



March 2024

# SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a term it has been! We seem to have had special events going on every week. Many of these have had a focus on language and reading; from Reading Week and World Book Day, to the visit from the Image Theatre Company and the Oak Class visit to Sibford School to see a performance of Oliver! We held Science Week across the school, Year 5 children completed the Bikeability course, and Year 6 developed their first aid skills with the I.M.P.S team. Acorn Class have been on a trip to the farm, Willow and Oak have welcomed the Oxford Museum into school to lead workshops, and so much more. Our excellent P.T.A have been busy too—it was wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves at the school disco.

Your children are worth every bit of extra effort that our wonderful staff team put in to enrich their experience at school. Thank you for all the support you have shown when we have asked for this, both through your financial contributions and by turning up and joining in. The high turn-out for Reading week was brilliant and it was great to see so many of you at the church for the Easter Service!

A huge thank you to those of you who responded to the annual parent questionnaire from governors. Your responses and insights are always helpful in planning next steps for the school. One respondent asked about our use of the recently re-surfaced walled area behind Old School. The WMAT premises team have now repainted the fixed benches in this space and we are beginning to plan additional resources to develop it as a Science and well-being area. Once the weather warms up a bit, we will be using it as a natural, fresh-air extension of both Willow and Oak classrooms.

Please remember to look on the information page of the school website [www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/school-term-and-diary-dates.html](http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/school-term-and-diary-dates.html) or in the weekly bulletin for more events and dates. You can also view some pictures from our whole school events on the Gallery pages [www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/whole-school-events---more-photos.html](http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/whole-school-events---more-photos.html)

On behalf of all the staff here at school, I wish you a Happy Easter holiday.

With warmest regards,

Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)



**Children return  
to school on  
Monday 15th**



**Sporting**

We love sports and physical activity here at school and are always so proud of the way the children represent us at sporting events. Sometimes they excel in a way which is worth an extra special mention. As a result of participating in the NOSSP swimming gala, Ronnie was scouted for the Four Shires Swimming Team.

Holly and Henry both qualified for the County Cross Country Final in Oxford and came an impressive 5th and 6th.

Henry has also been scouted for his football skills and is trialling with the Oxford United Development Team.

**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU !**



**Superstars**



# ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term we have continued our topic 'Where are they?', we looked at the changes that take place as Winter turns to Spring and how those changes impact both the environment around us and animals in our local environment. We also looked at London, exploring landmarks and some famous faces that live there. Towards the end of the half term there was much excitement about growth and change - growing seeds, observing beans and making our own seed bombs to plant. We have also enjoyed celebrating some Spring festivals such as St Patrick's Day and finding out how Christians celebrate Easter.



## Springtime Spotters

As Winter has slowly (very slowly!) loosened its grip and given way to Spring there has been a lot of talk about changing seasons in Acorn Class. Lots of children wanted to know 'is it Spring yet?' so we ventured outside to see what we could spot - we weren't sure first of all as we still had to wrap up warm in our coats, hats, scarves and gloves but once outside we were excited to see new flowers blooming, blossom on the trees and even a bird's nest!

## Making seed bombs



## Growing sunflowers



## Observing beans - roots and shoots



## Planting cress, what does it need to grow?



## Glorious Growing

We have also enjoyed reading lots of books about growth and change including 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. We have planted cress seeds, sunflowers and made seed bombs to grow wildflowers at home to attract bees and butterflies.

We have also been thinking about growing and measuring in our maths. We have been 'growing' numbers by finding doubles and exploring and comparing both length and height. We have made a height chart in our classroom and it's fun to see how we are growing and changing everyday too.







**We have had lots of fun with our bikes and cars, using crates and other equipment to make tracks and roadways.**



**OUTSIDE - IT'S 'WHEELY' GOOD FUN!**



**Sand play is also really popular, mixing sand and water, transporting and digging.**

### Outside Adventures

With better weather on the horizon, we have enjoyed even more adventures in our outside area.

This term we have really enjoyed exploring all sorts of different transport from vehicles, scooters, trikes and even space hoppers! We have found new ways to move around our outdoor space and have been not only developing our gross motor skills and spatial awareness but also become mechanics, delivery drivers and even mobile gardeners (who do slightly overcharge, if I'm being honest, so watch out if you see them working in your area).

We also really enjoy our mud kitchen and sand tray. In our mud kitchen we cook up a range of fine delicacies and our sand tray has been a great place for budding scientists and builders to explore.

Finally, our Acorn gardeners have been great at looking after our plants and flowers. We look forward to see if our seed bombs will bloom and provide a haven for local wildlife.

