



February 2024

# SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

The first half of the Spring term has gone very well here at school. Although the term has been busy, it has also been a short one and this is reflected in a shorter than usual newsletter.

The learning for the children in Beech and Oak classes has been shaped by themes which will continue after half-term. Beech are finding out about some of key people who changed the world through their work in medicine and health care, including Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Alexander Fleming, while Oak are immersed in learning about the Victorians and the impact of the Industrial Revolution. Acorn and Beech have been exploring half-termly themes. Acorn have been finding out about the impact of the changing seasons on animals and their habitats before learning about some of the key features and faces of London, our Capital city. Willow Class have been learning about Natural Disasters, with a specific focus on both volcanoes and tsunamis, culminating in a very exciting, and explosive, 'Volcano Day'!

We have still found time for special visitors in school. All the children have taken part in well-being workshops with Maria from SCARF, as well as Mental Health Week, and we have continued our focus on the link between physical and mental health. The special Sports 4 Schools afternoon with sprinter Frederick Afrifa was both exhausting and inspirational! It was an event that even our youngest children will remember for a long time. Thank you so much for supporting the children with their sponsor forms and collection.

We have lots of exciting things planned for next half-term too, including Reading Week (when you are warmly invited to come into school first thing in the morning to share books with your child), World Book Day, Science Week, workshops and a performance from a visiting theatre company (thank you PTA!), the PTA Disco, an Easter celebration at the church, the annual Easter Egg competition and more! So much to look forward to!

Please remember to look on the information page of the school website [www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk) or in the weekly bulletin for more events and dates.

On behalf of all the staff here at school, I wish you a happy half-term holiday.

With warmest regards,

Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)



## SPORTING SUPERSTARS!

We are always so proud of the way our children represent the school. This term, pupils from Oak Class participated in the Warriner Family Sports Hall Athletics Festival. They showed sportsmanship and team spirit, and had great fun!

Best Class Attendance this half term:

**Willow 98.68%**



Children return to school on  
Monday 19h February



# ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term our topic is 'Where are they?'. As the excitement of December melts away in January and February, we have been given more opportunities to explore the changing of the seasons. The children are very excited about spotting the (albeit early) signs of Spring - snowdrops were a real cause for excitement! We have also looked carefully at the changes that take place during winter and how those changes have an impact on both the environment around us and animals native to the UK. The children are currently exploring different animal habitats, having fun learning some amazing new words - did you know baby hedgehogs are called Hoglets?



## Super Scribblers!

In Acorn Class we actively encourage scribbling (within reason!). Building on the success and popularity of Write Dance, this term, we have introduced the children to Scribble Club! Scribble Club is an immersion in the joy of scribbling and its role within co-play, when a simple scribble or mark can transform any object, person or scenario. This week scribbles have saved Mrs Benjamin from turning into a robot, an elephant and a chicken after she ate a rogue fruit salad! We were all very relieved!



## Marvellous Maths!

Acorn Class are wonderful mathematicians. This term we have continued our maths journey of discovery learning with our friends. Our topics this term have been 'Alive in 5' where we have explored numbers 0-5 in different ways; subitising, representing, looking at 1 more and 1 less and conceptual subsisting - the ability to see sets of number within other numbers such as 2 and 3 in the number 5.

In Mass and Capacity we have had great fun inside and out, comparing mass with our giant scales in our outdoor area, working out how to make scales balance (it's trickier than it looks!), exploring and comparing capacities of different containers.

In maths we use key questions and sentence stems to help the children think around the problem posed and give them the vocabulary to voice their findings and talk about what they notice. It is wonderful to 'overhear' the children within their play using this language to further consolidate their learning with their friends.

### Amazing Artists

Our Access Art project this time has focussed on a night time scene, using wax resist techniques to create a beautifully atmospheric backdrop, the children loved seeing their previously hidden designs appear as they coated their paper with a gentle watercolour wash.

The second stage was collage. The children selected, drew round and cut out cardboard shapes and bright oranges and yellows for a warming window effect, the children created houses to complete their scene with a generous sprinkle of sparkles too!



ACCESS ART

WAX RESIST  
'NIGHT TIME  
COLLAGE'



### Animal Antics

This term we have been learning some fantastic gymnastics!

Alongside our super topic all about animals, we have been using our bodies to make shapes of different types of animals; creating shapes to represent rainforest animals, moving safely on apparatus as woodland animals, balancing like lakeland animals and jumping and landing safely in the desert - 'Jump the Hump' was a great game we all enjoyed!



