



# School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a short but busy half term.

Teachers and other staff from all the schools in the Multi Academy Trust have joined forces twice, once for a day of training exploring the principles of effective teaching and then to share ideas for brilliant maths teaching. I continue to meet with the headteachers from the other academies every fortnight to develop strategies for school improvement which ensure that we provide the best possible education for all our pupils.

In school, it has been as busy as ever, with all sorts of activities and learning opportunities; on the theme of 'Once upon a time' in New School, and The Victorians in Key Stage Two. You can get a sense of what this has looked like in different classrooms by looking at the class pages in this newsletter. I have had the opportunity to teach Art every afternoon in Willow Class, which has been lovely for me.

As an outcome of the parent questionnaire, we are still looking at ways to improve communication. Despite my having some reservations about the possible pitfalls of social media, we have set up a school facebook page which you can access by typing Sibford Gower Primary into 'facebook' and making a friend request. This is meant to be a positive forum for quick and up to date information sharing.

We also intend to introduce online communication and payment administration systems over the next few weeks which will hopefully make many aspects of home school communication much more straightforward. We will give you more detailed information in due course.

Next half term we will be introducing Building Learning Power across the school, so expect your children to come home talking about resilience, resourcefulness, reciprocity and reflectiveness, and growth mindsets!

Have a lovely holiday!

Kind regards

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher



## Sibford Gower's Got Talent

The 2nd talent evening was a brilliant occasion with pupils from across the school showcasing their various talents and interests, from comedy and guitar to singing, dancing and gymnastics. There are more pictures on the school website.

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/whole-school-events---more-photos.html>



## BE A BOOKWORM!

### Half term Reading Challenge

As part of our school wide focus on reading this year, we are encouraging all the children to take part in a holiday reading challenge over the next week. The aim is that they read something every day. We don't mind what they read – school or home books, magazines, newspapers, comics or internet articles – just keep them reading! If your child reads with somebody else, then record that too, any reading counts! All the children will be bringing home a copy of the recording sheet. Please check their book bags!



Don't forget that our next Reading Week is the first week back. From the Tuesday to Thursday, you are invited to come in at the beginning of each day to share books with your child.

## Reading is Fun!



Best Class attendance this month: Willow **98%**



Children return to school on **Monday February 20th**



# Acorn Class News



This term in Acorn class we have been reading, retelling and acting out Traditional tales. Our new conservatory area has become a Traditional tale land with Giants, the Three Little Pigs, Three bears and even a Big Bad Wolf!



We have had a real focus on numbers this term we have been counting objects, recognising and ordering numbers up to 20 and 100, counting in twos, fives and tens and improving our confidence in knowing number bonds to 10. Children have also been learning about odd and even numbers.



This term, we have used the computers a great deal, designing houses for the Three Little Pigs,



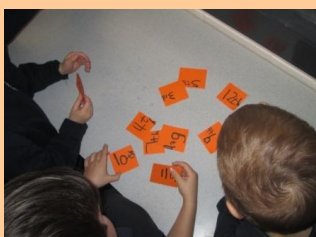
chairs for Goldilocks and animations to retell traditional stories.

In science Mrs Fletcher has encouraged children to think about properties of materials and the children are keen to explore our class feely boxes!



The children have also planned, made and evaluated which materials will be appropriate for building a house which is 'Wolf Proof', the huffing wolf being Mrs Fletcher's hair-dryer with wolf eyes and ears!

We have recently been learning about the celebration of Chinese New Year and how the years are named after 12 animals. The children enjoyed finding the animals, writing labels and sequencing their own ordinal numbers to create a class display. We also made some Chinese lanterns. 6614, 6621,





# Beech Class News

Beech class have made an excellent start to 2017. We have all been very enthusiastic about our topic 'Once Upon A Time' and have been exploring a range of traditional tales across the curriculum. In science we carried out an experiment to see which material would be the best for Little Red Riding Hood to wrap her cakes in to keep them warm. We took the temperature of the cakes, wrapped them up then went for a walk around the big field and pretended we were Little Red Riding Hood walking to grandmas house.



