

SCHOOL NEWS

www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

This half-term really has been the 'icing on the cake' to conclude a very positive year for our school. The past few weeks have been packed with all sorts of exciting activities, events and workshops, involving lots of learning, right up to the very last days, as detailed in the pages which follow.

This year's learning outcomes for our pupils are very strong, with some excellent SATs results for our fabulous Year 6 children. We couldn't be more proud of each and every one of them.

The term ends sadly in that we have to say good bye to our Year 6 leavers, to Mrs Dowers, Mr Stotesbury and (once again!) to Mrs Tombs. We will miss each of them.

However, we also look forward to welcoming the new staff members who are joining our resilient, talented, hardworking team. Miss Gibson will be working with Mrs Humphrey in Oak Class and Ms Cavaghan will be joining Miss Meadows as our new face in the office. We welcome Mrs Perkins back as she returns from maternity leave and, of course, our new Reception children.

I would like to thank you all for the support you continue to show for our wonderful little school. It really is a privilege to be a part of this very special place, which provides such a brilliant start for our young people.

Enjoy your summer holidays. We look forward to welcoming the children back in September.

Kindest regards,

Jane O'Sullivan
Headteacher



Children return to school
on Tuesday 3rd September



Best Class Attendance this academic year : Beech Class

98%



These children have maintained a brilliant **100%** attendance for the whole year: Noah Chilton, Leila Clark, Poppy Downes, Sophie Evans, Thomas Fovargue, Esme and Hedi Greenhalgh, Nancy Mahoney, Katie Parker, Andrew Rutledge & Alfie Snow.

THE WINNER OF THE SUE ROWLEY CUP FOR SPORTSMANSHIP THIS YEAR WAS **HARRY WESTWOOD.**

THE WINNER OF THE CAMERON CULLEN CUP FOR ENDEAVOUR THIS YEAR WAS **JAKE STEBBINGS**
CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU
VERY WELL DESERVED

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



It's that time of year again...

We have a very strong reading ethos at school; one of the reasons why our children are so articulate and produce such high quality writing. Please encourage your child to take part in the Reading Challenge during the long holiday. Regular reading makes a big difference to pupil attainment across the curriculum.

WE GOT GOLD!

Following a **very** thorough audit and interview yesterday between our own Miss Grantham and an inspector from the Youth Sports Trust, which went on for well over an hour, we finally received the confirmation that we have been awarded a GOLD Quality Mark by the Youth Sports Trust in recognition of the brilliant work that we do in our school related to all aspects of PE, sport, active learning and participation and inclusion. This is a wonderful achievement for our brilliant team here and recognises the impact of the collective effort and hard work of every member of our school staff, our club volunteers, our sports mentor, our brilliant pupil Sports Leaders and our children. **This is what the inspector had to say to our talented & committed Miss Grantham who has worked so hard to coordinate & lead whole school strategies, organise events and given up her own time to run clubs too, in addition to everything else that she does here!**

“Thank you so much for sharing with me all the great things that are going on at your school! It was a great way to end the term.

Your commitment and passion for the subject was great to see and hear. Thank you for all your hard work to ensure ALL children at your school are benefiting from a great PE and Sport experience.”

And I am sure that all of us would ‘second’ those thoughts.

What a fantastic sporting year we had had! All our children have shown great leadership, sportsmanship and determination! We have entered a range of inter-school activities this year: Tag Rugby, Football, Triathlon, Multi- skills, dance, cricket, hockey and much more!

A huge thank you to our fabulous parents and volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you all!

A message to our Sports Leaders from Miss Grantham

Thank you for your commitment, motivation and enthusiasm this year. You have been brilliant sports mentors and a fabulous role model. It has been a pleasure and an honour to be part of your ‘Sports Leader’ journey.



Triathlon- KS2.

Year 3 girls- Won all events
(Kitty, Flora and Aimee)

Year 4 girls- Won all events
(Olivia, Esme and Evie)

Acorn & Beech News

Acorn class has been a busy place this term. We have been learning about our planet and exploring places we would like to visit. We have learnt about capital cities, landmarks and the animals which live on our planet. We have been learning about the tiniest to the largest creatures and the different homes they and us live in. There have been many learning opportunities both indoors and outdoors!



