



March 2026

# SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

You would have thought that a short term would mean a slightly shorter newsletter than usual. Actually though, it seems to have been even busier than usual with all sorts of activities here at school in addition to our normal lessons.

It was great to welcome Alison from C.A.T.S (Cotswold Arts through Schools) into school to lead workshops in clay work for teachers and the children. We have also welcomed the Bikeability Team in to work with Year 5, had two theatre visits and enjoyed the visiting pantomime, whole school Science Week and World Book Day, and the Easter Service and Easter egg competition.

We were delighted to share the results of our 2026 Parent Survey, which showed overwhelmingly positive feedback from families. Every parent who responded said that their child is happy at school, feels safe, is well cared for and does well, and 100% would recommend the school to another parent.

It finally feels like Spring has arrived with flowers appearing all over the school grounds, birds busy nest-building and plenty of sunshine. I do hope that we all have lovely weather over the Easter holiday.

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher



## Hooray for Spring

After what felt like weeks of rainy days, muddy grounds and wet playtimes, we were finally able to open the mini-field for use at lunchtime. The excitement was huge and the children have been having a great time; climbing, hanging, jumping, balancing, rolling around and just sitting on the grass and chatting with their friends.

**Spring has finally arrived!**



Best Class Attendance this half term

**Beech 96.5%**



Children return to school on  
**Monday 13th April**

Just a friendly reminder...

# ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term the children have had opportunities to explore a new season and understand the changes that take place at this time of year in the natural world. They also looked at England, its place in the UK, developed their understanding of what an island is and learned about some of the key features of the country. You can read more about this side of our topic on weekly updates on the Acorn page.



**Spring has Sprung!**  
After we came back from half term, we could tell Spring was on its way. We have delighted in our school's annual display of radiant daffodils and the children have discovered lots of other signs of Spring in and around our school.  
We also had a wonderful visit to the Stratford Butterfly Farm where we consolidated our learning about life cycles.



## Clay-mazing Creations

In art we have been exploring clay through our Access Art topic 'Clay Play'. First, we explored the clay with our hands, talking about how it felt (cold, wet and slimy were popular adjectives here) and learning how to change the shape of the clay with our hands. We then moved onto using tools and embellishments to create a sculpture with our clay, using a variety of man-made and natural objects. For our final piece of artwork we created clay 'plaques', making a flat 'disc' shape with our hands and mark making with different objects to create a unique design. We are now leaving them to dry and look forward to seeing the final creations all finished!

Carefully selecting and using our tools... even doilies!



Our initial clay sculptures were all very unique.



Examples of our finished designs.



## Beech Class News

**Clay workshop:** We were lucky enough to have a wonderful art teacher, Alison (from Cotswold Arts through Schools, C.A.T.S.) in to teach us how to work with clay. The children expressed that they felt very relaxed working with the clay and quite proud of their finished pieces – which were inspired by significant people in their lives.



## Daffodil Dissection

First, we discussed our learning intention for the science session; to know the parts of a plant. Because we have so many growing around the school site, we decided to use daffodils to support our learning. We introduced key vocabulary before heading outside to find suitable samples.

The theme for science week is 'Curiosity: What's your question?'

The children wondered why there was slime inside the stem of the daffodil.

What do you think it's for? Why is it so slimy? Is it poisonous? They used scissors, their hands and tweezers to dissect the daffodils and then labelled the parts.



In KS1 we have a strong focus on developing number sense and the composition of number. We use a broad range of manipulatives and representations to reveal the structure of the maths to the children. Here you can see the children using numicon, cubes and 9 frames with double sided counters to represent number bonds to 9. They then use this knowledge to write addition and subtraction equations (fact families). As the children transition from year 1 to year 2, we will teach them how to visualise the composition of numbers so that they become fluent with addition and subtraction number facts up to 10. Building such a strong foundation of the composition of numbers in this way supports their ability to understanding and make connections with numbers all the way to 100 and beyond.



