



School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a very full year at school and the children have been having great fun as they learn. Learning opportunities next year look likely to be just as rich and varied, as we welcome our new teachers. Miss Murdoch & Mrs Humphrey will be teaching in Oak Class and Maple Class respectively & both bring with them a wealth of experience and talent. We bid farewell to Mr Lecznar and Mrs Levell as they leave the school. Mrs Fletcher will no longer have a teaching position here, but remains a valued member of our school community, both as a parent and a member of the PTA. We have also managed to hang onto the talented Mr Cameron, who will be teaching French and running a Spanish Club on Thursday afternoons as part of his new business venture! And our wonderful Year 6 children are also moving on. Although this is always sad for us, there definitely comes a point when they are ready for their next challenge. Our job is to ensure that they are well prepared for this. They take with them all our best wishes for future success. We hope you enjoy this extra long, photo-filled edition of our half-termly newsletter which will give you a flavour of some of the things that have been going on at school. For even more information, please remember to visit the school website at www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk.

With best wishes,
Jane O'Sullivan,
Headteacher

Have a wonderful
holiday!



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



**Children return to school on
Tuesday, 5th September.**

Don't forget to take part in THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Our friends from the Oxfordshire Library service came in to lead a very special assembly to launch the Summer Reading Challenge. All you need to do is help your child get to their local library to sign up. It's absolutely free and a great excuse to read some good books!

WELL DONE!

These children achieved an impressive 100% attendance record for the year.

Fred Allen, Olly Blake, Sibylla Burrows, Lucas Court, Heidi Greenhalgh, Amelia Morgan, Olivia Taylor, Ethan Westwood & Aimee White.

Congratulations to Shane Edgar, Poppy Kisley and George Hughes.

They entered their writing into the 'mini-sagas competition and have won through to have their pieces published in a book.



Please remember that the new school uniform, including P.E kit, is compulsory from next September. This also applies to footwear. For details, please look on the school uniform page of the school website.

Acorn & Beech Class News

We had a fantastic trip to the Butterfly farm at the start of this term ; everyone was so excited . We learnt about butterfly life cycles, how and what they eat and how to identify a wide range of different species.



It was so interesting to see the ant colony, we were all fascinated watching them walk along the ropes above our heads!



Lots of children were very brave and held some of the different mini beasts! Would you?



Acorn & Beech Class: Africa Day

We have absolutely loved our topic on Africa in Acorn and Beech classes.



We made paper plate necklaces, beaded necklaces with pasta and straws, drums from plant pots and beautiful sunset art collages.

Miss Grantham came to visit us in her beautiful Kenyan dress. She showed us photos and told us all about the time she spent working in Kenya.



We all worked together to make our own junk model safari.



The twins brought in this beautiful giraffe to show us all!



Willow Class News



What a fabulous term 6 we have had. We have really enjoyed our topic on volcanoes but most importantly **FOREST SCHOOL!**

A great end to our wonderful year!

We loved planting our colourful plants and have really enjoyed watching them blossom!

“Our outside classroom looks lovely and smells of perfume”

Izzy Stebbings



Volcanoes

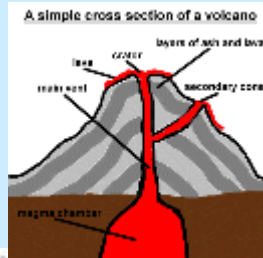
What a great topic to end our year; we have been learning about volcanoes all over the world and how a volcano erupts.

We have explored volcanoes through work in all areas of the curriculum.

“My favourite part was making a volcano using natural resources. I used charcoal from the fire to make mine. It was so much fun!” *Kierra*



We were all given a volcano and we had to find research information and then present our findings!



“I really enjoyed creating volcano poetry.”
Ethan Westwood



A volcano.
A huge rock,
shooting lava up into
the air! Everyone runs for
cover. Lots of thick, black smoke
pours out of the top, giving you a warning
before the explosions start. Nothing can stand in its
way. Sometimes they don't blow up for hundreds of years.
Still thousands in the world but they don't all work, some are ever

‘The Volcano Killer’

We had so much fun in literacy; my favourite piece of writing was creating newspaper articles.

Acting out the interview process was the best!

Arabella

Maple Class News

As the year draws to a close, Maple Class has erupted into volcanic action...

Maths

Theme Park mania has spread across Years 4, 5 and even 6, as the children have embarked on a project to create and manage their own theme park. This has involved calculating set-up costs and profit and loss accounts, as well as creating maps and logos. As usual, their teamwork has been brilliant.



Topic We have been learning all about plate tectonics this term. While the children's topic homework focussed on earthquakes, we have been studying how the earth's crust is split into plates and how they move around. We demonstrated the three types of plate boundary using Oreo biscuits! The main outcome of the term's study, however, will be the volcano project, which has involved pupils from across all three KS2 classes designing and building their very own erupting volcano! We look forward to setting these off in the last couple of days of term.



English

After finishing the thrilling *Shiver*, we have moved on to *The Firework Maker's Daughter* as our final class reader, tying in nicely with the theme of volcanoes. Big Writing themes have included narrative poetry, myths and legends and a review of the year. The final round of topic homework presentations have been delivered beautifully, many of them to an extremely high standard.

