



May 2022

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have a slightly shorter newsletter this time, to match the shortness of the 5 week term. We have still managed to cram a lot in though, including Healthy Week, Jubilee Art Days and SATS for Years 2 and 6! It has been lovely to see the re-introduction of more social enrichment activities for the children, such as the volunteer-run after school clubs and the PTA disco. Although the final half-term will be a busy learning term for the children right up to the summer holiday, with some more statutory tests for some year groups too, we have all sorts of events planned as well. These include Sports Week for the children, Sports Day for everyone, the Oak Class Summer Performance, Reception Graduation and our Leavers Assembly. We will also be having two transition days in school, when children will spend time with the children and teacher they will be with next year. As we finalise dates, we will upload them to the Diary Dates page of the school website: <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/school-term-and-diary-dates.html>

I think we are all going to need this coming week of holiday to be ready and rested for it all!

Please do remember that the Monday after half-term is a staff training day for teachers and the children return to school on Tuesday 7th June. We look forward to seeing you all then.

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher



PLATINUM JUBILEE ART DAY

All the children took part in our Jubilee Art Days in school as part of our celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The older children created some wonderful collages of the Queen using scraps from glossy magazines.



Children return to school on
Tuesday 7th June

Best Class Attendance this half
term: **Beech Class 96.5%**



ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term the children in Acorn class have been real life Go-Jetters! We have travelled around the world finding out about different countries and ways of life. Read on to find out more!

Our adventures have taken us to so many places including the continent of Africa where we found out about different types of animals that live there, to Australia where we looked at Indigenous Australian artwork and finally to Antarctica (sorry if we brought some of the decidedly chilly weather back with us!). We have enjoyed expressing our adventures creatively through art, exploring ice and even by becoming elephants to practise our 'elephant trunk' curvy letters in Write Dance!



We couldn't visit Italy without trying out some pizzas! We started by making pizzas and gelato in our role play area - a pizzeria and gelato café - but of course, once we'd had a practise we had to try making our own for real! We loved spreading the tomato sauce onto the base and adding our toppings. We enjoyed seeing how they changed when they were cooked and talking about what we saw. During Healthy Week we also made fruit kebabs and enjoyed sharing them with Beech Class outside.

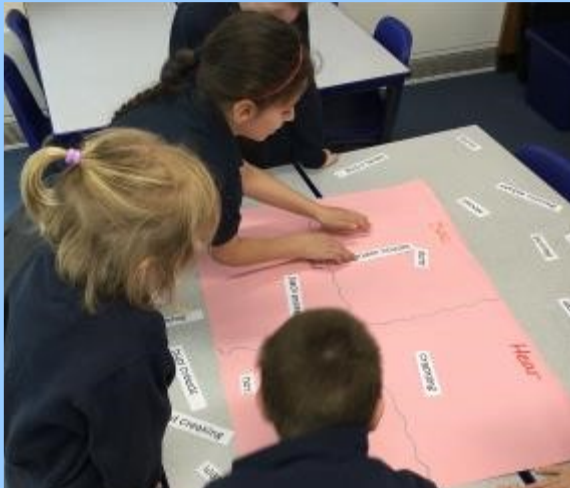
Of course, any great world explorers need to be good at maths and have a good grasp of shapes to help navigate their way around. To this end, we have been learning about different shapes and have been shape spotting in our classroom - look at all the super shapes we found! We've also enjoyed exploring 'subtraction stories' and using our friends the Numberblocks to help us compare quantities.

On our travels we have also become scientists; for example, when visiting Venice we had to make some paper boats to help us through the many canals and we took the opportunity to play 'Floaty Floaty Sinky Sinky' - predicting and then testing which objects will float and which will sink.



Beech Class Bits

The learning theme in Beech Class this half-term has been The Great Fire of London. The children have explored this in history lessons: when was the great fire and how do we know so much about it? Geography: where was the Great Fire and how did the appearance of London change as a result? English: descriptive writing about the fire and our own diary entries (a bit like those of Samuel Pepys!). Art & Design: making flame paintings and line drawings of tudor houses for the class Great Fire of London display.



