



School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

SATs are now over for Years 2 and 6. Despite the inevitable stress of exam time for the older children, they handled themselves very well throughout and really showed what responsible and mature young people they are fast becoming. The chocolate buttons and the crumpets went down well too!

Despite SATs preparation, the school has been a hive of all kinds of creative activity, with lots of outdoor learning in all areas of our constantly developing school grounds and much more, as you will see in the body of this newsletter.

There is much learning still to be done by all the children over the next half term, but there should be a lot of fun too. We have already started work on the KS2 production, there is a round house to be completed, cycling proficiency for Year 5 children, trips to be taken and a number of sporting events scheduled, including Sports Day, when the House Cup will be awarded.

Even though the long summer holiday is approaching, it is very important that we continue to support all the children in their learning journey. We will do our bit at school, but you can support by continuing to practise 'learn-its' and spellings with your children at home, as well as sharing books with them and listening to them read on a regular basis. Your support with this really does make a difference.

Please remember that although teachers are back in on Monday 6th June, the children do not return until Tuesday 7th June.

Have a lovely holiday.

With best wishes,



A Midsummer Night's Dream



The children of the KS2 Drama Club gave a very polished evening performance of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' to family & friends. The atmosphere was relaxed as both performers and audience moved between the hall and the school grounds. A truly enchanting evening, enjoyed by all.



THANK YOU PTA

From the proceeds of the annual Art Exhibition, our PTA have donated £350 to the Rojo Rojo Orphanage in Kenya. You can find out more about the orphanage, its residents and the kind of valuable projects our donation will be supporting by clicking on <http://www.aid4rojo.org>

These Oak Class children have been shortlisted as finalists in the Deddington Writing Festival.

Harold Edwards - A Choice

Charlotte Allen - A Fork in the Road

Jack Rowley - The Voice of Conscience

Gemma Craig - Indecisive

Eppie Chittock - A Fork in the Road



Best Class attendance this month: Acorn 96.1%



Children return to school on Tuesday, 7th June.



Willow Class had a homework competition to see who could build the best Viking longships. All the entries were amazing but these four were the overall winners.



Acorn Class



This term our topic has been Animal Magic where we have explored Emile Saint-Saen's The Carnival of the Animals. The children have learnt how to classify mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians over the past term. They have been bird watchers, zoo keepers, aquarium creators and fish mongers! We have been looking at different types of fish and looked inside them to see which parts we eat and which parts we throw away.



We have had such a creative time learning about the carnival of the animals, we have been creating dances pretending to be animals of the rainforest,



The children have also been working hard to make sure they can say, order, recognise and write numbers to 20.



We have had many animal visitors into Acorn class including a puppy, a Siberian hamster, and an enormous rabbit! We have also had very informative talks from Mr Cameron about his Tortoises and Miss Ivy Mizen about her snakes!



Beech Class News



This term Beech class have been doing lots of learning around The Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saëns. This has tied in brilliantly with their Science, Literacy and Art. We have learnt lots about different animals, how to classify them and how they interact with other animals in prey and predator relationships to produce food chains and food webs. We have learnt to draw the earliest reptiles, create camouflage collages, different paper plate animals and design our own new species including writing a fact file about them.



We will also be designing a zoo for our new animals to live in through which children will need to problem solve using their science knowledge to think about which animals could live together and which animals would eat each other!



On a further note, well done to Year 2 who have worked extremely hard through their SATs tests! They persevered even when things were tricky and really thought about what skills they had learnt to help them. I personally could not be prouder of them!



Willow Class News

We have been learning about the Vikings this term. It has been a very exciting topic. To make it more realistic we have turned our classroom into a Viking longship. This is where we now do all our maths, writing and reading. We have made side panels from cardboard and painted them to look like wooden planks.



We have hung our Viking shields on the side of the boat alongside the oars, and the dragon's head sits at the front of the ship. We hand painted the sail, which now hangs from our ceiling. For homework we have made Viking longships, which are now displayed in the classroom.



We have written articles for The Viking Guardian newspaper and Nettie, Bella B and Isabel were the editors. We have also made posters to demonstrate all our Viking Knowledge. We hope to read our stories about a little scared Viking to Acorn Class very soon. Let's hope they won't be too scared!

