



May 2023

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a very busy half-term it has been! Our Year 2 and 6 children have completed their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). Many of you will have seen articles in the national press about how challenging some of the SATs content was. Regardless of this, all of our Year 6 children were an absolute credit to themselves during the test period. They were positive and resilient throughout and we are very, very proud of them.

Over the past few weeks, all sorts of exciting things have been going on in school and in the local community. Children across the school took part in Coronation Art Days during which each class create a collaborative piece of art work on the theme of 'Crown' which were exhibited at the Village Hall as part of an art competition during the Coronation weekend celebrations. All the work was strong but two pieces stood out especially for the judges. Beech Class won the 1st prize of £30 to buy special art resources for their class with their stained glass crown mobile. Willow Class made a beautiful collaged crown on canvas, which won them £20 for art resources. Mrs Cran and Chloe from our lunch caterers, Freshstart, prepared a special Coronation picnic for the children and the PTA organised the Bring & Buy Coronation Cake Sale which raised a very impressive £193. Very well done everyone, and thank you!!

We have all sorts of events planned for next half-term as well. These include Healthy Week, Sports Day, the Oak Class Summer Performance, Reception Graduation and our Leavers Assembly. We will also be having two transition days in school where children will spend the morning 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 rested and ready 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 6th June. We look forward to seeing you all then.

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher



Children return to school on Tuesday 6th June



Best Class Attendance this half term:



Beech Class 97%

CORONATION ART DAY



Children from Nursery to Year 6 took part in Coronation Art Days in school as part of the community celebrations of the coronation of King Charles III. These collage crowns are by Acorn Class and Willow Class.

Well done children!



ACORN CLASS NEWS

Hooray! Finally, now we've reached the 'Summer' Term, it feels like Spring is here! This term we have had so many adventures jet setting around the globe to explore different continents, countries and cultures. Join us on our adventure as we take you on a whistle stop tour of what Acorn Class have been up to this half term.



Observing Outdoors

This time of year brings so many beautiful changes to the world around us. As adults, so used to these sights year after year, we can sometimes forget to notice this incredible display the natural world has for us but working with Acorn Class has certainly made us look again. Excitable cries of 'blossom snow' rang out across our outdoor area as the children (and adults) were amazed to see the carpet of pink petals that had covered the space. The blossom then became the start of many a game and activity from being scooped up by our many diggers and construction vehicles to be used in potions and cakes in our mud kitchen to just being joyous tossed in the air to make it 'snow'!

We have also been having so much fun at our weekly Forest School sessions; den building with ropes and tarpaulins (using the mallet was really fun), making natural crowns to celebrate the coronation and making potions and weird and wonderful soups from things we have found around us. We loved playing 'campfires' in our new dens pretending to 'cook' our natural recipes in the huge saucepans!

Globetrotting Adventures

This term the children have had a great time exploring the world - they've stopped off in Africa to visit and learn about animals in Kenya, Australia where they tried their hand at Aboriginal dot paintings and Europe where the children visited Italy. On the Italian leg of their journey, Acorn enjoyed the pizza restaurant in our classroom, taking orders, practising their turn taking and listening skills to ensure the right toppings were added to the pizzas. We also learned about Mount Etna and created our own volcano from Duplo, Mrs Perkins then made it erupt! We talked about the three different stages of a volcano: active, dormant and extinct.



Food, Glorious, Food!

If there's a chance we can get food into our learning in Acorn Class, we do it! This term has been no exception, we started off by making pizzas during our visit to Italy. Having practised with our felt play pizzas in our Italian Restaurant role play area, we were more than ready to tackle the real thing! First we watched a video about how a real Italian pizza is made and then selected and made our own 'pitta pizzas' - lots of great conversations about our likes and dislikes. Our pizzas were then cooked and taken home for a lovely Friday night tea!

We also made decorated cupcakes to celebrate the coronation. We had red, white and blue icing and all sorts of sprinkles and toppings to choose from including a little 'raspberry meringue crown' to top it all off - when they were finished I'm sure you'll agree they were fit for a King!



Number Explorers

Acorn Class love maths! This term they have been looking at numbers bigger than 10 and have been finding out all sorts of wonderful things about number 11-20.

The children enjoyed exploring how many 'Super Rectangles' Number 12 can make ('Arrays Away!') and using our manipulative to show the number in many different ways. We also found out that 16 is part of a super special group of numbers called 'Square Club' and enjoyed making 16 squares using our peg boards and finding out how we can make the number 16 (did you know 16 is made up of 4 fours and 4 is also a member of Square Club?).