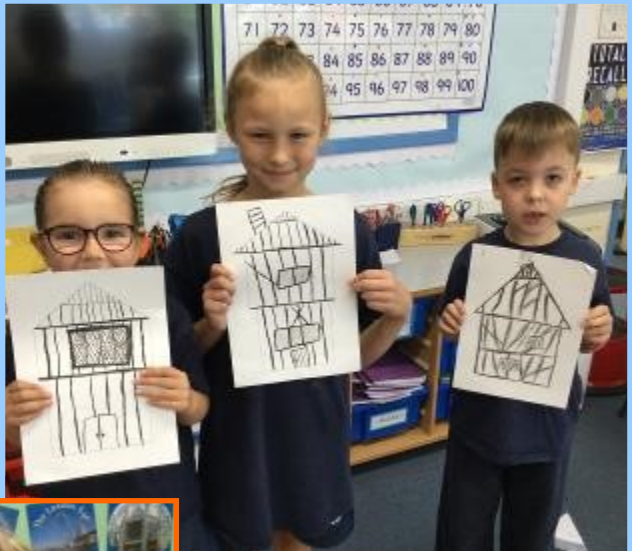
A group session exploring vocabulary resulted in some amazing pieces of writing.



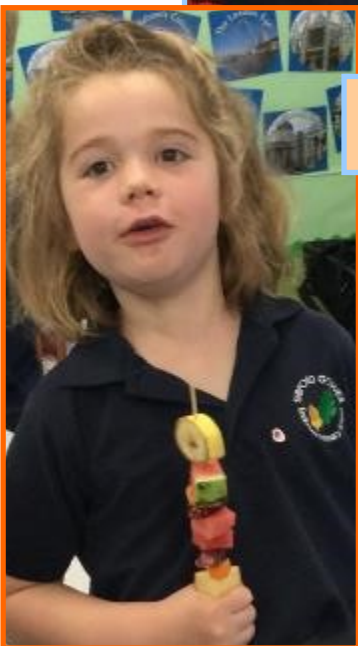
We celebrated their writing by putting some of the children in the Author's Chair to share their work.



The children explored warm colours to create flame art and made line drawings of tudor houses for the class Great Fire of London display.



In R.E, the children explored the story of David & Goliath. They painted their own rocks to keep as reminders of how we can be brave, even when challenges seem enormous!



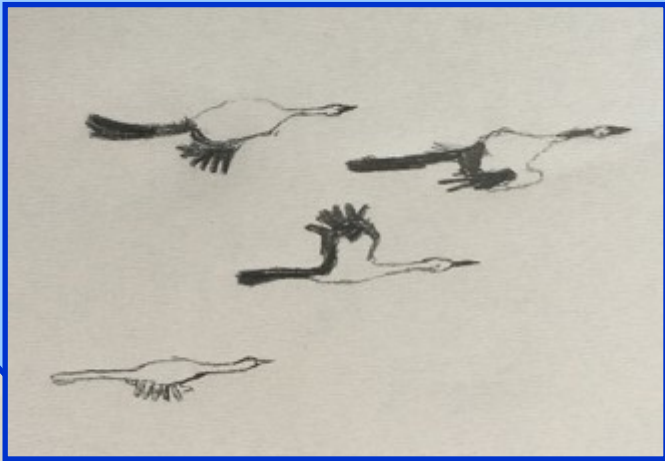
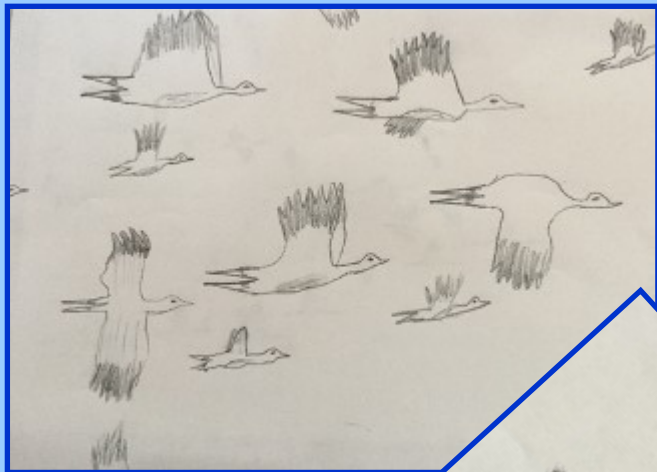
In Healthy Week, the children made some delicious fruit kebabs.



