might encounter on a day to day basis and how to treat the patient e.g. dealing with an asthma attack. Other lifesaving topics were covered including; choking, burns, shock, fainting and poisons. The children learned how important communication is in an emergency and how to make an emergency call.

St John's also visited the Y4 children to deliver a course called 'Bleeds and Bandaging'. As it says in the title, the focus here was minor and major bleeds and how to deal with these effectively. The children also learned how to place someone in the recovery position.

An extremely worthwhile day!



Josh: I learnt about how to save somebody who was choking and how to bandage up a person with a bleed. It was a good experience.

Gemma: It was good because now I know how to save a life if I

Eppie: I thought it was really brilliant because now I know what to do with a person who is unconscious.





OAK CLASS



Oak class finished December with a **BANG!** Our Extreme weather topic culminated with setting off two different types of volcanic eruptions.

Fred: It was very exciting and I would like to recommend that we do it again!



Barney: I thought that it was the best thing in the whole term and I would definitely like to do it again.

Felix: It was an exciting afternoon because it was fun and different.



In Literacy we have been learning about giving clear verbal instruction. We had to navigate an obstacle course blind folded whilst being peer assessed for our instruction giving ability!



In Numeracy we have been learning about 3D shapes and nets. We had a maths day and investigated the properties of shapes, made 3D shapes from nets, designed nets and solved net based problems before playing shape dominoes.



Oak have held another market place this time on the Ancient Egyptians. Congratulations to Fred and Barney who won the best stall prize.



In Oak Class, we have also studied poetry and looked at different techniques to make our poetry writing more exciting. We know how to use personification, alliteration, repetition, similes and metaphors. Here are a few extracts from our poems.

*Rumbling, roaring deep in the earth,
Living lava laughing loudly
Bubbling, boiling raging within
Silently sliding up to the surface.*

Max

*Erupting and spurting as it roared and
rushed*

Over the heated ground.

*It made a horrid hissing sound,
hisssssssssssssss*

Round and round the volcano.

Oliver

*The roaring rock was running down the sides,
The lively lava was like a water slide.
We ran from the fierce fire and ash clouds too,
It would chase, chase and chase after you.*

Lotta

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Year 6 went on a trip to Oxford Fire Station for Junior Citizens. Here they learnt about stranger danger, water, railway, home, fire, internet and road safety and then aced the recovery position.



Two of the children from Beech Class attended a special Science Day at Dr. Radcliffe's Primary School with children from the other Partnership schools. Many thanks to Sam Allen for taking them.

Wombat News Following their Hot Spots and Grot Spots assembly, Wombats would like to thank Maggie, Charlotte Jenkins and Sue Rowley, for all their hard work in sorting out one of the grottiest of the Grot Spots, the Sports shed. You've done an unbelievable job! Thank you for listening to us. A big thank you from the whole school for all the rest of the work too; the hall curtains, the 'other' shed and the Friday night football club. Just brilliant! It's made such a difference! Now Wombats are on to ordering new playground equipment. PTA—we will have a list ready soon!

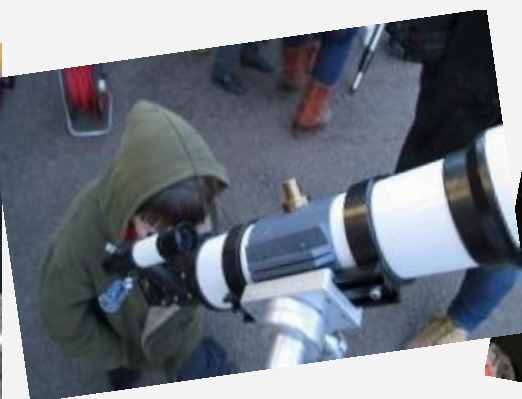


STARGAZING

Many thanks to all of you who braved the sub-zero temperatures and came to gaze heavenward on a spectacularly clear night. Robin Smitten and his colleagues from the Chipping Norton Astronomical Society pitched up with their telescopes and heads full of interesting facts and figures to share their extensive knowledge and passion for stargazing with us.

