



July 2024

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

The summer holiday has arrived, marking the end of another academic year at our lovely school. And what a year it has been! Although 2023-24 included our visit from Ofsted and their excellent report, neither staff nor children have 'rested on their laurels' and our school continues to go from strength to strength.

We are delighted with our Year 6 learning outcomes, including the SATs results. Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Downes have worked with energy and care to support all of our Year 6 pupils. Even those children who did not attain the expected level in the SATs have made impressive progressive to beat their best ever scores and we are very proud of every single child who took part.

It is always a sad time for us when we have to say goodbye to our Year 6 leavers but we also always take great pride in reflecting on how much they have achieved and how much they have grown during their time with us. This year, pupils are transitioning to six different secondary schools. Where ever they do go, they are very well-prepared for the next steps in their educational journey. Very well done Year 6!

We know that we do sport well at our school, with strong inclusive practice for all of our children. The strength of this has been recognised this year in our achieving a **Platinum** School Games Award. Dean Woodham from NOSSP wrote to us to say, **"It was a genuine pleasure to read through the application. This is one of the best I have seen. It really showed the passion you have as a school to provide opportunities for all."** Very well done to Miss Grantham, to all of our children and all of our staff team. This is an impressive achievement.

I am delighted to let you know that, from September, Alison Herbert will be joining us as a full-time Teaching Assistant, initially working within our established staff team in New School. I am sure you will join with all the staff here in giving her a very warm welcome.

Now is the time for everyone to rest and have some summer fun. Please do support your child to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge over the holiday. Joining the public library is absolutely free and developing a love of reading in our young children is one of the greatest gifts we can give them.



On behalf of everyone here at school, I wish you a safe, happy and fun-filled holiday.

With warmest regards,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher

**Best Class
Attendance
this half term:**



WILLOW 98%



**Children return to
school on Wednesday
4th September**

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



SPORTING SUPERSTAR

Verity Matthews has had an incredible year in the field of Dressage. She started off winning the Area festivals qualifier which took her to nationals. She was picked for the inter regionals team where she helped the team to 2nd place out of 36 teams. She was placed 1st and 2nd, securing her position as the C squad champion in her first year at this level. Verity has been picked for the Youth Home Nations team so will be riding for England at the start of August.

AMAZING !



ACORN CLASS NEWS

Goodness! Where does the time go?! The final term this year in Acorn Class has been non-stop, from special event days such as Bastille Day and Sports Day to our Reception children visiting Mrs Olivera in Beech Class and meeting our new Nursery and Reception friends for next year, it has not stopped! Never a dull day in Acorn Class, read on to see how we've been getting on.



Super Summer

Even though the weather has been trying to fool us (until very recently anyway) we have been enjoying finding all about the changing seasons as Spring turns to summer. We had lots of fun helping Mrs Benjamin decide what to pack for her holidays and loved trying on all the clothes from her suitcase!

We have updated our Seasons display board and loved making our own little 'beach bags' full of paper goodies to take with us to sunnier climes - all that colouring and cutting was great for our fine motor too!

Planet Protectors

Acorn Class have also been thinking about the environment and how to look after the world around us.

We read the story 'Dear Greenpeace' and enjoyed learning about different types of whales and then moved on to think about how we can take our very own small steps to look after our planet. The children made posters and learned about the many different coloured bins which help people reduce, reuse and recycle.



Looking Beyond

We also looked at how our planet fits into the wider universe. Using our inflatable planets we made our own Solar System, complete with Asteroid belt, on the Big Playground and we have also enjoyed lots of space themed activities inside too.



Make something which has an extravert personality.



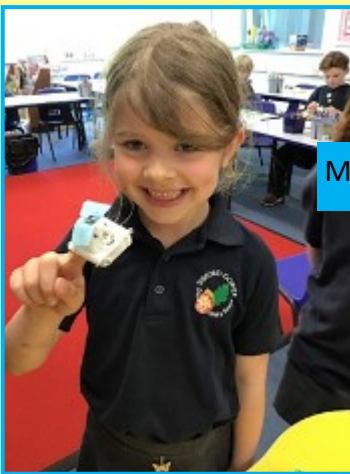
BEECH CLASS NEWS

Music and Art

As part of our project of making instruments, we used The Access Art Making Prompt Cards. They are a great way to inspire making in children and provide just enough inspiration to kick start creative thinking and enable exploration.



Make something which feels open and expansive.



Make something which fits in the palm of your hand.



Make something which feels shy.



A hedgehog

Our Art pathway led on to making musical instruments of our own. We really enjoyed this and learned a lot about how to cut and join.