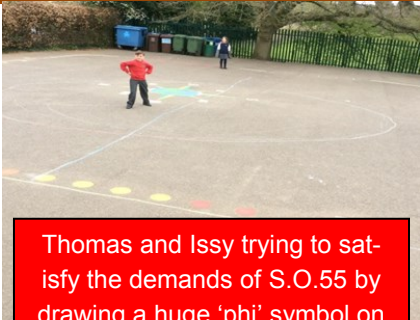




Maple Class News

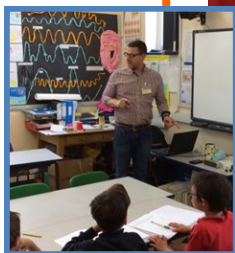
As we approach the summer, the children are involving themselves fully in a wide range of different topics and projects, and it is shaping up to be an exciting (if hectic!) end to the school year. Read on...

Maths In addition to our routine work with CLIC, where the focus recently has been on "special" numbers, we have also been looking at collecting and reading data for different types of graph and chart. We have a couple of new mental maths games too - "Dice of Doom" and "Post-It-Note-Slap-On-Head"! The children have also been doing a great deal of research into planning their own school trip connected to next term's topic of "water". This has involved solving very real problems with time and money! We will follow the plans of one group and go on their trip.



Thomas and Issy trying to satisfy the demands of S.O.55 by drawing a huge 'phi' symbol on the playground.

Year 4 Science Our main topic has been teeth and digestion this term. We have been looking at the different types and functions of human teeth, as well as what happens to our food once it has gone into our mouths. One sunny day, we even managed to make a model of the human digestive system outside on the mini-field (see photos!). We are hopefully also about to come up with a definitive solution to our soundproofing problem between Maple and Willow Classes, with some wise guidance from visiting sound expert, Dave Rowley!



English

The children have been closely following this term's class novel, *Holes*, and we have been creating our own 3D desert landscape to reflect the setting of the novel using scrap paper and mod-roc. The children continue to expand their repertoire of grammatical terms through The Grammar Game and the ultimate Maple Class v Mr Cameron grammar challenge! The children's adapted fairy tales, which they started writing before my back troubles began, have been turned into fantastic film scripts, which we will be recording after the holiday. We also have the school production of "The Rescue of Rhyme and Reason" (an adaptation of *The Phantom Tollbooth*) to look forward to...

Computing

Groups have been researching possible school trips for next term. This has involved them using web searches effectively, using online maps to calculate distance and finding out about transport. They have also been creating presentations to convince us that their trip would be the best! We have also been continuing with our podcast project - we will record these next term.



Roan "eating" banana and Weetabix in our model of the human digestive system.

Passing our food into the lower intestine...

Topic After a lengthy delay due to my absence, our Sibfords Walking Trail is now nearly complete. The children have finished designing their map, with a very well-considered route! A leaflet containing a map of the route, together with details of points of interest, will be available after the holidays, when we will also be displaying signs to mark the trail.

Design & Technology

The Iron Age roundhouse has finally started taking shape after we took delivery of a large amount of wood, and a brilliant DVD sent to us from Suffolk County Council which has given us a blueprint to work from. Do come and join in the fun some time!



Starting to build our Iron Age roundhouse...

P.E.

Hockey: Fresh from the success of the school team, we have been honing our hockey skills to ensure that we can compete just as well next year!

Dance: We have now finished our dance topic, with a fabulous routine to a remix of Elvis's *A Little Less Conversation*. It was great to see each and every child in the class take part, and it shows how well they are able to work as a group.