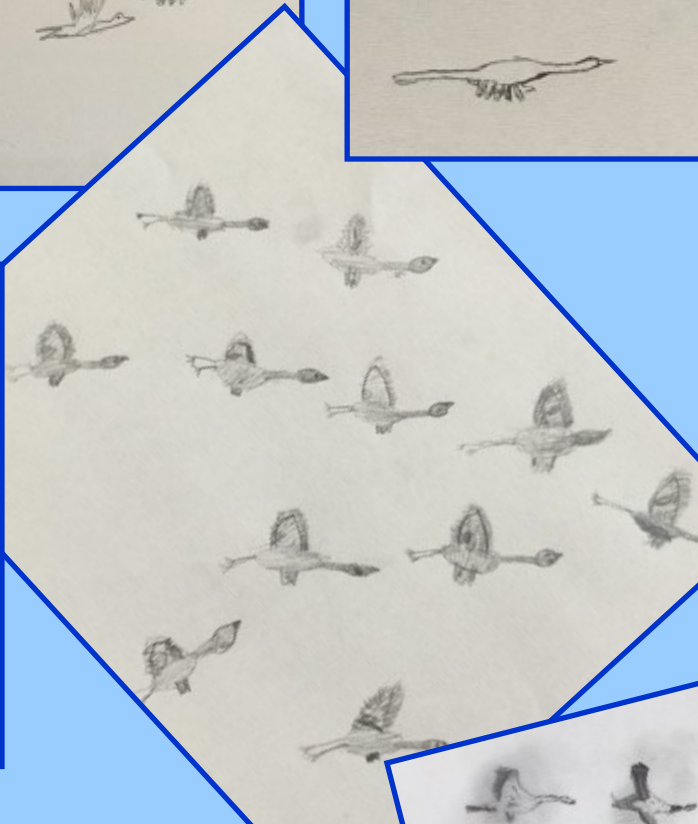
And Year 2 completed SATs tests! Very well done Year 2!



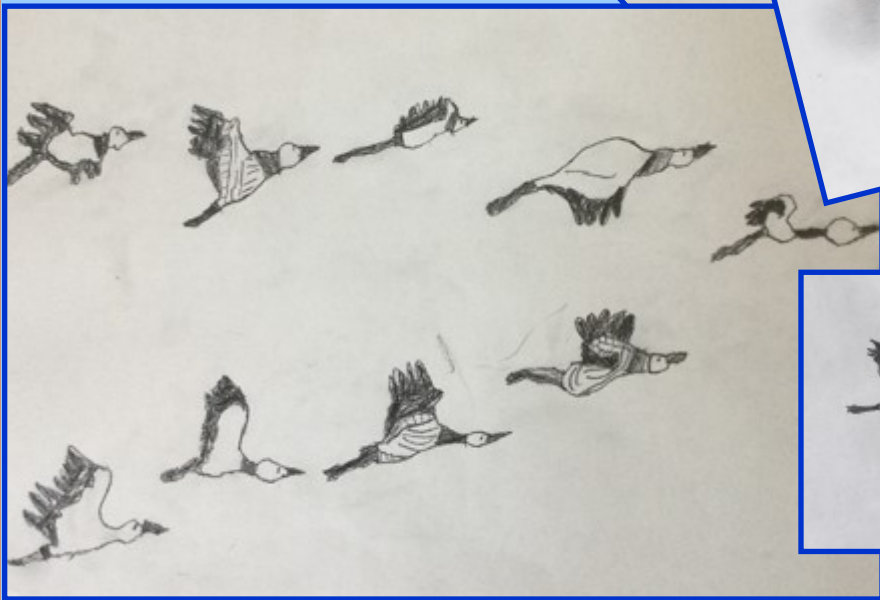
On the Friday after Year 6 SATs had finished, the children in Years 3, 4 and 5 spent the afternoon working together while their Year 6 friends had a very special day of Forest School after all their hard 'brain work'. The children had a wonderful art afternoon, celebrating 'World Migratory Bird Day'.



The children learned about the importance of birds migrating to different countries and why they do this. They really enjoyed the learning and deepened their understanding of this topic!



And they practised their drawing and composition techniques through the creation of their very own bird-migration themed sketches. They were very pleased with the results!



Year 6 Forest School Celebration

Year 6 had a wonderful day celebrating the end of their SATs. They created natural art and dens, and used a range of tools to produce amazing items such as whistles and wooden crafts!