Here are some year 2 children working collaboratively to explore the 2 times table:



In PE, we have been doing gymnastics indoors and developing ball skills outdoors. The warmer weather has been very welcome!



## Willow's Spring News



What a brilliant term we have had in Willow Class. It has been a busy one, full of determination, focused writing, creativity and achieving our own *personal goals*. Enjoy seeing a 'snippet' of our term in Willow Class.



### British Science Week

What a fabulous week we had celebrating 'British Science Week. Science is a firm favourite in Willow Class, so we very much enjoyed doing science EVERY DAY!

The theme this year was 'curiosity'. This was a fantastic starting point to which we came up with our very own 'curiosity questions'. (All their own words and thinking!)

***How can you tell how old a shark is?***

***Where did the moon get it's name from?***

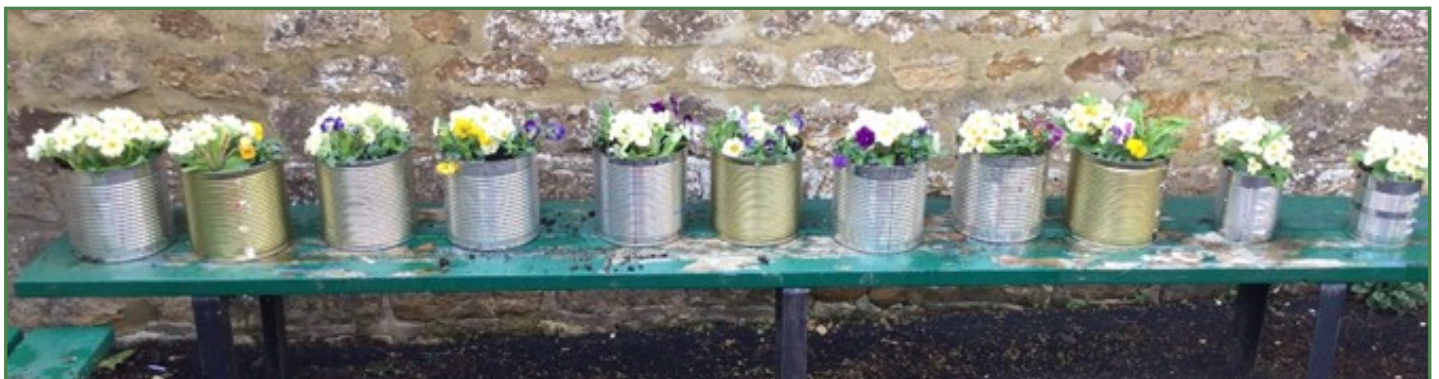
***How does DNA work and why is it called DNA?***

***Does a diamond ever crush?***

***How was the Earth made?***

***How did trees evolve?***

***Why are birds called birds?***



**Plant a flower day...** There is something lovely about being outside and planting, especially now Willow and Oak have their own outdoor classroom! Smiles all round. To connect with our whole school focus on recycling and sustainability, we used 'tins' from the kitchen to plant our flowers in. Don't they look beautiful?

## Volcano Day in Willow Class

We have really enjoyed our theme this term, '**Natural Disasters**'. We have learnt, 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**. We worked with a small group to design, plan and create our model volcanoes, thinking about the materials we would need and how we would structure it.

On Volcano Day, we came to school in old clothes ready for busy, messy learning. It was such great fun and the excited didn't stop for the whole day! Once we had made our volcanoes, we went outside to construct our '**ring of fire**'. Out came the cola and the baking powder and we stood back to watch the 'eruptions'. Fantastic!

### Making our volcano bases using a range of different materials.



### Eruption Time!

Using our knowledge from science (states of matter) and maths (capacity), we used different solids and liquids to erupt our volcanoes! It was GREAT FUN!