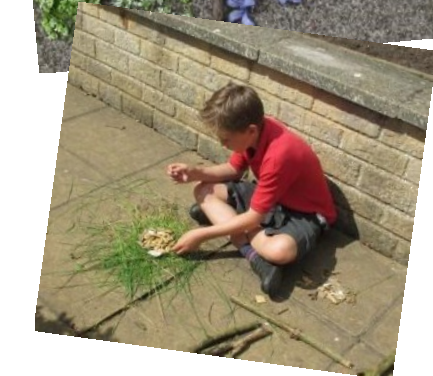




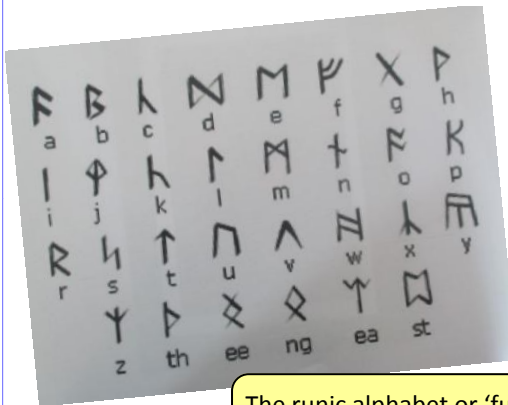
Oak Class News



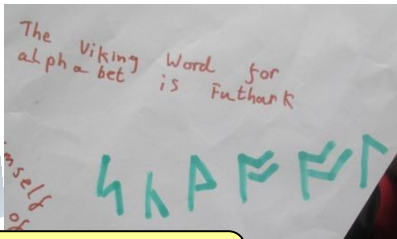
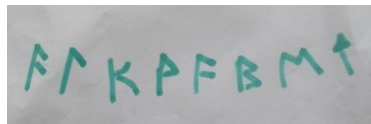
It has been a very academically focused term for the children in Oak Class, particularly those in Year 6 who have been taking part in SATs. However, they have also had opportunities to take part in lots of other activities, for instance, a rocket building competition in which they had to design, build and then refine rockets to see whose would fly the highest, a day spent exploring and creating their own environmental art inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy, and lots of writing! Six of the children have qualified for the final of the Deddington Writing Festival. We will let you know the outcome once a decision about the winner has been reached.



Children in Oak Class have also been working on presentations on the theme of 'Vikings', their current topic. They have done some brilliant work and taken very varied approaches to this. As well as informative powerpoint presentations and well-researched talks, we have been treated to 'Viking Soup' and Viking cakes, been able to literally lift the lid on a Viking house and take a look inside, handled replica Viking coins and translated runes. Excellent work, Oak Class.



The runic alphabet or 'futhork'. Can you use the key to decode these words?



Viking Coins—researched and made by Charlotte.



Outside



Inside



Polly, Eppie & Evie gave an excellent presentation on the Viking house.



A SAD GOOD-BYE

This half-term, we say good-bye to Carol and Louise, our lovely cooks. Happily, Carol will be staying on at ASC. Louise is going to be working in a pub as she trains to run her own.

Both Carol and Louise put a huge amount of care into their work here. They know all of the children and work hard to take care of the needs of each one of them.

We will miss their smiling faces at lunchtime but wish them both well.

Working with wax

Extracting our DNA

Rocket Design

Forest School

Workshops at The Warriner

Smelly Science

One of the brilliant things about being part of the Warriner Multi Academy Trust is our commitment to working closely together to provide opportunities to enhance and enrich the learning experiences of all of our children. This term, children from the three primary schools travelled to The Warriner on coaches, where they met up for a day of learning and fun. Staff from the primary schools and the secondary school led workshops and activities throughout the day, and our children had a chance to make friends with children from the other schools. The staff enjoyed working together too. Pupils from the Warriner helped to organise us and made sure we all knew where to go.

African Drumming

Singing

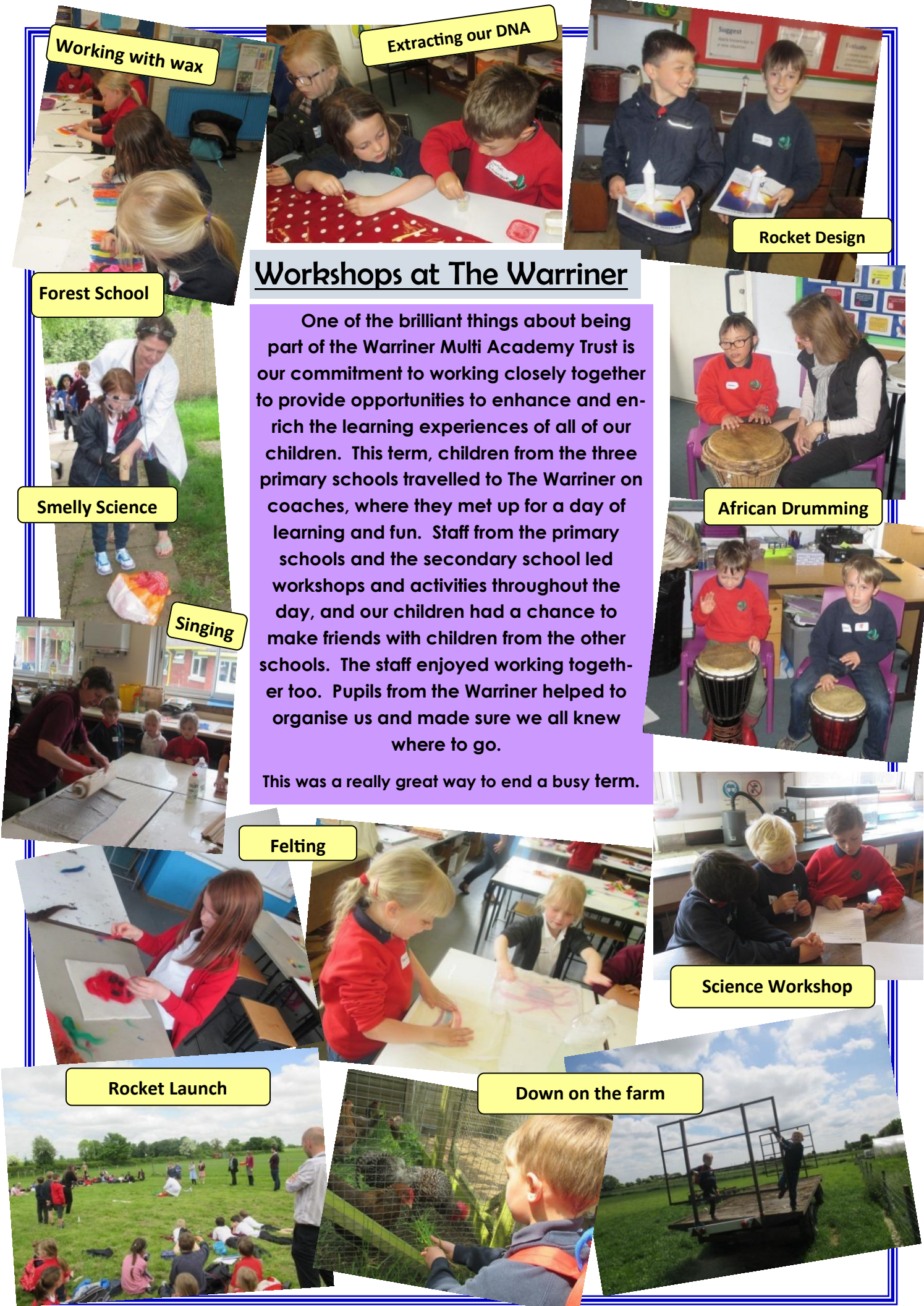
This was a really great way to end a busy term.