We also investigated the number 20 - did you know you can make it with 10 twos, 4 fives, 5 fours, 2 tens and 20 ones?! We also practised our careful counting by decorating Numberblock 20's top hat with 20 super colourful stars!



News from Beech Class

It has been a very busy half-term in Beech Class and we've had such great fun! As well as our curriculum learning, we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III.

We made stained glass window crowns as part of the village competition. We made ours into a beautiful mobile which won first prize!! It is now hanging in the school hall for everyone to see.



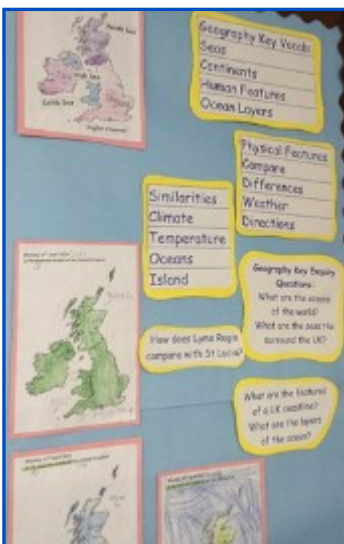
We decorated delicious cupcakes with red, white, and blue and sweet 'crown' treats! We then enjoyed some treats in our outdoor area and had a mindful moment of gratitude.



In our computing session, we became music producers using 2sequence on Purple Mash. This was great fun!



As part of our learning about the British Coastline, we have learned about the four seas and the four countries of the United Kingdom. Do ask your children about these.



In Science, we have been exploring life-cycles. Our caterpillars turned into pupa inside their chrysalises and now we are waiting for our first live butterfly to emerge. Fingers crossed!

The Beech Class trip to the Steam Museum at Swindon was really interesting and the day just whizzed by...nearly as fast as Stephenson's Rocket! The children took part in two history based Discovery Workshops and were able to dress up and explore a range of historical artefacts, all within the amazing environment of the Steam Museum which is housed in part of the original factory complex where the steam trains of the Great Western Railway (GWR) were repaired and maintained.



George and Robert Stephenson after they won the competition with their entry: The Rocket.



Brunel with his very tall stovepipe hat! Brunel knew that people wanted to travel from places like London to Bristol so he came up with the idea for Great Western Railway. However, he faced a problem... he had built a successful railway line but he had no engines. Luckily he had an idea...



Thankfully, they said yes! So they set to work on building 'The North Star'.



He wrote a letter to George and Robert Stephenson – who lived 200 miles away – to ask them for their help.



Mrs O'Sullivan has been having fun teaching Beech Class too. We have been exploring 2D into 3D, drawing feathers, creating 'featheriness' and then bringing all of this together to create bird sculptures.



News from Willow Class

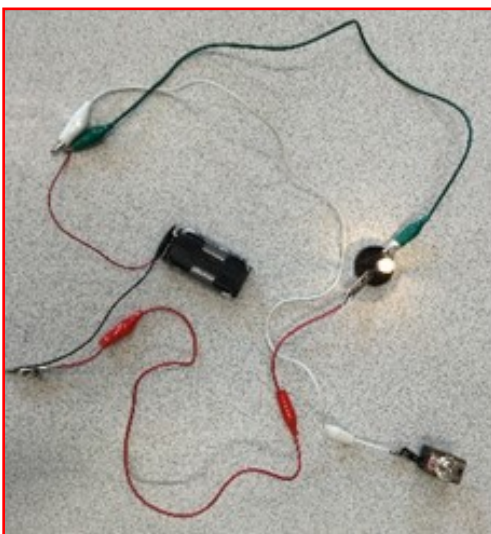
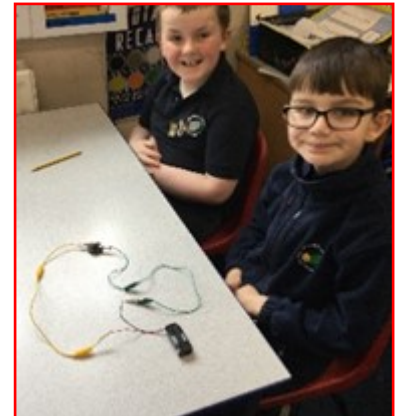
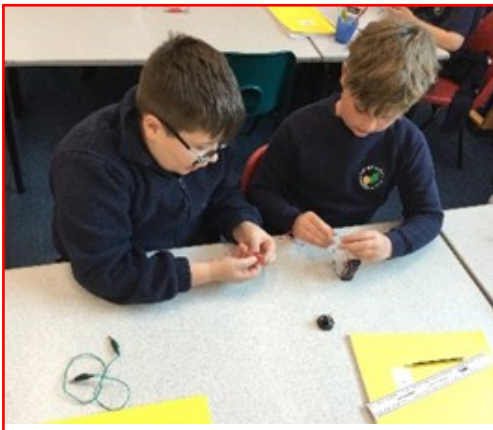
We have had a wonderful and busy term 5. As a class we have taken on challenges, discovered skills that we did not know we had, and achieved many personal goals (big and small).