## Oak Class News

IMPS Year 6 took part in the IMPS programme (Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools). The children took part in basic first aid skills, life support and had the chance to experience using a defibrillator. All the children took part in this vital programme which will help empower them to take responsibility for managing their own risk and equip them with the skills to cope in an emergency.

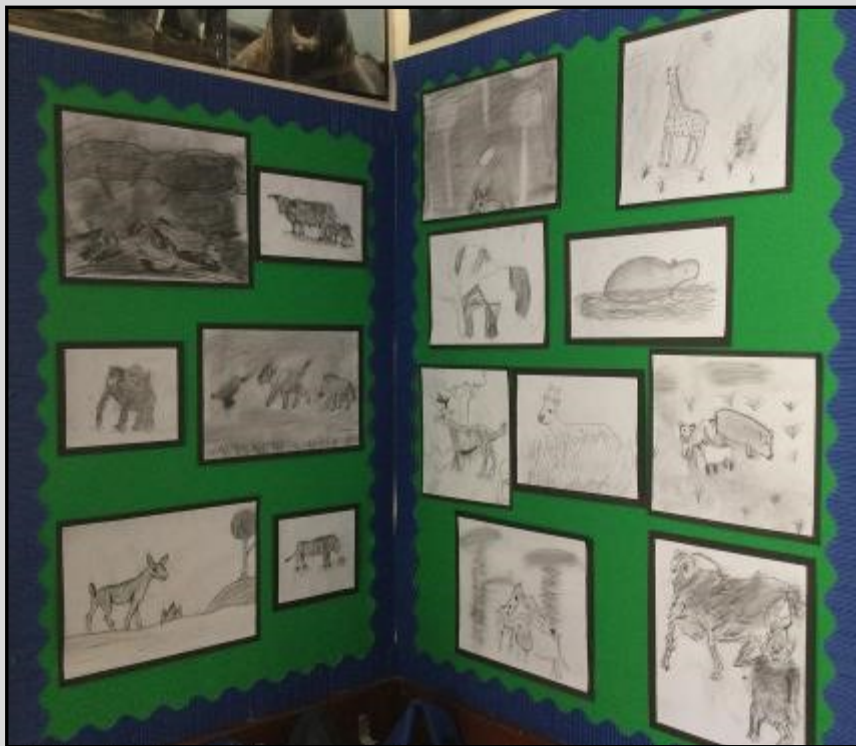


## Pottery Workshop

This term, Cotswold Arts visited Oak Class to give the children the opportunity to take part in a pottery workshop. First, they were shown some pictures of different aspects of Space, linked to their recent class theme, for inspiration and then explored the clay work techniques to enable them to produce their own finished space sculpture.



As part of our learning sequence in Art & Design leading up to set design, the children did some exploration of mark-making using charcoal, chalk, rubbers and paint-brushes. It is really interesting to observe how the children's mark-making develops and matures with these exploratory opportunities as they move up through the school.



After their mark-making warm up, the children applied these techniques to create animal drawings. Mrs Downes has put these up in Oak cloakroom as part of a spring term 'freshen-up'. It's always lovely to see the children's art work on display.



The children have been spending time in the outdoor classroom behind oak and Willow Classes. They have been planting sunflower seeds which we hope will grow into strong and healthy plants if this sun spot. They have also been exploring the new 'Water Wall' which we have just introduced to this outdoor learning space, as well as having their 'bikeability' theory lessons out there. What a useful space, particularly as the warmer weather arrives.





# BIKEABILITY



It was great to see Year 5 children out and about developing their cycling road safety skills. All of the children passed this course with flying colours. The tutors commented really positively about how polite and respectful the children were and how well they focused on listening to and following instructions. **Bravo, Year 5!**



## WORLD BOOK DAY

The children looked fantastic in their outfits and were so excited to see who or what their friends had come as. A great opportunity to promote reading for pleasure.

In our special assembly, Eli and Lola acted out a scene from the play they had written, dressed as characters they had created.