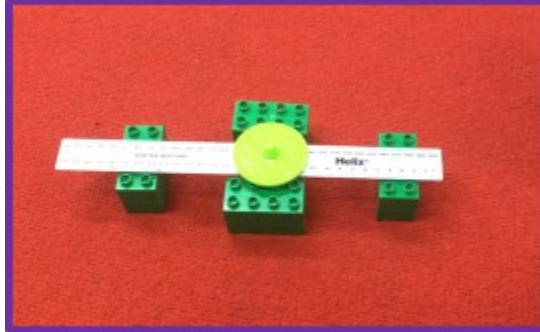


Science

How can we test materials for strength and stiffness?

We tested different materials for strength and stiffness. The children carefully worked out how to build a structure that would be suitable to test for strength and stiffness. Through careful investigation, they discovered that some ways would not work. They recognised how their structure would have to be designed in order to successfully test if the materials would bend.

We also incorporated maths by counting the weights in 5s and 10s.



The children worked in teams to investigate how to successfully build a structure that would be suitable to test for strength and stiffness and also make the test fair.



How does friction affect how things move across a surface?

We went outside to feel different surfaces and practise using our key scientific vocabulary.



We explored the surfaces we would be using in our investigation, again building confidence using vocabulary.



Then, we went back inside to record our findings, before working in teams to set up the investigations.



Willow Class News

What a wonderful year it has been!

It has been full of learning, excitement, achievements and fun. The children have blossomed and grown in confidence both academically and emotionally. They have all achieved many personal targets and I am extremely proud of them all.

We have loved our last term together and have very much enjoyed our learning across the year!
We experienced the most *incredible* school trip this year... We became Anglo Saxons for the day!



"The stories were amazing, especially listening to them on the hill" Cecily

"I really enjoyed walking up to the Anglo Saxon hill and running back down again!" Anastasia

"I loved cooking all the Anglo Saxon Foods on the fire!" Emily

"I rate it 10/10"
Teddy



It was SO lovely watching the children's faces throughout the day and hearing them share their prior knowledge with the leaders. The leaders couldn't believe how confident and secure they were with their learning on the 'Anglo Saxon and

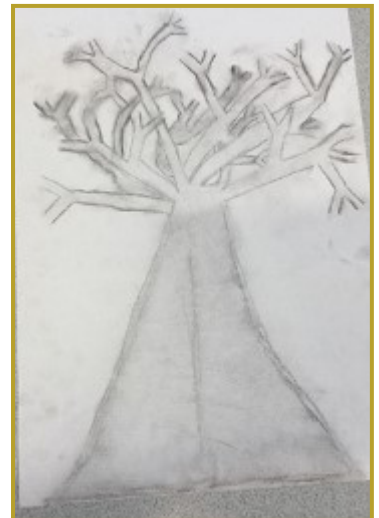
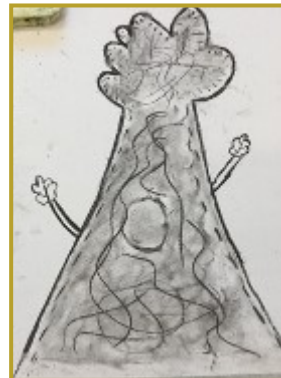
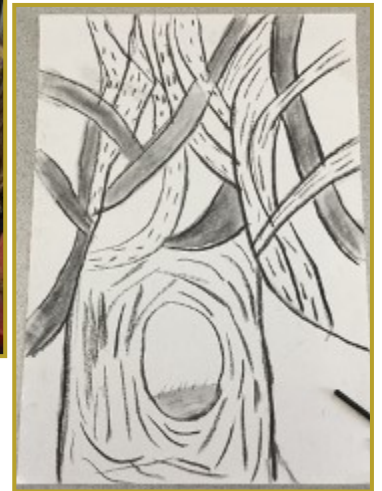
We learnt lots of historical facts and learnt many new skills too!



Art in Willow: This term we have had a focus on making animated movements. The children have absolutely thrived in this area and thoroughly enjoyed each step!



Creating our backgrounds



Designing our animals ready for our digital animations.



Making our animals!
Harder than you think!

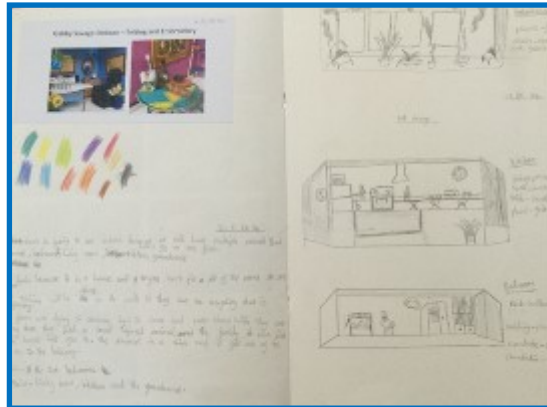
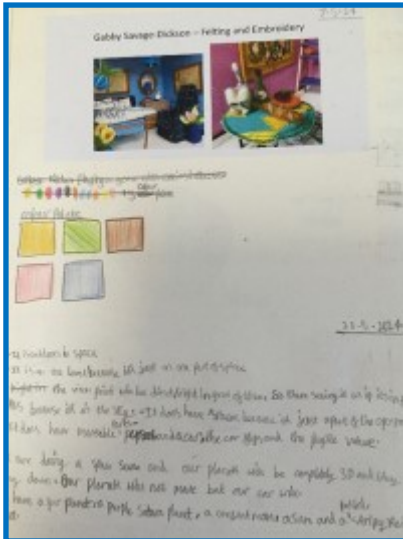
We then used a programme in Purple Mash to make our very own animations. We learned so much!