It was really exciting using the thermometer and it was great that we got to eat the cakes at the end!  
- James Rutledge

We have been very busy learning lots of new skills in maths. We went on a shape hunt to look for different 2d and 3d shapes around the school. We have been practising our fractions by sharing into  $\frac{1}{2}$ s and  $\frac{1}{4}$ s .



A few weeks ago we had our class assembly. We loved learning Goldilocks and the three bears of by heart and performing it to the whole school community! We felt very confident about performing in front of everyone and really enjoyed reading some of our writing out.

We have all really enjoyed using our Three bears cottage role play to practice acting out the story of Goldilocks and we loved using puppets to tell the story of Little Red Riding Hood.



59

We have all worked so hard to get our Total Recall badges. This is how many our class has got altogether this term!



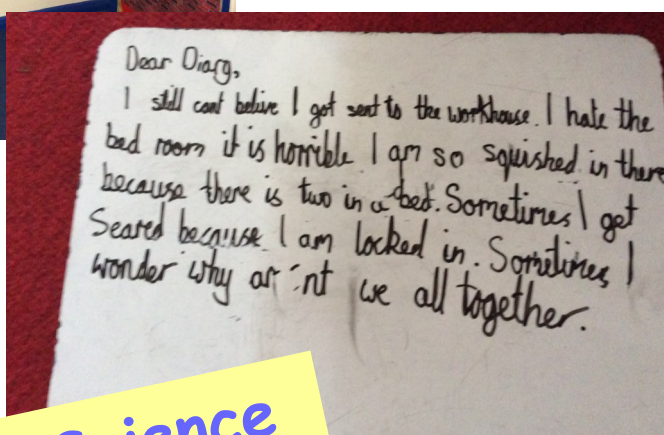
# Willow Class News

We have had such a busy term, and enjoyed every moment.

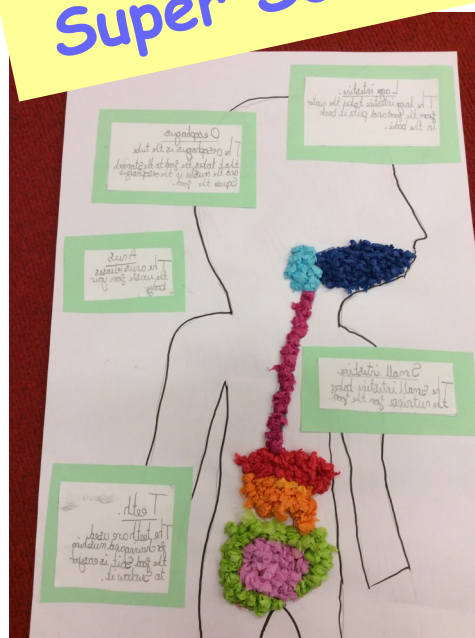


We have been working extremely hard on our writing this term and have produced some amazing, creative work. Our favourite piece of writing this term was our diaries. We had to write a diary as a working Victorian child. We stained our pages with tea to give an old effect and then used drama to help us feel what it would be like to work in a workhouse.

## BLP- Planning



## Super Science



**"I loved writing my own nonsense poem- it was completely bonkers". Amelia Morgan**

My spine is very spontaneous like a white squawky sea gull,  
My heart is very helpful like a wiggly squiggly worm,  
My tongue is very testing like a strange big baboon,  
My teeth are very wild like a bright blue whale.

This term we have been learning about teeth and digestion. We used crackers, orange juice and a pair of tights to show the process of digestion.



**"That was SO cool Miss Grantham and gross" - Kjell**

**PE- We have been looking at different circuits and even came up with our own!**



**Ask me to show you at home**



# Maple Class News

**P.E.** The children have been developing their swimming skills at Sibford School, as well as learning all about safe play, stick control and cunning tactics in hockey.