### Magical Music

Acorn Class love singing and creating music together. Every Friday we get together with Beech Class and make joyful music together. We use Jolly Music, a scheme based around the wonderful world of song. One of our favourite songs is 'Jelly on a Plate' - you can hear us singing by scanning the QR code. Acorn children have enjoyed making up their own verses - speaking, loud, whisper or singing - which voice would you use?

"Birds in a tree, birds in a tree, tweety tweety tweety tweety, birds in a tree"

"Cake on a plate, cake on a plate, crumble mumble crumble mumble, cake on a plate"

"Swimming in a pool, swimming in a pool, splashy splashy splashy splashy splashy swimming in a pool"



# BEECH CLASS

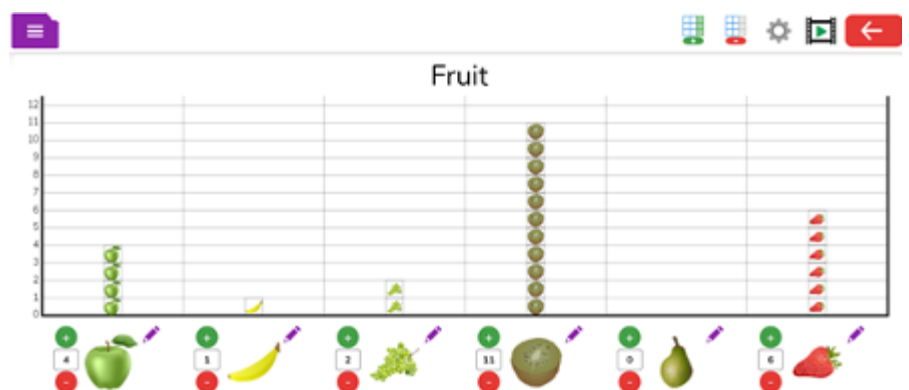
A huge element of our mathematics teaching in Key Stage 1 is the use of 'manipulatives' to support problem solving. In mathematics, manipulatives are concrete objects that allow students to explore an idea in an active, hands-on approach. Here, the year 1 children are solving subtraction problems using the cubes as representatives and taking them away.



Year 2 are using base 10 to support their understanding of 10 more and 10 less of numbers to 100.



During our computing unit of work on 'Pictograms,' we had the children in role as teachers. They worked as a team to gather data from the rest of the class and input the data into their pictogram on the 2Count software on Purple Mash. They would recommend having a go on Purple Mash at home. Perhaps your child could gather some data from family and friends?



Can you interpret the data on our chart?

# Willow Class

What a wonderful yet busy term we have had in Willow Class. Although a short term, we achieved many goals and accomplished many outcomes. We have fully immersed ourselves with our theme of **Natural Disasters**. I say this every term, but this has been my favourite theme of the year so far.

The children have created the most amazing pieces of writing, explored different mathematical methods and finally, many have overcome a fear of swimming.

They have been my **Wonderful Willows**.



## Brilliant Bridges

In DT this term, we have been learning about engineers. We have been exploring different bridges and how they are made. After careful planning and research, we each designed and made a bridge of our own.

We have really enjoyed our theme this term, '**Natural Disasters**'. We have explored and discovered many exciting and interesting facts on earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and much much more. We learnt about historical natural disasters and events- we really enjoyed this part of our learning, especially Pompeii! As part of this, we had an amazing **Volcano Day!**



## Planning our Volcanoes

We drew, coloured and labelled diagrams.

We think they look amazing!



## Making our Volcanoes



## Eruption Time

We ALL had a wonderful day. It was beautiful to watch the children enjoying themselves, smiling, laughing and working as a team to make their volcanoes.

They were able to apply their learning from different areas of the curriculum, including science and Design & Technology, really effectively, as they worked in pairs to make their own AMAZING creations! I am a very Proud Teacher!



All the children in KS2 enjoy Thursdays when they get to spend some learning time with Mr Cameron.

It's a Mr Cameron Day!