OAK CLASS NEWS

This term in Art, we have been exploring how animators build sets for their animations. We took inspiration from artist Gabby Savage-Dickson focussing on her felting projects. We also explored the work of Rosie Hurley - an artist who created a set based on the film 'Esio Trot'. The children created their own set, then produced a 'stop go' animation with their moving parts or characters.

We started with a colour palette and our design.



Then we started to create miniature sets from our designs.



We used the technique of felting to add detail.





We enjoyed working in our outdoor classroom. It was lovely to have an art lesson outside in the fresh air!



We are really pleased with our finished sets!

The next step was to create our animations!



A Visit from the Wonderdome

At the beginning of this half-term, we welcomed the Wonderdome back into school. This is an inflatable planetarium that a whole class can fit inside and it is an ideal way to inject some 'awe and wonder' into the children's learning in Science. There was an age appropriate workshop for each class from Acorn to Oak, all of which helped to illustrate and enrich learning in some aspect of the WMAT curriculum.

When it came to their class turn, the children crept excitedly inside and sat down on the floor ready to look, listen and learn. Huge thanks to our brilliant P.T.A for supporting with the cost of this visit. What an excellent and memorable use of those hard-earned P.T.A funds. We couldn't have done it without you!



Afterwards, the children went outside together to have a Freshstart picnic, specially prepared by our mother and daughter Freshstart kitchen staff, Tina and Jodie.

The picnic supported the beginning of our transition arrangements in school too, with the nursery children spending some time with older pupils in the Old School playground.



Musical Excellence



Having the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument is a wonderful thing. Many of our children are learning to play the piano with Tom, or the flute or clarinet with Emilia. Our Year Five Ocarina Club are also progressing well. Huge thanks to Mrs Benjamin for giving up her time to teach the children.

Performing in front of an audience can be really nerve-wracking but can also boost confidence. Well done to all of those children who took part in our special 'showcase' assembly and a big thank you to all the parents who came along to watch and support. This was a really lovely occasion.



Oak Class became a French café, with french-speaking waiting staff . Well done Year 6!



Beech Class became a Dance Studio.



'Bastille Day' La Fête Nationale

One of our exciting cultural events in school is a celebration of 'Bastille Day', where we take a whistle-stop tour of many things French. Events are organised into four workshops and the children move around this carousel in mixed-age groups, which is always lovely.

Children and staff arrived at school wearing the colours of the French flag, ready for the afternoon's festivities.



Willow Class became an art studio .

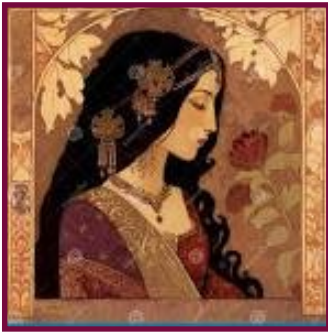


The Sports Hall became ... a Sports Hall!



Huge thanks to Mrs Benjamin for organising all of this. And a special mention for the wonderful Mrs Jones and her enthusiastic dancing. What a lovely time we all had!





SCHEHERAZADE

The performance of Scheherazade by the children of Willow and Oak Classes was excellent. They really enjoyed performing in front of children and parents. There was some impressively confident acting, singing and dancing during the show as the children took us back to ancient Persia. Huge thanks to Mrs Humphrey, Miss Grantham, Mrs Williams, Mrs Downes, Mrs Dawson, and Mr Cameron for all the work they put into direction, production, costumes and props. To see some more pictures from the show, please look on the 'gallery' pages of the school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/photo-gallery.html>



Sports Newsletter- Summer Term 2024

We are delighted to announce that we,
Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School have achieved the
School Games **Platinum** Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year.

This is the **'highest'** sporting award you can achieve!

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With a total of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. As part of our **'National'** application, we were asked to fulfil an intense and detailed criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and **we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.**

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers also, we could not run events and clubs without your support and time- thank you!



Youth Sports Trust

We are hoping to remain at **GOLD** for the Youth Sports Trust award also. We are awaiting a visit to confirm our application. We have been **GOLD** for the last few years so fingers crossed- we will keep you updated!