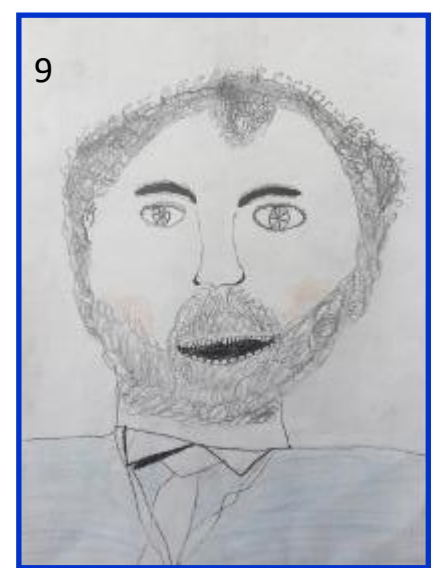
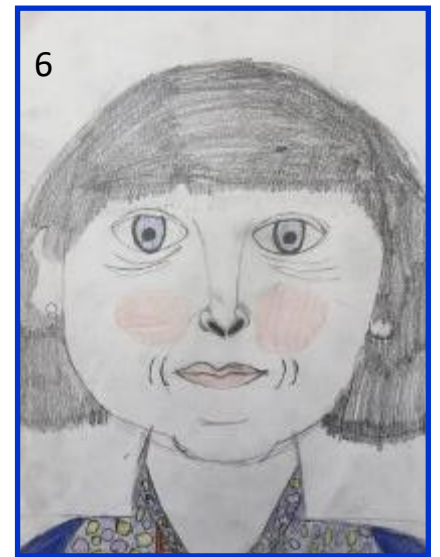
To finish the day, we all had hot chocolate with marshmallows. We made the hot chocolate using a storm kettle! Such fun!!



Aimee: "I loved being all together"
Theo: "Making dens was so much fun!"
Sidney: "I loved being creative with the string."
Kitty: "We made mud saloon- best day ever!"



This half-term we updated our staff portrait board with some help from Year 5 children (and a few year 6—you know who you are!) **Can you work out who these staff members are?**



To see more staff portraits, look on the school website at

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

1. Miss Keogh, 2. Mrs Perkins, 3. Ms Cavaghan, 4. Mrs Evans, 5. Miss Blake, 6. Mrs Humphrey, 7. Miss Coffey, 8. Mrs O'Sullivan, 9. Mr Cameron

PTA Spring Disco

The school disco was great fun and the children were buzzing with excitement about it all day beforehand. Huge thanks to all the members of the PTA who worked so hard to make this happen; the events you organise for the school mean so much to us all and create a real sense of community. Thanks also to the amazing and talented Tony Cran who made the disco such huge fun, and to all those members of staff who stayed after school to support with things.

Great dancing, great fun and great transfer 'tattoos'! Thank you P.T.A.



Anyone who has seen Tony in action knows how great at running children's discos and parties he is. The children love him and he gets everyone up on their feet and moving. If you think you might want to book Tony Cran's 'Pulsation Roadshow', you can find out more and get in touch with Tony:

Tel: 07960 641905,

www.facebook.com/pulsationroadshow ,

pulsation@live.co.uk

Why is it so important that my child arrives at school on time?

Good attendance and punctuality at school are so important for children. Although missed learning is more obvious when children are absent for whole days, the impact of persistent lateness in terms of learning opportunities lost may surprise you. Although lateness will occasionally be unavoidable, when it occurs more frequently, it can leave your child feeling anxious and unsettled about what they may have missed.

Minutes late per day	Equivalent of missing
5 Minutes	3.4 school days a year
10 Minutes	6.9 school days a year
15 Minutes	10.3 school days a year
20 Minutes	13.8 school days a year
30 Minutes	20.7 school days a year

Our school day begins at 8.40 a.m and children will be engaged in learning activities of some description from this time. Please help us to provide the best possible education for your child by ensuring that they arrive at school for 8:40 a.m.

Please do remember that we also operate a **Breakfast Club from 8 o'clock each morning** where children can begin the day in a calm and safe environment playing with friends. For more details about this provision, please look on the school website at:

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

A message from Paul Manthorpe, Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a short but busy term for everyone involved with the school. Although, in theory, only two year groups actually take the SATs tests, the knock-on effect of teaching the other half of those classes means that the team work our wonderful school excels at comes to the fore.

Our thanks to everyone; staff, parents, governors, but especially to the pupils. I was fortunate enough to be able to come into the school during this time and was so impressed with the work being done to prepare everyone for, what could be, a very stressful time. Everything that could have been done to reduce the stress was done and the pupils, at least, seemed calm and ready. Times such as these are never worry-free for the staff and yet they continue like swans – calm on the outside but paddling furiously under the water!!!

Our Academy Committee has met to discuss the progress of the school and your responses to our questionnaire – many thanks to those of you who were able to respond. It was very pleasing to have so many positive answers to the questions posed and to receive such good feedback. We will continue to do our work to ensure that our school carries on flourishing.

With very kind regards

Paul and all of the Governors

Paul Manthorpe

Chair of Governors



HAPPY HOLIDAY