# IT'S PANTOMIME TIME !



Talented actors from the Image Theatre Company came into school to perform their version of Dr. Doolittle with the children. While all the children were able to participate through singing, a group were selected to become actors in the production. They did an amazing job and the pantomime was a huge success.



When I listen to you,  
and you listen to me,  
We're stronger together,  
as friends we'll always be.  
Caring for each other,  
the earth, land and sea.  
That's how the world's  
meant to be!



Our thanks to our wonderful P.T.A for making this memorable event possible. What a wonderful opportunity for the children: singing, story-telling, acting and an insight into the magic of theatrical production. Excellent!



# Are you ready to rock with ROCKSTEADY MUSIC SCHOOL?



We welcomed Rocksteady in to lead a whole school assembly and workshop. Creating both a staff and a pupil band, everyone had great fun. It turns out we have some very cool and happening people here at Sibford Gower Primary School!



To have a look at Rocksteady's website, please click on this link  
<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

Science Week was great fun, as well as being really interesting. At the end of the week, the whole school gathered to share some of the things we had learned and discovered through the many practical science activities we had taken part in. This was a great opportunity for children to develop their public speaking skills as they presented their learning to the school.





# Easter Egg Competition

We always enjoy seeing the children's creative contributions to the annual Easter Egg Competition and this year did not disappoint. There are always so many creative ideas and approaches.

Here are just a few of the entries.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported the children to get these into school.



Below are the winning entries, alongside a picture of our talented winners. Very well done all of you!



# Sport at Sibford Gower

SPRING TERM



A busy term for PE and sporting events. We have taken part in a number of interhouse competitions during PE lessons as well as events outside out school.

Some of year 5 and 6 children took part in the annual NOSSP 'Hockey Event'. They all played extremely well and came third overall in their league- **AMAZING!**

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Acorn Class were invited to their first sporting event of the year. They took part in a Multi Skills event at Bloxham Primary School. They participated in lots of activities in the wonderful sunshine and thoroughly enjoyed their morning!



Ms Blake Said

*"They were superbly behaved, a real credit to families and the school."*

*Well done Little Acorns, we are very proud of you all!*

We couldn't be prouder of our children, they took part in our planned 'Fun Run for Freddie's Fund' [Freddie's Future](https://www.justgiving.com/page/sibford-gower-primary-school-3?)

This was a wonderful, inclusive challenge in support of an important local charity that funds research, awareness, and support for families affected by bone cancer. **A huge thank you to our amazing families who supported us, what a fantastic community we have here at Sibford Gower.** <https://www.justgiving.com/page/sibford-gower-primary-school-3?>



So far, your generosity has raised £750 !

**Freddie's mum said:** *I just wanted to say a huge heartfelt thank you for your fun run you did for my charity, Freddie's future.*

*I am more than sure you have read Freddie's story, and you can understand what a terrifying disease this is for children like Freddie which holds such poor prognosis.*

*So when kind, amazing people like your School do a fundraiser like this, it is so deeply personal to my little family, and all the families fighting this awful disease.*

*So I just wanted to say a huge heartfelt thank you for raising such an amazing amount of money for Freddie's Future, it really does mean the world to me and all the family like ours out there, we couldn't do it without people like you. So thank you Freddie's mum x*



# Sibford Gower SEN



Although it may seem quiet for SEN this term, it has been a busy term 'in house'. A lot of SEN paperwork happens during Spring. I thought it might be helpful for a little break down of the paperwork our families receive. The main paperwork that is sent home this term is a 'pupil profile'.

**Pupil Profiles-** These are for children who are on the SEN register and are sent home three times a year, following a meeting with the family and class teacher or SENCO. A pupil profile provides detailed information about a pupil's educational needs, learning targets and progress.