Holly qualified for the North Oxfordshire Quad kids final after we competed in the 'Quad kids' event at the Warriner this term. We have never had a child reach the final in this event so it was especially exciting! Holly came second OVERALL being awarded Silver!

The winners of our two cups for individual recognition this year were unanimously agreed upon by staff.

Ronnie is the winner of the Sue Rowley Cup for Sportsmanship.

Kyril is the winner of the Cameron Cullen Cup for Endeavour.

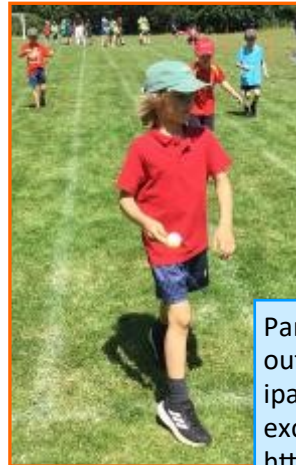
Kyril will be leaving us at the end of this year as he returns with his mother and sister to live in Ukraine, so they can be reunited with the children's father. We wish this lovely family well for the future and will keep them in our thoughts.

Sports Day 2024

This was such a lovely afternoon!
It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to join us for one of our favourite annual events.

The children were competitive but very sporting and everyone had fun.
Huge thanks to our Sports Leaders, to all the staff, an especially Miss Grantham ,for organising the event.
A very big thank you too, to our PTA for the delicious refreshments!

Well done to the children of YELLOW HOUSE, this year's winners of the Heather Cup. This was received by Autumn and Isabella, the youngest and oldest members of Yellow House.



Parent, Tim Hearn, generously stepped in to take some outstanding images during Sports Day when all the staff ipads overheated simultaneously. To see more of Tim's excellent pictures, please look on the school website at <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/whole-school-events---more-photos.html> . Thanks, Tim!



The Karate Kids!



Karate Club

We will continue to host the after school Karate Club with Sensei Gareth from the Banbury Karate centre next academic year.

This is an hour long club which takes place in the school hall each Thursday and is open to children from their Reception year up.

If you want to find out more or sign your child up, please contact Gareth Rees on 07902146116

WOMBAT NEWS



Our wonderful WOMBATS School Council have done a really impressive job this year. Of the 10 Grot Spots they identified across the school,

7 have been effectively addressed, 2 more are in the pipeline for being sorted, and 1 will come back to—painting the New School fence!

Well done, Wombats! You should be very proud of all you have achieved on behalf of your electorate.



Reception Graduation

One of our favourite events in our annual school calendar is the graduation ceremony for our Reception children. This marks the point at which they complete their journey through the Early Years Foundation Stage and move into Year One, where they begin learning within the National Curriculum. This year's graduates are an excellent bunch and we are very pleased with how they have developed during their time with us so far.



Farewell to our year 6 leavers



We wish you well as you move on from us. Thank you for everything you have brought to our school.



Drawing is Fun!

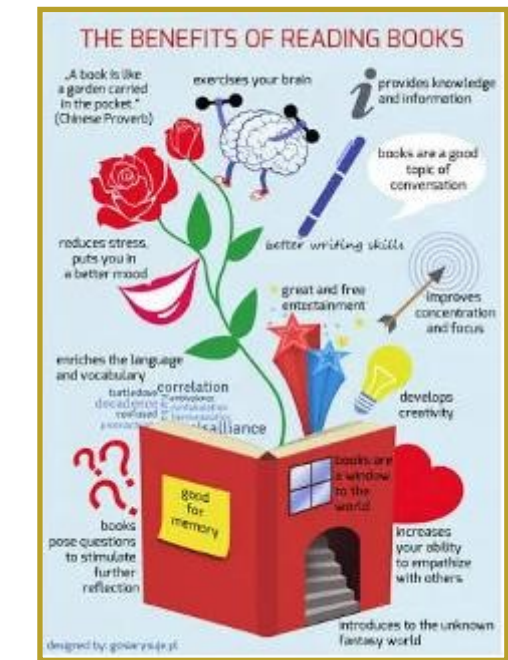
We love drawing at our school. It is such an excellent skill to develop and, like all skills, the more you practise, the better you get.

On the 1st of July, children across the school joined with other children from across the country to take part in the first Access Art Draw-Along, with online workshops led by members of the Access Art Team.

Thank you, Access Art!



Karen Seymour, the librarian based at Hook Norton Library and a familiar face for many of our children, came into school for a special assembly to introduce this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Getting involved is a great way to support our wonderful free public library service and to encourage a love of reading in the children. Follow this link to find out a bit more about this, and the work of The Reading Agency: <https://readingagency.org.uk/the-summer-reading-challenges-marvellous-makers-theme-celebrates-childrens-creativity>



HAPPY HOLIDAY!