Felting

Science Workshop

Rocket Launch

Down on the farm



Update on outdoor learning.

Most of you will have noticed an emphasis on 'learning outdoors' through much of this publication. The positive academic, physical and emotional benefits of children spending a proportion of their time on outdoor activities of all kinds have been the subject of much research and are something we wholeheartedly promote and actively support at our school.

You will all be aware of the amazing work done as part of the Orchard Project, to create a beautiful and vibrant space which is now regularly used by all of our children. Fewer of you will be aware of what is going on behind Beech classroom and made possible, once again, by both the financial and practical support of our brilliant PTA.

We are going to transform the 'music shack into an outdoor learning resource centre and mini-classroom.



We have installed fencing to enclose the space, making it safe and secure

We will make much more use of the bandstand as a learning space.



We have already planted some ferns and climbing plants.

During the Easter holiday, fencing was installed to provide a safe and secure outdoor learning space for the children of Beech Class. Within this, we have begun to transform the old 'Music Shack' into an Outdoor Learning Resource Centre to be used as a mini-classroom by all of our children. Inside the classroom we intend to have shelves of books and resources, posters and beanbags, a projector as a teaching resource, and much more. In the space outside, we are installing raised beds for planting, crab-apple trees to attract wildlife, digging spaces for digging, and other activity ideas. Amanda Ransom, parent to Flora, Imogen and Thea, has been a driving force behind this, researching costs, organising contractors and helping to turn aspirations into reality.

Our outdoor environment has recently been assessed as a suitable venue for training Forest School Leaders. We have arranged for teachers from across the partnership to come and train here during the course of the next year. This training is hard work for the adults involved (hopefully at least two of our own), but well worth it. Before too long, our children will be able to build and cook on camp fires, whittle wood, build dens and so much more with our very own, fully qualified staff, as part of their regular curriculum.

Governor's Corner Over the past few weeks, in addition to attendance at committee meetings, individual governors have supported in school in a number of ways; by attending a meeting of the School Council, monitoring and invigilating Year 6 SATs, and judging in the wonderful 'Sibford Gower's Got Talent' event. New governor Paul Manthorpe has been in for a visit to find out how we do things, with a particular interest in our approach to supporting those children with Special Educational Needs. Governors are currently working on developing a Parent Questionnaire which they hope to circulate before the Summer holiday.



New faces at After School Club

Charlotte Dudfield joined us as ASC playleader back in March and Carol Luke has recently started as our new playworker. Carol is a familiar face as she had been our school cook since before any of our current children started at the school. Both have settled into their roles really well and are doing a fantastic job of caring for the children, as well as having lots of fun!

Have a happy