It's always fun to squeeze inside a box (whilst building a space station!)



We used all the plastic bottles families donated to build our amazing Igloo. A big thank you to Mrs Coventry and her helpers from Beech class.



We have been exploring animal habitats and have classified animals by their features; explaining our groupings to our friends. Mrs Paice helped us make a bug hotel with the Red wood and pine cones from our trip.



Mrs Paice helped us set up an amazing Travel agent shop so we could book an exciting holiday!



After starting Space week learning about the planets in our Solar System & the Milky Way, we investigated which balls would make the deepest craters on the surface of the moon (we used flour!). We made predictions and then tested them using a chart to recall the data collected . We were then able to make conclusions about the size and the weight of balls and the height they were dropped at as to which made the deepest, biggest craters. It was really fun!



During Space week, Dr Ashton, a scientist from The Warriner School, visited us and we learnt about gravity and magnetic force.

We also made our own space rockets which we launched by blowing through a straw!



For homework we explored planets in our Solar System, the Milky way. We brought in pictures, puzzles and models we had made.





Our Amazing Homework!



LOVELY LITTER PICKERS

Two of our Year Three pupils have distinguished themselves in caring for our environment.

Kitty Mountford and Flora Ransom came into the school grounds (with Kitty's mum) in their own time to pick up litter from the Orchard and the Big Field. What a thoughtful way to show respect and care for our precious school environment!

THANK YOU, GIRLS!



On the 4th July Acorn and Beech class visited Oxford Arboretum. It was a very hot day, but we all enjoyed hunting for bugs, completing a meadow diversity search and identifying and learning facts about many different trees. There were lots of peacocks around which wanted to taste our lunch! Luckily Mrs Evans knew how to keep them away!



Because we had such a great time on our trip we wanted to continue with the activities during our Forest School session!



Willow Class News

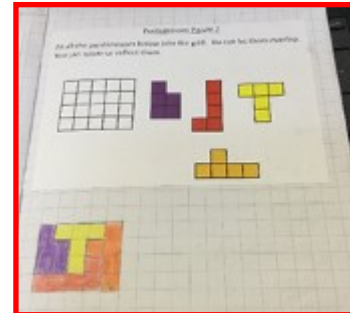


Willow Class
2018-2019

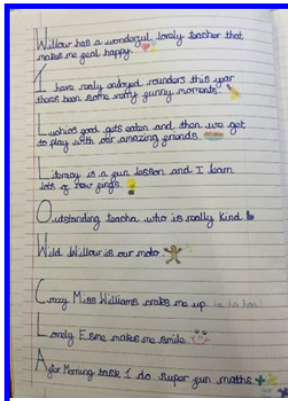
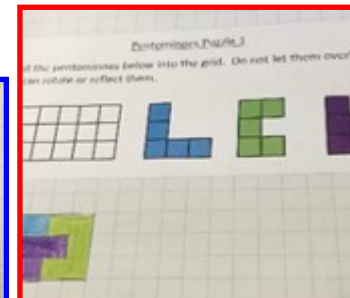
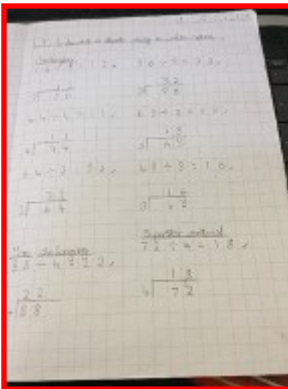
"This term has been brilliant!" Charlie Parker

What a wonderful year it has been- we cannot believe that that's it for another year!

We have learnt lots of new and exciting things, developed our learning muscles and grow and matured into the lovely and caring class that we are.