### Super Celebrations

This term we have also been looking at different celebrations, from St David's Day on March 1st when we were encouraged to wear something yellow to celebrate the Patron Saint of Wales to St Patrick's Day where we turned the school green in honour of the Patron Saint of Ireland. We have also celebrated World Book Day with some wonderful costumes and sharing stories with our friends in Oak Class and we rounded off our last full week at school with wonderful singing in the church with a rousing rendition of 'Spring Chicken' as we sang some of our favourite Spring songs and found out more about the Christian festival of Easter.



### And finally...

We had a wonderful visit from a surprise guest when Miss Reeves brought in Henry, her pet tortoise! We were surprised to learn he doesn't hibernate and we loved watching him and finding out all about him!



## BEECH CLASS NEWS



In our Art lessons, we have been exploring mark-making as part of our learning pathway.

The children began by making 'squiggle drawings' in their sketch-books. **"You start by taking your pencil for a walk."**

We went across to the school hall so they could explore drawing on a much larger scale, continuing with their squiggles and moving into continuous line drawing on large sheets on the floor.



During Science Week we went outside to make Nature calendars with our friends.



On World Book Day, as well as dressing up as one of our favourite book characters, we made our own out of potatoes!

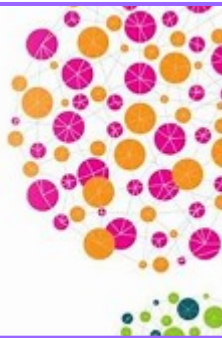


## Willow Class News

What a magnificent term we have had in Willow Class. We have really enjoyed exploring our theme of the 'ROMANS' (especially our Roman day and workshop). As a class, decided that it has been our favourite theme of the year so far! *(I know, we say that every term, but it is true!)*

Enjoy seeing a 'snippet' of our term in Willow Class

8-17 March  
British  
Science  
Week  
2024



"BEST WEEK EVER!"

"Can we do this every week?"

"I loved making our very own water clock timer"

"I can't wait to take my fossil home"

The theme of British Science Week was TIME



Book Club-  
Exploring science  
books

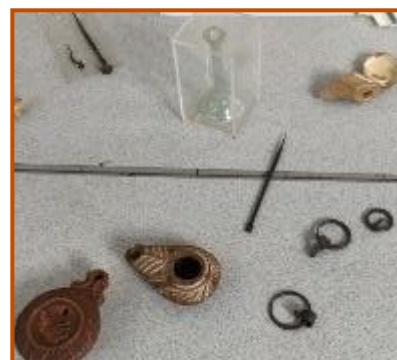


Water Clock  
Timer!



Fossilisation!

Our Roman workshop was brilliant!  
We were able to handle real artefacts from Roman times and we learned lots of things about Roman culture.



We practised marching in step and got to try on Roman Army uniforms and other Roman clothes. We had such a great afternoon!





## Art - Cloth, thread and paint

We have thoroughly enjoyed our art lessons this term. The children have learnt and developed techniques, including their control and their use of a range of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.

Firstly, we explored the work of artists Hannah Rae and Alice Kettle. We took the time to explore the colours and textures of their work.

Mark making has been an important part of our art this term!



We explored colour mixing!



Then we created our back grounds!



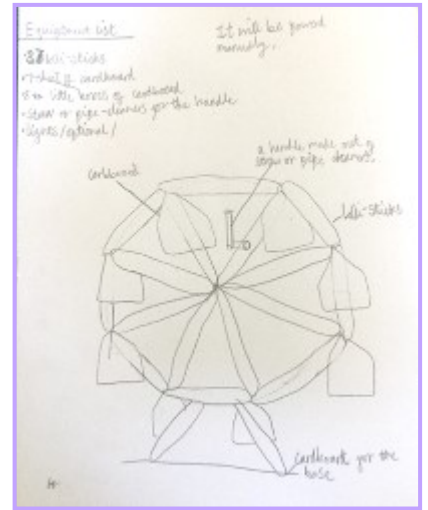
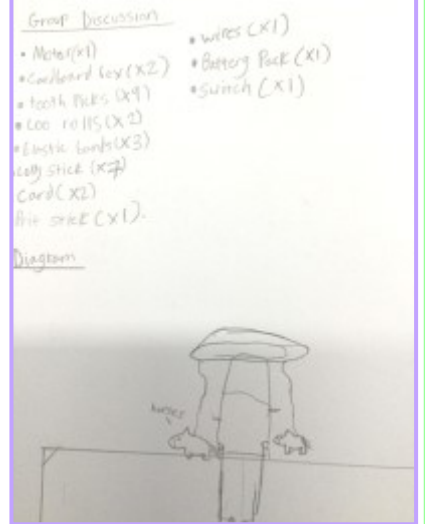
And finally... it was 'sewing time'!  
I couldn't be more proud of Willow Class. **Every child created a stunning piece of art.**





# OAK CLASS NEWS

This terms Design & Technology project was to make a Victorian fairground ride with at least one 'moving part'. The children researched, discussed and planned their ideas. They then spent the day constructing from their designs. The results were amazing!