We are thoroughly enjoying our new curriculum theme, 'Mountains, Rivers and Oceans', and are extremely happy that we get to continue exploring this next term.

One subject that is a firm favourite in Willow Class is **SCIENCE**- *it is delightful watching the children's faces light up when they conduct their experiments and investigations.*

Our theme this term is '**electricity**'. We have learned about the symbols for electrical components, identified electrical appliances, discussed the safety aspect behind electricity and, of course, created circuits!



One of our biggest achievements this year so far, has been in PE. Every Tuesday Willow class have been going swimming. Over the weeks, the children have fully engaged with their lessons. They have learnt important water skills, **grown** in water confidence, faced many challenges (and overcome them!). Most importantly, **ALL** children have learnt how to swim safely, *with smiles on their faces!*

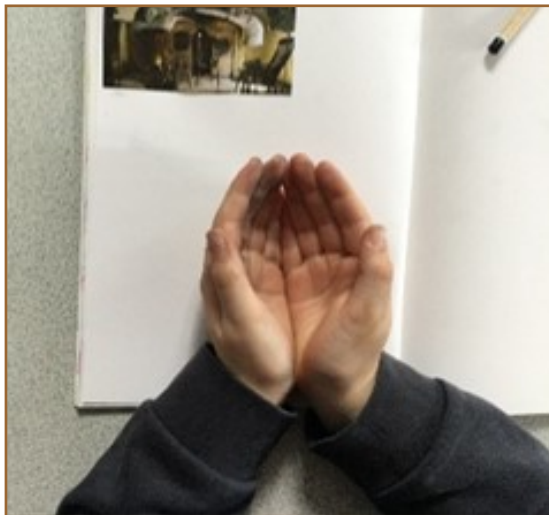
To finish off their **fantastic** swimming journey, they learnt about the importance of water safety (by swimming in clothes and PJS!) and finally, water play fun!



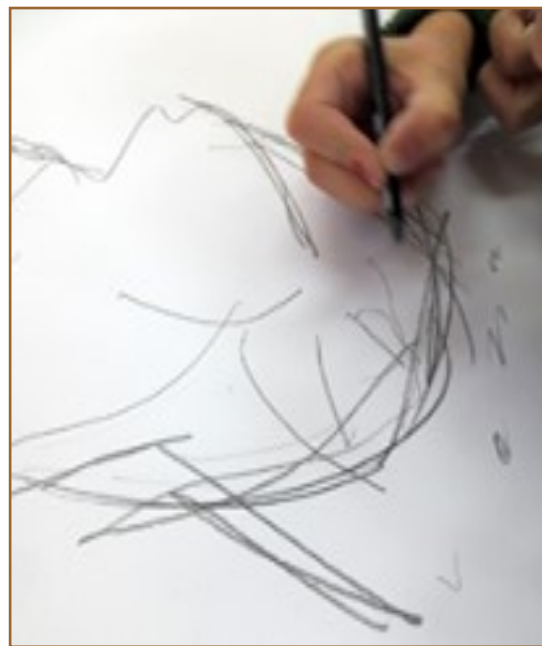
Access Art: We are really enjoying our learning in art & design this term. *It has been lovely to watch the children's confidence grow when they are provided with opportunities to explore art with a difference!* Our theme is **Sculpture, Structure, Inventiveness & Determination** with our final project being the creation of bird nests *through structure and sculpture*. We will be continuing with this theme next term so watch this space for our finished pieces!

We started by exploring the work and ideas of artists who are inspired by things that birds can teach us.

(Marcus Coates, Conference of the Birds,



The first step was to create drawings of nests through an exploration of ways of mark-making. To help us visualise the size of our drawings, we cupped our hands to help guide us when creating our nests.



We then explored fine and jagged lines by holding the pencil lightly at the top.

Quick, spontaneous lines, became twigs as their nest started to take place.

Next stop- More mark making, clay and nature!

ICT- The children have really impressed me in ICT lessons this term. We have been learning to use the programme 2Code on Purple Mash.



We have learnt about the many commands that can be used in order to explore shapes, programming and algorithms.