P.E.

We began with Kwik Cricket, as many of the children were involved in competitions, reaching the Oxfordshire finals in Years 5 and 6. We have also welcomed Commonwealth Gold medallist badminton player Julie Bradbury to the school this term. She ran a great morning of badminton for the children in Key Stage 2. As the term and the year draws to a close, we are gearing up for a final mini Maple football league, with all to play for...



Goodbyes!

It has been a fantastic year in Maple Class, and I have been so impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the children but also, most importantly, by their teamwork, compassion and support for one another. We must, however, say farewell to Cameron Cullen, Isaac Morbey and Tolly Patrick, who are all moving on to new exciting adventures. We wish them all the very best at their new schools and hope that they will stay in touch. I am also moving on, but I am delighted that I'll still be here for one afternoon a week next year. À bientôt...



Year 5 Science

Our topic on light finished with a sensational light show, when the children demonstrated their ability to manipulate light. We then moved on to forces, where we looked at how forces work on objects and how we measure these using force meters. The grand finale of the unit, and of the year in science, was the ball bearing challenge. The children, in groups, had to design a route for a ball bearing from one side of the room to the other without touching it, using at least five examples of different forces.



BONNE FÊTE!



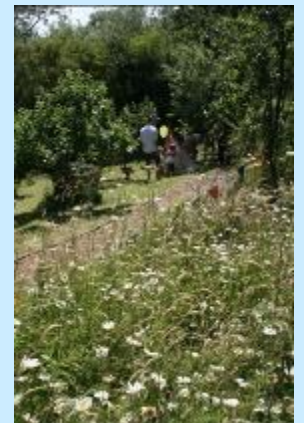
Thursday 13th July saw Sibford Gower turn red, white and blue as the school community came together to celebrate Bastille day.

Over the afternoon the children played pétanque, practised French colours through dance, created art in the style of Monet, composed songs on such diverse themes as crêpes and unicorns and were heartily fed by our year 6 café proprietors!



The Orchard Summer Festival

The perfect summer afternoon and a lovely event, organised by Amanda Ransom and our incredible PTA. A huge thank you to everyone who turned out, whether you came to help out or to have fun, in this wonderful celebration of both The Orchard and everything our PTA make possible for the school. The pictures say it all. If you want to see more, log onto the photo page of our website.





Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies

The KS2 production of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies was amazing.

The children and Mr Cameron had worked incredibly hard to make the Village Hall performances the triumph they undoubtedly were. Those children who preferred not to appear on stage developed their stagecraft skills; making props, organising sound & lighting, stage-managing and sorting costumes. The performances of many of our pupils were highly accomplished, with excellent comic timing.

This really was a memorable, and very funny production, and a wonderful parting gift from Mr Cameron in his role as a class teacher. The pictures speak for themselves.



Sibford Gower Sport

Girls' Football Festival



We practised our shooting skills and we also learnt different kicking styles.



"I was so proud of myself when I got my ball through the hole!"
Heidi Greenhalgh



I loved learning new skills. I had to concentrate really hard on the knee flicks!
Izzy Stebbings



We all played really well in our tournament games.

"I was so happy when I scored a goal- in 10 seconds"
Bella Boyles

We met Berry the Bear.
She was great at football too!



Can you spot where we are?

Much of our sporting success this year has been supported by a number of adults, including our teaching staff, parent and governor volunteers, Ros Kelling, our sports coach, and our continued membership of NOSSP. We have managed to involve all of our children in additional sporting activities across the year, and our lunchtime Sports Leaders have done a great job of involving the younger children in organised active play. Next year, we are welcoming Louise Gardner as our P.E mentor. She will be working alongside Miss Grantham to further develop sustainable improvement in our PE provision and to review and develop our P.E curriculum.



Both our Year 5 and Year 6 cricket teams made it through to the County Finals in Oxford. They are such a talented and hardworking bunch, with a really impressive sporting attitude.

They make us very proud!



Thank you to Mr Baud for some excellent photos!

Kwik Cricket

Forest School Fun

What a fabulous time we had during Forest School- We have had so much fun and learnt many new, outside skills.



"Forest School has been so much fun- I loved making the dens!" Ollie



"Colouring matching cards are great- it really makes you think about the different colours in the environment"

Amelia



123 where are you?
123 I'm here...



DEN DAY

was excellent fun with children from all classes making dens, inside and outdoors. A great way of developing our skills of problem-solving and collaboration.



Post SATs, the learning needs to continue but it can be much more practical. Mr Lecznar set his Year 6 children the problem of working out how much paint they would need to paint all the tables and benches in the Old School playground.

Once they had done the maths, they had to do the work, but this was all good fun. They did an excellent job and showed, yet again, how very responsible they can be. What a lovely gift to leave for all of the other children as they move on!



Year Five—Cycling Proficiency Lessons



Most of our Y5 children have now passed their cycling proficiency test having been seen out and about around the village on their bikes as they trained. Thank you once again to our trained instructors and volunteers, Mary-Ann Shaw, Lynn Lloyd-Thomas, Susan Mahoney, Debbie Court and Mr Fovargue for making this possible.