## Demonstrating how electrical circuits work



## Year 5 Science

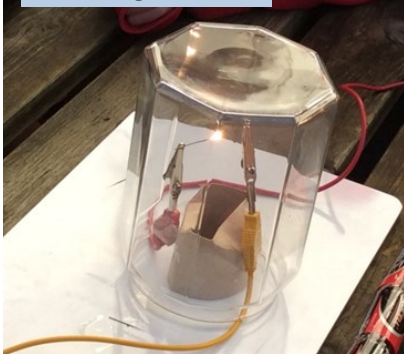
Our topic for this term and next is electricity. We started at atomic level, examining and demonstrating how electricity flows (see the photos).



Connecting Mr Cameron to a circuit

We then moved on to circuitry, starting with a basic series circuit, leading to developing parallel circuits and the differences between them. The children are now building their own devices using electrical circuits. We started this off by making a light bulb from scratch!

## Our lightbulb



## History and D & T

This term, as part of the Key Stage 2 theme of the Victorians, the focus of Maple Class has been The Great Exhibition of 1851. As well as learning about its historical context and importance, the children have been tasked with replicating the event in the form of The Great Maple Class Exhibition, which will take place towards the end of next term. They have been busy redesigning the classroom as an exhibition space, so that it resembles the interior of the Crystal Palace as closely as possible, as well as working in groups to create exhibits. These are based on the main exhibit categories from the 1851 event, and the groups themselves are representing the most significant industrial nations of the time.



Preparing for The Great Maple Class Exhibition

**English** Our class novel this term has been *Alice in Wonderland* as a nod to our studies on the Victorians. Big Writing topics have included letters to children in the Rojo Rojo orphanage, developing story characters and entries into this year's Deddington Writing Competition.



## Art & Design

We have been focussing on British Victorian artist J.M.W. Turner and how much of his work reflected developments in the Industrial Revolution. The children have then sketched and are beginning to paint their own Turner-inspired piece to show modern day industrial developments. These paintings will be on display at The Great Maple Class Exhibition (see Topic).

**Computing** As well as conducting a great deal of research for their topic work on iPads, groups of children have been attempting to program Mr Cameron. The trouble is that they keep having to debug their programs!



Programming Mr Cameron

**Maths** Our work this term has focussed on the measurement of time and space. The children have been very involved in an investigation to devise a railway timetable, as well as another to find out how much it would cost to recover the inner courtyard of Buckingham Palace in artificial grass, just in case the Queen and Prince Philip fancy a game of hockey. We will send them our final quote...





# Oak Class News

**Junior Citizen** As part of their preparation for the transition to secondary education, the pupils in Year 6 went to The Fire Station at Rewley Road in Oxford where, with two other schools, they took part in the Junior Citizenship training event. Here they were exposed to various life-like scenarios in which they were given the opportunity to negotiate in a safe environment. They all also had the opportunity to make a 999 call!



## Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools (I.M.P.S.)

Our Year 6 pupils were also fortunate to be able to go to Horton Hospital to receive training about general health issues and in what to do should they come across a medical emergency. Some of the areas covered included: healthy living, the importance of X-rays, how to treat broken bones, the mouth to mouth resuscitation technique and how to administer CPR using an automated resuscitation device. The children were also lucky to be shown around one of the Resuscitation rooms within the Accident and Emergency Department and they made a contribution of £90 towards the funding of the I.M.P.S. programme which they raised through their efforts in the International Food Festival in December.



In Art the children have been exploring various shading techniques, which they will use to enhance their drawing of their montage created from leaves picked in the Autumn.



**Science** This term in science the children have been exploring the topic of Animals including humans. They have been looking at the importance of blood, the function of the heart and the circulatory system. As part of our work we made some simulated blood and learned how the nutrients are transferred to cells through a gelatine and skittle experiment.