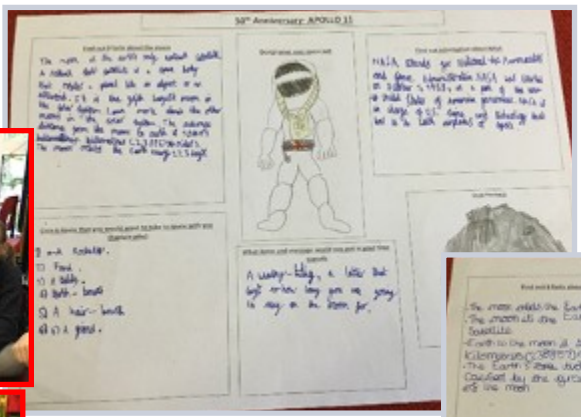
Marvellous Maths: This term we have been revising skill skills and learning methods. We were SO proud of ourselves- we remembered the 'bus stop' method and now we all really enjoy it.



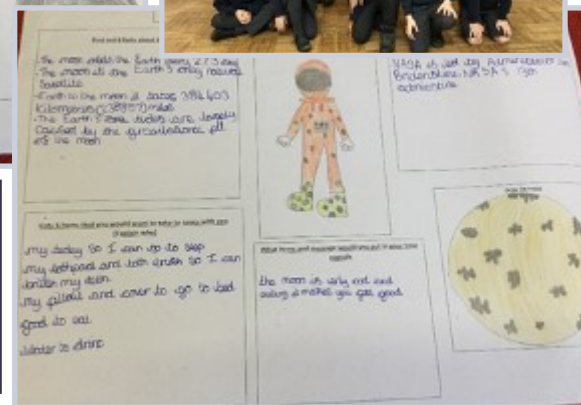
Healthy Breakfast!

We had a fabulous morning; we researched and priced up all of the fruits we wanted and then created a shopping list for Miss Grantham.

Literacy: This term we have been reflecting on our year in Willow Class, creating our very own 'Acrostic Poem' full of our personal memories and moments.



SCIENCE WEEK-Space
We love space!
We had a brilliant week, full of amazing surprises, activities and creativity!



Maple & Oak News

What a term! We have all been so busy having fun and learning lots! We have had so many speaking and writing opportunities throughout term 6 and the children, as always, have produced some fantastic work. Linking with our theme of poetry, Maple and Oak produced their own D-Day poems. They worked really hard at these, focussing on the use of high level vocabulary and descriptive language. The finished poems were very moving and beautifully written.



During World Ocean Day the children researched what the difference would be between a good and bad ocean with regard to marine life and pollution. They not only produced some fantastic fact files but also some amazing, detailed artwork.



During Healthy Week, we discussed (amongst other things) our eating and exercise habits. The children wanted to produce their own menus for a week and a perfect example of a balanced healthy lunchbox.



One of the highlights of our term was the trip to Blenheim Palace to see a production of 'Macbeth'. The performance took place in a pop-up Globe style theatre which was stunning and created a fantastic atmosphere throughout the performance. Having studied 'Macbeth' earlier in the academic year, it was such a valuable experience for the year 6 children and they all were completely mesmerised throughout the show

What a day!!!

The Wind in the Willows



The KS2 performance of The Wind in the Willows was a triumph. The standard of the children's performances was really impressive, with some excellent acting and singing. Definitely some stars in the making! As always, this was an occasion when many of our children battled their natural nerves and rose to the challenge with performances that were so self-assured, you would never know they had any worries about getting up in front of an audience.

Just Brilliant!





Science Week



Science Week was great fun! We started with a surprise in the school hall. The Wonderdome is a huge inflatable observatory that a full class can sit inside! We kept it top secret from all of the children until it was their class's turn to go in, even eating our lunch in the classrooms so that we didn't spoil the surprise.



There was amazement as the children came into the hall ...



...and trepidation for some as they prepared to step inside the dome!



Once they were inside the dome, the views were amazing! The children joined astronauts as they ventured onto the surface of the moon.



Back in the classroom, Beech Class conducted experiments linked to the creation of craters—what factors made a difference to the size of the impact craters in the 'moon dust'?



On Tuesday, KS2 travelled up to the Warriner for a morning of enrichment workshops. They made their own 'Green Men' using clay.



It was great fun working in the Art Studios

We explored the technique of batik using hot wax.