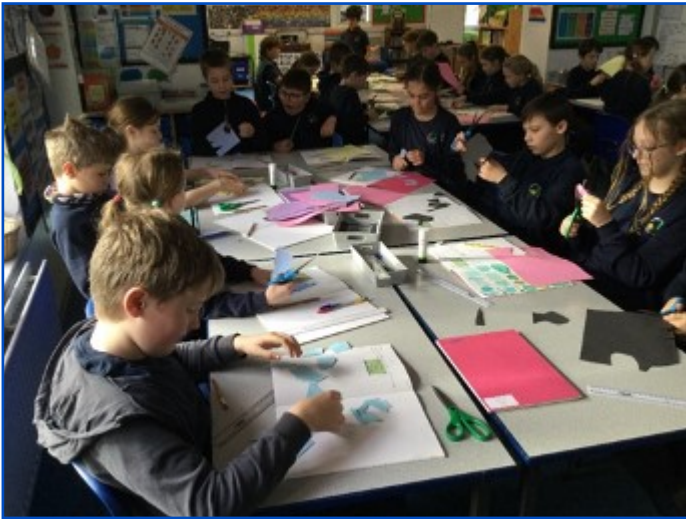
Oak Class finished their learning in Science with an experiment exploring the comparative density of different liquids.

The children in Willow Class gave presentations in French to Oak Class. These were about the discovery of a prehistoric man in France.



# Oak Class

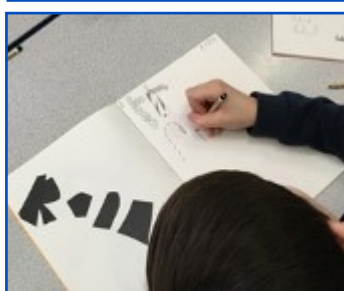
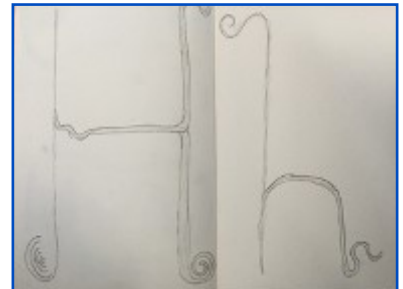
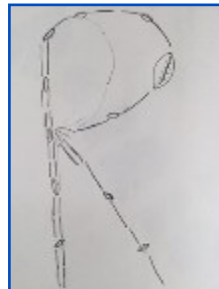
This term in Art, we are learning about Typography design. The children are exploring how they can design and create their own unique font. As our inspiration, we explored the work of Louise Fili, who is a pioneer in establishing herself as a woman working in Typography.



Initially, the children created their own letters (in a playful way) to discover arrangements they liked by randomly cutting shapes out of coloured paper.



The next stage was for the children to 'mark make' and then create their own design for a typeface.



As part of our Art curriculum, all the children regularly complete observational drawing tasks. Below, you can see them exploring charcoal to create carefully observed drawings at a large scale.



We were delighted to welcome the families of Oak Class children into school for a special class assembly where the children shared some of the learning they have been doing at school.



# Sports 4 Schools



Fred posed for a photo with our super Sports Leaders.



Fred gave a brilliant assembly.

He told us about his career, his coach, his ambition to succeed as a Ninja Warrior, and the mantra that has helped him to excel;

**“BELIEVE IN GREATNESS”**

We were delighted to welcome formidable, and really lovely, sprinter Frederick Afrifa into school. Fred led a very energetic workshop for all the children, from Nursery up to Year 6. They worked really hard, had great fun and earned every penny of the sponsorship money they collected.

Thank you to all of the parents who supported with this. What a great collective effort!

Once we have a final figure for the amount raised for school to spend on sports equipment we will share it with you.

**VERY WELL DONE ALL!**





Do remember the importance of sharing books with your child. As well as encouraging them to read to you or read independently, there is nothing like sharing a good book, whatever your age.

Next half-term we will be having another Reading Week in School. Every morning, from Monday 26th February to Friday 1st March, you are invited to come into your child's classroom between 8:40 and 9:00 each morning to share books with your child. Grandparents are very welcome too!



As part of Children's Mental Health Week, Hook Norton Library will be holding a storytime & craft session on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February where they will be reading stories such as 'Ruby's Worry' and making a Kindness Quilt and Dreamcatchers. They also have lists of books to raise awareness of the resources Oxfordshire Libraries has to support children's mental health for accompanying parents and carers. Everyone is welcome.

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.



#### How did we choose which scarves to wear?

- Eliza: "I wore my sister's scarf because I love her".
- Monty: "My scarf is from the Rugby World Cup in France"
- Noah: "Because my dad bought it for me and he is special"
- Freddie: "I watched England v Italy play Rugby at Twickenham and got my scarf there"
- Jess: "Because it's got rainbow spots on".
- Martha: "I love the colours and the way it feels".
- Leo: "I wore what I think is my grandad's scarf and I really like it."
- Fred: "I wore my mum's scarf. It reminds me of my family".

**HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!**