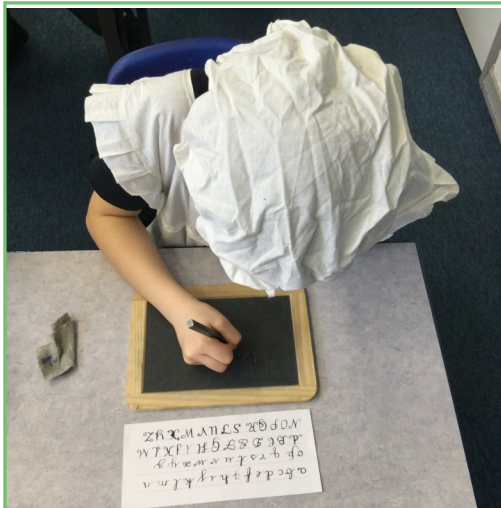


# Victorian Fairground Rides





Our own Victorian classroom became a Victorian school room once again, thanks to a special visitor from the Woodstock Museum. This really brought many of the things that the children have been learning about in their history lessons to life.



Another incredible local resource that helped bring history to life for the children is the extensive collection of Victorian artefacts at the home of local couple, Mr & Mrs Warner.



The Warners kindly invited the children into their home to share their knowledge and to offer this hands-on experience. We know this is an experience the children will not forget.



The children were given time to sit and draw some of the objects. What a lovely warm welcome!

**.... More about the Victorians**





It was really lovely to welcome so many parents and family members into school during this term's Reading Week. This is such a treat for the children and a lovely way to start the school day. Thank you.



### Why read for 20 minutes a day?

CHILD A	CHILD B	CHILD C
reads <b>20 minutes</b> per day	reads <b>5 minutes</b> per day	reads <b>1 minute</b> per day
hears <b>1,800,000</b> words per year	hears <b>282,000</b> words per year	hears <b>8,000</b> words per year
scores in the <b>90th percentile</b> on standardized tests	scores in the <b>50th percentile</b> on standardized tests	scores in the <b>10th percentile</b> on standardized tests

To support an awareness of some of the cultural traditions of the four countries of the United Kingdom, we are holding assemblies exploring the four Saints Days. This term we have held assemblies exploring the legends of St David, patron saint of Wales, and St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland.



On St David's Day, Martha came dressed as a daffodil and Sebastian wore a leek emblem on his yellow t-shirt. Legend has it that St David's army wore leeks on their helmets to distinguish them from the Saxon enemy during a great battle which his army won. It is suggested that the resemblance of daffodil flowers to the (much rarer) leek flower has evolved into the wearing of daffodils as a replacement for the leek. Whatever, the truth, both children were proud to wear symbols reflecting the Welsh aspect of their family heritage.



Children from Beech Class shared their Irish dancing with the school. Well done!



Mrs Oliveira led our special St. Patrick's Day assembly. We found out about some of the things school children in Ireland do on this special day (instead of going to school!). Some volunteers acted out the story of 'The Salmon of Knowledge'





# WORLD BOOK DAY 2024



Everyone had great fun showing off their costumes in our World Book Day parade. We all enjoyed sharing and talking about books through the day.







# After School Care Easter Party



The ASC Easter Party was great fun, with excellent food prepared by Miss Coffey, party games and some very cool music! The children had a great time!

ASC runs from **3 - 5:30 pm, Monday to Friday**

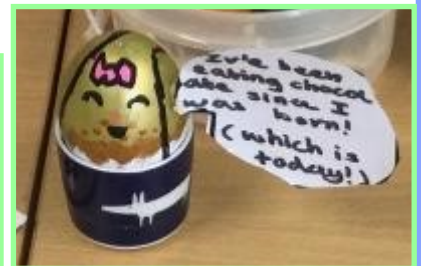
The charge per session, including a light snack of sandwiches/toast/muffins/crumpets/wraps and a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables is **£10**

Your child's ASC reservation needs to be booked in advance at the end of the previous term due to the 'first come first served' system we run. Although we will always try to accommodate bookings, some evenings are now often over-subscribed and places cannot be guaranteed without a booking.

To find out more about our After School Care facility, please look on the school website at [www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/after-school-care.html](http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/after-school-care.html)



More Easter eggs to come on the next page.....





# Excellent Easter Egg Competition

We were very impressed with the children's contributions to this year's Easter Egg completion. The themes were so varied and the finished pieces were beautifully made. Here are just some examples of the children's work.



**Thank you Bikeability**



The Year 5 children had a great time in their Bikeability sessions. They listened attentively and did a great job of learning the rules and techniques that will keep them safer when they are riding on the road. Well done, Year 5!



**Best Class Attendance  
this half term:**

**WILLOW**



**97.5%**

**Very well done !**

**HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!**