



February 2023

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

Although the half-term has been a short one, we have still managed to pack loads in! Learning themes have ranged from local seasonal change to the rainforest, the Ancient Egyptians to World War 2. Children have been out at sporting events and we have had a class trip to Holdenby House. For next term, we already have planned a visiting workshop from the Oxfordshire Museum and a special assembly and class workshops with Becky from the Dog's Trust.

Music has had a high profile. The children have been enjoying music 'appreciation' assemblies, learning about Tchaikovsky, Benjamin Britten and Gustav Holst his term and listening and responding to their music. The sound of the piano has been heard across the school site with a high take-up for piano lessons with Mr Tom Painting, who has joined our peripatetic music offer alongside Mr Allen, who continues to teach saxophone, clarinet and flute.

We have made two new staff appointments this half-term and are very pleased to welcome Mrs Sara Perkins and Mrs Shelley Dawson to our team.

With warmest wishes, Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)



Best Class Attendance this half term: **Beech Class 96.5%**



Children return to school on Monday 20th February



Remembering Vince



We were all so very sad to have to say good-bye to our beloved Vince, who passed away on 16th January. Vince meant a great deal to the staff and children at school, as well as many of our parents. He is missed by us all and we feel blessed for the time we had with him.

Vince loved to walk in the countryside. The children planted out a small area of woodland in the corner of the Big Field with a range of saplings that were given by the Woodland Trust. We will be naming this area 'Vince's Wood' in memory of Vince.

ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term in Acorn Class the children have been following the topic 'Where are they?' and have been exploring the world - from landscapes and continents far away to those a lot closer to home. We have looked at animal habitats and some festivals from around too. Read on to find out more!

Fabulous Festivals!

The children have enjoyed finding out about some Fabulous Festivals celebrated around the world. The term started with a look at the Jewish festival of Chanukah which is celebrated by some members of our school community as well as people throughout the world. The children were interested to learn that Chanukah falls on a slightly different date each year and lasts for 8 nights. This year Chanukah was at the same time as Christmas! The children enjoyed exploring the Chanukah artefacts such as the Chanukah, a potato (symbolic of a potato latke) and a doughnut. The children also practised their counting in a game of



Playing Dreidel to practise our counting and turn taking skills



Lions scare away the bad luck from last year.

Later on in the term the children also enjoyed finding out about how the Lunar New Year (also known as Chinese New Year) is celebrated. In our role play area we created a Chinese restaurant where the children enjoyed cooking, taking orders and eating some delicious food. We made paper dragons and found out more about the traditions of the New Year through a special yoga session.



Making our dragons ready for the parade!



2023 is the year of the Rabbit. Watch us bury into our burrows!

Happy Habitats

In our topic we have been thinking about where different animals live and why. We found out that we call the environment an animal lives in a 'habitat'. We looked at different parts of the world and what they are like. We found out that some parts of the world are very cold, snowy and icy, some parts of the world are very wet and hot at the same time and some parts of the world are very hot and it hardly ever rains! We learned about different animals that live in those different places and what was special about those animals. For example, Polar Bears have really warm fluffy fur to keep them warm in the cold snow. We enjoyed matching animals to their habitats and dressing our 'Build-a-Bears' in different clothes ready for different adventures!



5



Marvellous Maths!
We've been having lots of fun with Numberblock 5 as we've been learning all about this fantastic number! We've experimented with lots of different ways making 5 using our tens frames, hoops and objects and our Numicon. The children in Acorn are encouraged to find their own ways to explore and lead their own learning and discovery and they are all great mathematicians in the making.



Number Day
We also had lots of maths fun on Number Day. In Acorn Class we looked at how useful numbers can be. We used numbers when exercising, numbers for measuring our feet and even numbers in a special yoga adventure!



How many mini-bananas does your foot measure?



We counted how many exercises our partner could do in 10 seconds. We loved using clipboards!



One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab
Yoga - animals with different numbers of legs.

Numbers are also very important in music. Scan to hear us sing a song about bananas. The children in Acorn and Beech learned it was an 8 note scale with the pitch getting higher and then lower again.



Beech Class News

At the beginning of the term, we were learning about money. One morning, we set up Beech Class shop. The children spent the morning buying, selling, calculating amounts and giving change. Year 1 counted out 1p coins up to 20p while year 2 were using different coins to make different amounts.

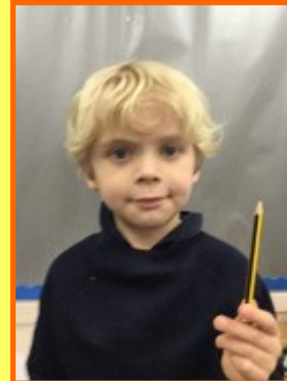


Playing a game of 'Pairs' then ordering numbers to 20

Making equal groups, using repeated addition and learning how to write multiplication sentences.



In English, We set off with our work on 'Explorers' by thinking about the contents of an explorer's kit. The children had some very creative ideas of items that an explorer might need. Ask your child about what their explorer's kits would look like – this was a really interesting learning task!