With stunning results.



Sports Day 2019



Sports Day was a huge success again this year. The sun shine in a blue sky; a huge relief after the torrential rain that started the week. The atmosphere was really positive with the lovely balance of determined competitiveness and supportive friendship that is absolutely typical of our wonderful children. A huge thank you to the whole school community for coming together to make this such a lovely event!

With Special Thanks to Miss Grantham for co-ordinating this event.



Visitors from Japan

We were delighted to welcome some special visitors all the way from Japan. The twelve students and their tutors have been staying at Tudor Hall School on a cultural visit and came to Sibford Gower to run some workshops with our children in years 3,4 & 5. The children explored traditional Japanese games, and Japanese writing and were instructed in origami, the art of paper folding.

The students joined our children for a typical school assembly with Reverend Ronald Hawkes and for outdoor play where all the children shared their enjoyment of football!



Some of the Japanese students performed a dance and one of the young men showcased his considerable talent as a pianist.



The children had a lovely time together and there were many smiles and warm good-byes as our guests took their

Our children reciprocated by playing the instruments that they learn in school with Mr Allen.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



Over the last term, Mr & Mrs Allen have been running a Musical Theatre Club after school once a week. The children spent these weeks learning and rehearsing songs from Bugsy Malone for the recent Village Hall fundraising event in Sibford Gower. The children attended in costume. They looked amazing and sang beautifully. Thank you to Mr & Mrs Allen for providing this opportunity.

PTA End of Year Summary, 2019

Dear All,

We have had a wonderful year of fundraising with all of our events being very well supported by parents new and old and many of our school staff. Over the past academic year we have raised nearly £6500 which is an amazing achievement!

This year our main events have been Bonfire Night, Christmas Fair, Disco, Table Top Sale, Race Night and it would have been finished off with our Rounders Evening but sadly the weather stopped that! Other smaller fund-raising projects that have been organised by parents include the Christmas Cards and the Rags2Riches clothing collection.

Our main spending has gone on school trips; pantomime buses and transport for the KS2 trip to Cadburys World and the recent KS1 trip to Oxford Arboretum. The children enjoy going on school trips and see it as a real adventure as well as a good learning opportunity for them, so it's great that we can help with the cost of this.

Did your children tell you about the wonderful Space Dome that appeared one Monday morning in the school hall last month? The school was able to fund this through PTA money - Some parents may remember that last year we had a smarties fundraiser (where children filled up a smarties tube with coins in return for doing jobs at home) and this money has been waiting to be spent on something the whole school would enjoy. We thought the Space Dome was the perfect use for this money. By all accounts it was a great day!

As you read this our Year 6 Leavers will hopefully be enjoying a super leaving party and the PTA are always very happy to contribute towards a good send-off party complete with leavers hoodies. Good Luck to all our Year 6 Leavers in your new schools!

Sarah and I would like to thank the whole of the parent and teacher body for all their support this year. The events would simply not run if we didn't all pull together. We put all this effort in to put on events that we hope the children and parents enjoy and to raise money that will in turn enrich the time our children spend at school - hopefully we have achieved this.

PTA AGM - 24th September 7.30pm KS2 staffroom

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer

Shelley Dawson & Sarah Garstin



A Message from our Chair of Governors, Mr Paul Manthorpe

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another year at our school reaches its end, we can look back on what a success it has been – great SATs results that are above the National Average (again!), happy children who have been taught to appreciate that learning is so important, teachers, parents, carers and families who have been there to support them every step of the way and of course our committed headteacher, Jane, and her unwavering belief in our children and the school community. This is echoed by the support that we have all received from Dr Annabel Kay and the Directors of the Warriner Multi-Academy Trust.

We, as Governors, have done what we can to help to move the school forward – attending meetings, pursuing training, attending and enjoying school events, as well as visits to the school to observe and challenge the teaching and learning in our particular areas of interest and professional specialism.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing everyone involved with our school an enjoyable and well-deserved break – especially to those moving on to new schools and new challenges.

We look forward to seeing you all in September.