2Code is a simple computer programme. It requires language to control a 'turtle' or a character of their choice.



The children are so far advanced already, we have moved onto making letters and their own names.

News from Oak Class

In Oak we have had a very 'Arty' term which has been so lovely. As always the children have excelled themselves and produced some amazing pieces exploring themes from across the curriculum.

Hearty Art

To start our exploration of the theme of 'Circulation', the children used pastels to reproduce their own heart designs. They drew on their knowledge of different artist's styles to personalise their own pieces, exploring the structure of the heart whilst experimenting with pastels and colour.



Our Art pathway for term 5 and 6 is 'Brave Art'. The children have already made their own dedicated 'Brave Colour Project Sketchbook'. These will be used throughout the project to capture colours, generate ideas and reflect on the artists we are studying.



Coronation Art

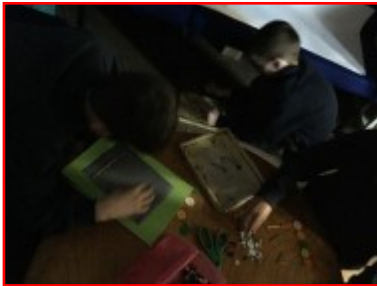
As Year 6 prepared for SATs, the year 5 children took part in the Coronation Art Day. First, they practised careful looking, and then drawing what they observed so they felt that they understood how the crown was structured before they began their main collaborative art works.

As a 'warm up', the children explored mark-making by using their pencils in different ways and using different amounts of pressure. You can see how they have applied this in their drawings. Well done!

We all went into the school hall so Year 6 could do some extra revision in the classroom!



The children then created two collaborative art works. Both were made by collating individual pieces which were made in very different ways.



Science as Art: The children experimented with light sensitive paper to make simple 'crown' images which we made into a panel. They had to work very quickly in a darkened room before we exposed the paper to the sunshine.



The second art work was a 'jigsaw' crown image. The children agreed the range of colours and then completed their own sections.



SATS

We are so very proud of our year 6 cohort. They have worked so hard and have been amazing – well done everyone!

Sport at Sibford Gower

Multi Skills- Beech and Willow Class had a fabulous opportunity to take part in a 'Multi Skills' festival at the Warriner School this term.

Beech Class (Years 1 & 2) They took part in different activities, focusing on teamwork, agility balance and hand co-ordination. They all had great fun!



How did you feel after your session today?
 very happy and calm. It was very warm and very cold.

What skills did you use today?
 jumping and touching the sky and speed bouncing.

What was your favourite activity today?
 jumping hoops and doing goalball.

Pupil Voice- We always value pupil voice and capturing this is something we do regularly here at school. Have a look at a few comments from Beech class- it sounds like they had a wonderful time!

How did you feel after your session today?
 I felt more confident because I have never been to school before. I like to play.

What skills did you use today?
 listening and being balanced.

What was your favourite activity today?
 jumping a ball on a table with a world.

Willow Class (Years 3 & 4)



Thumbs up from Codey!

"Best morning EVER!" Kian Willcocks

"I really enjoyed the football dribble" Jake Steenkamp

"Beach ball madness was my favourite" Isabella Web



Friday 7th July 2023
 More information to follow on our return (after Half term)

Upcoming Sporting Events

More information to follow over the next coming weeks.
 Please do be mindful that these events may change.

Cricket Years 5 and 6 (Selected Children)	Friday 9 th June 10:00-16:00	Sibford school
Quad Kids Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 (Selected Children)	Thursday 15 th June 10:00- 2:00	The Warriner School
Pickle ball Years 3/4 (Selected Children)	Thursday 22 nd June 9:30-11:15	The Warriner School

Our School values

At school, we have done a lot of careful thinking about which values reflect our ethos & culture and are the ones which we feel best describe our school. This began with Mrs O'Sullivan talking to the children about what they thought. We did this through two assemblies and then a 'workshop' where the children discussed and listed the values they thought were most important.

We discussed which values connected and organised them under headings. Then discussed how the values we had agreed interconnected and supported each other. After a meeting and a workshop with staff where we also talked about how the proposed school values link with the WMAT values and culture, we all agreed on the following six values which we then shared with our school governors.

RESPECT	ASPIRATION	RESILIENCE
INTEGRITY	COLLABORATION	EMPATHY

These values are well supported by approaches that we use in school and that the children are very familiar with, such as the RESPECT Code, My Personal Best and Building Learning Power.

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 that 8:40 a.m. start.

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>

Have a HAPPY HOLIDAY!