**Additional Needs** Any additional needs, e.g. SEMH

**PP** Stands for Pupil Premium

**Primary Need**  
This is the primary need of the child, e.g. Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia.

PRIMARY PUPIL PROFILE										
Name:		Class/YG: Year		Date profile completed:		Review: 1 2 3		EHA/TA F: Y/N		LAC: Y/N
PP: Y/N		SEN status:		Primary Need:		Additional Need:		Medical diagnosis if appropriate:		Exclusions: N/A
										FTE No: Days:
Reading:	3 years behind	2 years behind	1 year behind	AGE RELATED		1 year above	2 years above	3 years above		Latest SATs/phonic score:
Writing:	3 years behind	2 years behind	1 year behind	AGE RELATED		1 year above	2 years above	3 years above		Latest SATs/phonic score:
Maths:	3 years behind	2 years behind	1 year behind	AGE RELATED		1 year above	2 years above	3 years above		Latest SATs score:
Standardised scores (see tracker for tests used and past results):										
			Reading age, date and test:		Comprehension age, date and test:		Spelling age, date and test:		Maths age, date and test:	
			Salford Reading		PIRA		Parallel		PUMA	

**Salford-** This is a reading assessment scheme that we use across the school. It provides a reading age and a comprehension age.

**PIRA-** This is a reading paper that is used to support reading assessment. It focuses on decoding, comprehension and inference.

**Parallel-** A spelling test. You may also see 'Jolly Phonics' assessment, depending on the age of the child and need.

**Puma-** Maths assessment

## Upcoming Events this Easter

[Sensory Friendly Bowling and Cinema Sessions | The Light Banbury](#)



**Wheels For All** - What is it? Supportive, safe and inclusive cycling sessions for those with physical, learning and well-being needs. All are welcome; no diagnosis or referral required.

When is it? Every Saturday 11am-1pm, all ages welcome

Where is it? Wood Green School, Witney, OX28 1DX

**Hatton Country Park-** Visitors providing documentation are eligible for **one free carer's ticket.**

[Children Adventure Farm Park in Warwickshire | Adventure World](#)

**The Story Museum- OXFORD** [What's On | The Story Museum](#)



**Science Oxford** [What's On - Latest Events & Clubs - Science Oxford](#)

# STRONG ATTENDANCE REALLY MATTERS!

Regular school attendance is essential for your child's learning, wellbeing, and future opportunities. Children who attend school every day are more likely to achieve well, build strong friendships, and develop important life skills.

The government's guidance *Working Together to Improve School Attendance* highlights that attendance is a shared responsibility between parents, schools, and local authorities. Parents also have a legal duty to ensure their child receives a full-time education, which usually means attending school every day unless there is an approved reason for absence.

Being in school every day, and arriving on time from the start of Reception, helps children feel settled, confident, and ready to learn. Even small amounts of missed learning can add up, and frequent absence or lateness can make it harder for children to keep up with lessons, routines, and friendships.

Thank you for supporting us by ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Your support makes a real difference to their learning, happiness, and success.

## Should I keep my child off school?

### Yes, until...

- Chicken Pox (Until all blisters have crusted over).
- Vomiting and Diarrhoea (Return 48 hours from the last episode).
- Flu-like temperature (Until they no longer have a high temperature).
- Impetigo (Until their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics).
- Measles (4 days after the rash first appeared).
- Mumps (5 days after the swelling started).
- Scabies (Until they've had their first treatment).
- Scarlet Fever (24 hours after they started taking antibiotics).
- Whooping Cough (48 hours after they started taking antibiotics).

### No, but inform your child's class teacher of:

- Cough
- Sore throat (keep off school if accompanied by a high temperature)
- Earache
- Head lice
- Hand, foot and mouth
- Threadworms
- Glandular Fever
- Slapped Cheek
- Tonsillitis
- Conjunctivitis
- Cold sores

Please click on this link to access the latest NHS guidance  
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



# Have a lovely



# EASTER HOLIDAY