Many thanks for all of your support

The Governors



MARVELLOUS MUSICIANS

We are fortunate to have two outstanding peripatetic music teachers who come into school each week to teach our Ks2 pupils.

Mr Keith Allen teaches saxophone, flute and clarinet.

This term, the following pupils who study with Keith, passed their grade exams.

There were three 'merits' and one 'distinction'.

VERY WELL DONE

William Shaw, Jacob Herd, Rinan Watkins, Sophie Evans, and Olivia Taylor.

Valerie Vet teaches singing to an ever increasing number of children. These children finished the year by performing in two special singing assemblies in front of parents and the whole school featuring a range of solos, duets and a group performance.



This year we have had a number of highlights that I want to share with you.

New Schools: In April the DfE announced that we had been successful in our bid to run the new primary school within the Graven Hill development, Bicester. This is a 2 form entry school and is due to open in September 2021. It will be a real privilege to open a school from scratch. We are working with the residents and building contractors on the design of the school. We also have two existing primary schools going through the process of joining our MAT and this will be finalised during the next academic year.

Curriculum Development: We have been working across all of our schools to develop a new approach to teaching effective written communication. Our new strategy will run from Early Years through to Year 13 and is based upon the following:

- Vocabulary – providing all our students with a firm foundation of the vocabulary that they need linked to their scheme of learning / topic
- Knowledge – having the flexibility to teach specific subject content in the most appropriate way, be it hierarchical or cumulative
- Reading – research shows how ongoing reading is a significant contributory factor in long term economic success
- Writing – modelling the process of constructing fluent written outcomes that are fit for purpose

Enrichment: A Key Stage 2 STEM programme took place at The Warriner over 18th and 19th June. Each MAT primary school attended (with the exception of Farthinghoe who had very important play rehearsals) a morning or afternoon session with all of their KS2 students (because of their size BL brought Year 5 only).

Sessions included:

- Music – Boomwhackers
- Textiles – Batik Jungle,
- Art – Clay Work
- DT - Steady Hand Game Development
- Science - Microscopes

Feedback from staff and students was that this was a huge success.

To make up for missing this, Farthinghoe children spent a night camping on The Warriner Farm and had a wonderful time.

Capital bids:

During this academic year the following bids were submitted to the DfE:

- Bishop Loveday roof replacement £618,160 - approved
- Bishop Loveday window replacement £183,571 –approved
- Farthinghoe roof replacement £216,874 – unsuccessful
- Farthinghoe fire & electrical £204,934 – unsuccessful
- Hornton roof replacement £333,710 – approved
- Hornton window replacement £188,189 – unsuccessful– awaiting appeal
- Sibford Gower fire and electrical £ 375,384 – unsuccessful
- Warriner fire and electrical £816,817 – unsuccessful – awaiting appeal
- Warriner heating replacement £1,226,081 – unsuccessful

To date we have received £2,280,441 from the DfE for much need repairs to our schools.

Support for local schools:

We are proud to have been able to provide an Acting Headteacher and other leadership support to a local school. This fits with our moral purpose and drive to support schools in need.

SATS data:

All of our school SATS results were above national figures. Really well done to children, staff and parents. I am so proud of everyone and this amazing set of data reflects the impact of all the school improvement work that we have been doing to share the fantastic things that go in all of our schools.

If you would like any further information then go to our newly launched website:

www.warrinermultiacademytrust.co.uk

Have a lovely summer break

Annabel Kay
CEO
The Warriner MAT



The Graduation ceremony for our Early Years children marks the move from Early Years into Year One. It is always a lovely event and a special occasion to share with family and friends. The children were all given a mortar board and a certificate. There were cakes and cuddles and lots smiling faces.



EARLY YEARS CLASS OF 2019



Year 6 Leavers Assembly

We can't help feeling some sadness as our Year 6 children move onto their next schools. They really are a wonderful group of young people. We know them well and feel very proud of all that they have achieved through their perseverance, personal courage, zest for life and sheer hard work and determination. We wish them everything they would wish for themselves as they take the next steps in the learning journeys.



Happy Holiday !