After a very interesting talk and slideshow, we went out into the dark night to see the surface of the moon, craters and all, the space station passing overhead, various nebula and constellations and even, for the most hardy amongst us, Jupiter and her moons.

Many thanks to the PTA for providing the very welcome hot chocolate and biscuits—much appreciated.



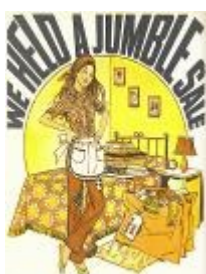
Bonjour! This term has started off brilliantly for our KS2 linguists, particularly for the children in Willow class who have started writing to their penpals in Canada! The children in Willow were very excited when a special envelope with some very different looking stamps - inside were our first letters from the Grade 1 and 2 students from



Martin Street Public School in Milton, Ontario. This opportunity has given the children in Willow a very real reason to learn French and our letters are winging their way to Canada as you read this!



**The Cake Sale
raised £
For I.M.Ps.
Well done
Year 6!**



**...and raised
over £450
Thank you
P.T.A**



**Bags2school
raised an
additional
£132**

Willow Class News

It has been a very busy term so far. In maths we have been concentrating on addition and subtraction. Our working wall is full of handy hints. We have also begun to learn about measurement and presented our findings in the form of a graph.

In topic lessons we have been learning about the Tudors. We have written recounts, a diary, imagining that we are Henry VIII, devised Tudor menus and practised our reading comprehension skills by reading information about the Tudors and then answering a range of questions about the text. Our trip to Sulgrave manor was the highlight of the topic, and everyone had a great time, despite the freezing temperature! We all dressed up as Tudors, and had a Tudor style lunch. We spent time in the Tudor classroom learning how to write with a quill and ink, we played Tudor games in the great hall and after lunch we learnt more about the children who once lived at Sulgrave Manor.



**I loved dressing up as a Tudor.
My lunch was really tasty.
I liked playing the Tudor games.
I liked holding Baby Christopher.
I thought that using a quill was really difficult.
It was really cold.**

A Tudor Poem

**I wore a shirt and waistcoat,
Some trousers and a cap,
I looked really amazing
A handsome, Tudor chap.**

Written by Sam, Tyler and
Mrs Layer!



Beech Class News

In Beech class our topic has been 'Once upon a time.' In Science we have been designing and creating a new, alternative house for the Three Little Pigs using our knowledge of materials and their properties. Our success criteria involved making the house wind-proof and waterproof to protect the pigs. We then tested our models to see how wind-proof and waterproof they were, awarding a score out of 10 to evaluate the effectiveness of their designs. We had lots of fun doing this! We have really enjoyed our topic of 'Once upon a time' and have been involved in lots of different learning!



Maple Class News

Maple Class have had a challenging but exciting time over the past six weeks. They have had to get used to a new teacher in Mr Warrillow, a challenge which they have risen to with eagerness and maturity. The year started off with the extravaganza that was; Young Voices, at the NEC area, a spectacular event which the children and staff enjoyed immensely. This was followed by a lovely trip to the pantomime in Banbury the next day. More recently they have enjoyed an educational trip to Sulgrave Manor in Northamptonshire. The children dressed up in some fantastic costumes designed and made by themselves and their dedicated parents: they were brilliant!



The day had a Civil War theme. It supported their current topic and was very informative and fun. Mr Warrillow has introduced the "Superhero of the Week" competition and the children have really enjoyed this incentive, which involves a prize and the opportunity to wear a superhero outfit for the afternoon. The children are very dedicated to achieving these points which are awarded for a variety of things including effort, behaviour and teamwork. They really enjoy the competition and take pride in the achievement that this represents.

Acorn Class News



We have been making ourselves into 2D shapes and also searching the classroom and outdoors for 3D shapes.

We have learning about the values of coins and adding them together to find the total.



Building houses for the Three Little Pigs out of straws and sticks. It was very tricky, but we managed it!



We have enjoyed being outside and solving problems. We had to build a bridge so our cars did not get wet!

Sorting materials and properties of materials using the laptop. Everyone was keen to help.