- Binoculars
- Magnifying glass
- Whistle
- Torch
- Compass
- Sunglasses
- Food



- Rope
- Notebook
- Pencil
- Tent
- Water

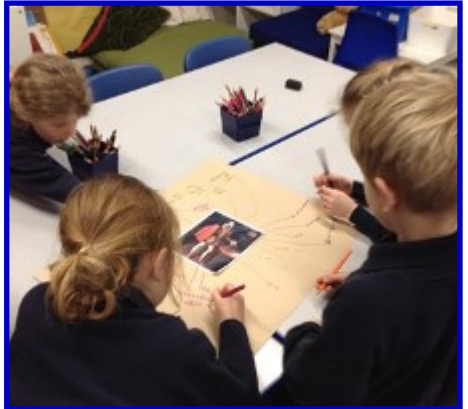
We have been developing the quality of our writing, learning how to include a range of adjectives, adverbs and interesting nouns.



As historians we used an image as a primary source to infer details of a person in history. You could ask the children what they now know about Walter Raleigh.



Ocean Yoga
 seaweed: make a long, stretched shape
 shark: freeze making your body really tense
 pebble: make your body into a curled shape



A printing lesson with Mrs O'Sullivan



Computing: Learning about spreadsheets and using key vocabulary: cells, rows and columns.



Willow Class News

What a wonderful yet busy term we have had in Willow Class. We have fully immersed ourselves in our theme 'Ancient Egyptians' and are very excited to be continuing with it next term (we have some VERY exciting things planned!). For me as the class teacher, this has been my favourite term of the year so far; the children have really matured both emotionally and academically and have achieved many, many personal goals in all areas of the curriculum. They have created the most amazing pieces of writing, explored different mathematical methods and can now explain the process, overcome fears of swimming and just over all been **wonderful willows**.

In French, the children have been learning facts about a different Egyptian god and goddess each week. To do this, they have needed to match two halves of sentences together, using language they know and language they can guess the meaning of.

The language focus has been basic sentence structure, useful vocabulary related to the topic and the use of he/she is and he/she has.

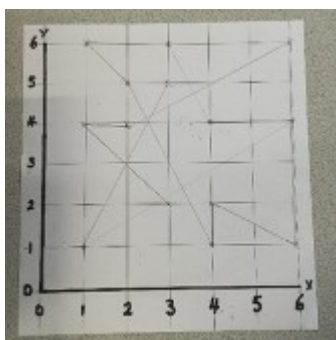


"I loved number day!"

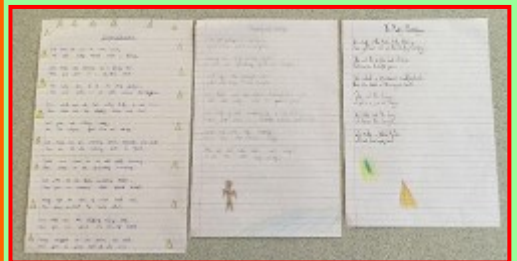
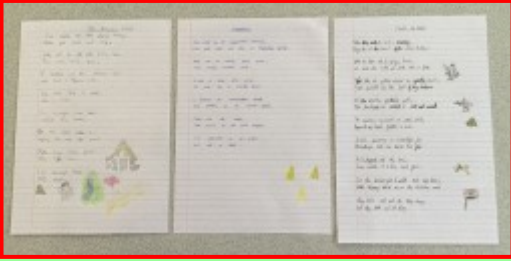
"The maths treasure hunt was so much fun; I loved working out the answers."



Number Art



In Humanities lessons, the children have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. They linked this to learning in English and created 'mummy' poems.



We stopped at the sky, blue Nile,
be careful of the emerald green crocodile.
We wrap up the musty, dusty mummy,
Once you have cut open the slushy tummy.
They took out the slippery, slimy lung,
but they left the red, soft tongue.
As I entered the mysterious, golden tomb,
I had to be careful of the fearful doom!



We had the **BEST** term of PE- Gymnastics!
The children were really excited to be learning the skills of gymnastics.
We looked at balances and movements, barrel rolls, pencil rolls and even moved onto forward rolls!



The P.T.A February Discos were a real success. The children always find these events SO exciting and DJ, Mr Tony Cran is excellent at making sure the fun stays fun!
If you want to book his 'Pulsation Roadshow' for a children's party or another event please contact him at pulsation@live.co.uk or call 07960 641905 / 01295 788972



Oak Class News

We have managed to pack so much learning and fun into such a short term. The highlight for us was the Oak class school trip to Holdenby House in Northamptonshire. We had the most amazing, immersive learning experience and it was the perfect start to our WW2 theme. We arrived to be greeted by a selection of characters in role – the children were immediately treated as evacuees!



We spent the day in role, experiencing a range of hands on activities which taught them about the life of an evacuee, starting with cooking and rationing.



Make do and mend

We made our own toilet paper, pom-poms, darning and rag rugs.



We spent some time in an air raid shelter. The highlight was learning about the different gas masks and trying our hand at first aid. To see some more pictures look at Oak page on the website <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>



Sports Newsletter

Some of our year 5/6 children took part in an indoor athletics events this term. They took part in running competition, a range of jumps and throw. We were extremely proud of them all. Their team work resilience and determination was **outstanding!**



We have been awarded **GOLD** again!



Bench ball club
What a success!





We finished Mental Health Week with a special 'Wear Your Scarf to School Day' assembly during which we focused on the SCARF values of Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship. Thank you to these children for helping out and for managing to fit into Mrs O'Sullivan's scarf all at the same time!! It is Very LO-O-O-O-O-O-O-NG !

Emily made a lovely, stripy scarf for Gerald the Willow Class giraffe.



HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!