RECEPTION CLASS GRADUATION

Our littlest Acorns gather in the school hall with parents and friends to mark their graduation into Year One. With their mortar boards on their heads, they came up to the front to receive their Certificates of Graduation from the headteacher. They also received a piece of string which had been carefully measured to be exactly the same length as their height now. We wonder how many of them will have that string when they graduate from University to see how much they have grown between ceremonies! As always, this was a really lovely occasion, made even more of an event with support from our PTA to provide refreshments. Thank you to Mrs Coventry and Mrs Agyros-Farrell for organising the tea and cakes.

We say thank you to The Wombats (our School Council) for all their hard work over the course of the year. They have done a great job of representing their class mates and ensuring that all of our pupils have a say in how we do things at Sibford Gower. They finished the year in style by booking a Circus Day for the whole school which everyone agreed was great fun. Even the grown-ups took part, with Ms O'Sullivan, Mrs Court and Mrs Williams all having a go on the high wire!





CIRCUS DAY

was absolutely brilliant. This was funded through the Wombat's Smartie Tube collection (with a small top-up from PTA), and was worth every penny. All of the children discovered they were great at something; high-wire, juggling, flower sticks, stilt-walking, mini-bikes, plate spinning and more. The skills workshops ran through the day and then the whole school gathered for a shared performance where we could show what we had learned.

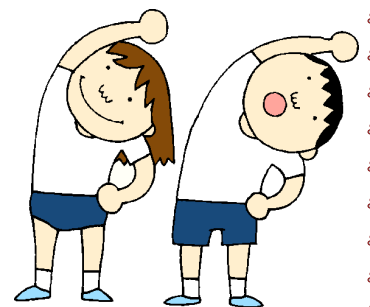


The lovely weather held out for the whole of Sports Day, making it another perfect event. The children were great—highly competitive, but also very supportive of each other and showing great sportsmanship.



A huge thank you to Miss Blake and all the staff for organising this, and very well done to the children of BLUE house for winning the Heather Cup!

SPORTS DAY





*Sibford Gower Primary School PTA –
Committed to supporting the School to enrich and enhance our Children's experience*

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who supported the Orchard Summer Festival, we had such a wonderful, relaxed afternoon. The sun shone very brightly, we had fantastic music all afternoon by 16 Strings and a Dead Goat, the Hooky Ale and Pimms flowed, the children loved the ice creams and they also had lots to keep them entertained including face painting, hair colouring, playing to win coconuts, trying to Splat the Teacher! and listening to storytelling in the Orchard. The organising committee did a fantastic job, thank you to Amanda, Alex, Helen, Vanessa, Philippa and Heather for all their hard work. The event made over £500 which is absolutely fantastic.

The support for the PTA this year has been brilliant. We are very grateful to everyone who has helped this year whether you have attended a meeting, attended an event, given a new idea for raising money, volunteered to help at an event, been involved on an event committee, baked a cake or bought a cake for us! We really couldn't have done it without you, so THANK YOU!!!!

As the academic year ends, we are absolutely delighted to report that you have all helped raise a total of £10,000 for our lovely Primary School. This is an amazing amount of money and it has enabled us to make some fabulous purchases throughout the year for the School which will hugely benefit our Children in the months and years to come.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes

Andrea

PTA Chair

<https://www.facebook.com/sibfordgowerprimaryschoolPTA/>

PTA Dates for your diary

13th September – PTA Meeting

16th October – Bag2School - please save all your unwanted clothes, shoes etc for us!

4th November – Bonfire Night

23rd November – Christmas Fair

7th December – Children's Christmas Disco

Goodbye to Y6



Thank you to Year 6 for a very entertaining, and very funny, Leavers Assembly. What a talented bunch you are!

Thank you also to Mrs Perkins and Mr Lecznar for organising all of this. Our very best wishes to all of you as you move on to your new schools.



Have a wonderful summer!

We are still looking for a playworker for our After School Facility as we move into academic year 2017-18. Emma Higley has done a wonderful job supporting Carol Luke for the last half-term and settled in very quickly as a member of staff. We are expecting to see more of her here in the future but she will be returning to her university studies in the Autumn. If you know of anybody who would 'fit the bill' and might be interested in this position, please share the advertisement below with them. It is a nice job, with lovely children!



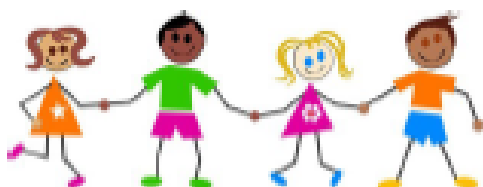
Have you ever thought about working with children?

Perhaps you are looking for a change of direction
or for a way to return to work?

We have an opening for a **Play Worker** at our
After School Club, caring for children aged 4 to 11,
3pm to 6pm Monday to Friday.

We offer ongoing training, staged support and
opportunities for career advancement in a caring and
welcoming local primary school.

If you would like to find out more please email
office.3005@sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk
or call our school office on **01295 780270**



We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of
children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to
share this commitment.