## Wombat News

The Wombat School Council continue to meet regularly and are doing a great job. They recently delivered a whole school assembly to share their latest Hot Spots and Grot Spots powerpoint. You can have a look at this by going to their page on the school website <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/wombats-school-council.html> , where you can also see how effective they have been in bringing about change in the school over the past three years.

## Governor News

Our school governors have been busy supporting the school in lots of ways over the past few weeks, both through their role on the various governor committees, and through visiting the school. Nicky Cullen has been in to get a sense of how maths is taught in Key Stage 2 and will be visiting Key Stage One next half-term, Paul Manthorpe has been in as our SEN governor to look at provision for our SEN children across the school and our Chair of Governors, Julian Ransom, spent a morning in school focusing on pupil behaviour. All of these visits were very positive and it has been lovely to invite governors in to spend time with us.

**Please remember that you have a chance to meet and chat with governors in the first week back after half term, when we will be hosting a 'Meet the Governor' drop in session in the ICT suite between 9.15 and 10 a.m on Tuesday 21st February.**



## Sporting Update

**Congratulations to:**

Scarlett ward who has qualified for the Y3/4 girls County Cross Country Final.

Our Y3/4 football squad who will now be competing in the y3/4 County Final day.

### Upcoming Events

Y1/2 Dance Festival

Y5/6 Football Festival

Y5/6 Hockey tournament

Y5 Tennis Day at Tudor Hall



## THE ART FAIR

18-19 MARCH 2017

Sibford Gower Primary School

10.30am - 4.30pm

ADMISSION FREE

Over 200 artworks by local and national artists for sale

Quality Craft Stalls

All day Cafe

Kids crafts

for more information email:  
[sibfordartfair@gmail.com](mailto:sibfordartfair@gmail.com)

Sponsored by





## After School Care (ASC)

Our After School Care facility is expertly run by Charlotte and Carol.

We currently have spaces on some afternoons.

You can find details on the ASC page on our school website.

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/after-school-care.html>

### What's great about After School Club?



We can do lots of different things with our friends. I think that's a good thing.

Rosie

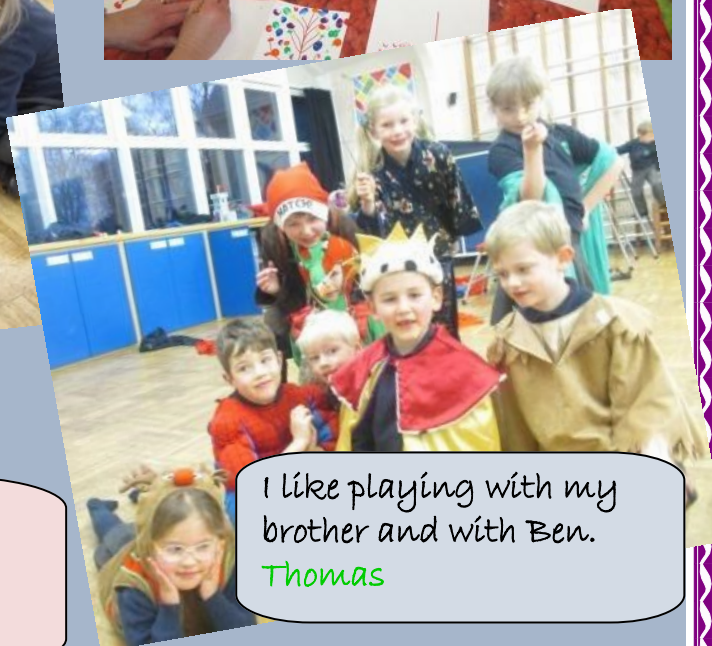


There are lots of people there, Carol and Charlotte are really nice and we do lots of interesting stuff.

Nettie



I like the KNEXX and playing outside with the football **Daniel**



I like playing with my brother and with Ben.

Thomas

We all love the food, especially the beans on toast, the pizza and the wraps (with lots of healthy salad!!!)

# Have a lovely holiday!