



May 2024

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

The first half of the summer term has whizzed by, perhaps because of the focus on SATs! These are now finished and, although our Year 6 children will still continue to do lots of learning, this means they can relax a little and begin to focus on preparing themselves for their move to secondary school. The children were all very focused during the exams. Everyone tried their very best and we are extremely proud of them. A special thank you to Year 6 parents for ensuring that they arrived on time, well fed and rested each morning. We have really appreciated your support.

Lots of other lovely things have been going on across the school and we have all sorts of exciting things planned for next half-term. Even though we do try to get out into the grounds as much as possible, this is so much easier in the spring and summer months and we are looking forward to being outdoors as much as possible when we return after the half-term holiday.

The following pages will give you a glimpse of some of the things your children have been up to.

On behalf of everyone at school, I wish you a lovely week with your children. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 4th June.

With kind regards,

Jane O'Sullivan

Headteacher



Redecoration of New School

We are really pleased with how bright, welcoming, and clean the inside of the New School building is beginning to look with its new coat of paint. Our thanks to Town Estates for funding this work.



Best Class
Attendance
this half term:



Acorn 97.37%

Reminder!

Children return to
school on Tuesday
4th June

Please remember to look on the information page of the school website: www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk or in the weekly bulletin for more events and dates.



SEN at Sibford Gower

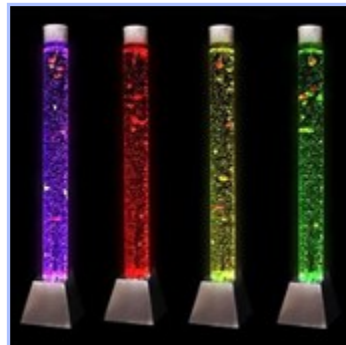
We have started our journey in planning and developing our very own **Sensory Room** here at Sibford Gower.

A lot of planning and research has gone into this project to ensure it is beneficial and impactful for our children.



Lots of boxes have been arriving at school!

A little sneak peek...



We have a wonderful local company who are kindly donating sensory lighting for our room. They have also agreed to provide 'bubble pods' and 'fish pods'- we are very excited!



Many of you will be aware that Miss Grantham is now a fully qualified Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) and has recently been appointed as SENCo for our school. The Sensory Room is very much her project and is something that will benefit many of our children.

Miss Grantham has also introduced Coffee Mornings for parents and carers of children with SEN across the school, where they are able to meet and chat in an informal and supportive way. As these develop, we are hopeful that we will be able to invite guest speakers and other agencies to come and share useful information as part of these meetings too.

Well done Miss Grantham. As always, you have hit the ground running!

Sport at Sibford Gower



Year 1 children had the opportunity to take part in our annual 'Multi Skills' event. They took part in a range of activities focusing on teamwork, perseverance and 'trying something' new.

All children had a wonderful morning and already cannot wait to go back to The Warriner again!



Upcoming Events

Friday 7th June- Year 5 and 6 Cricket (Sibford School)

Monday 17th-21st June- Sports Week

Friday 28th June- Sports Day

We are very proud of our sporting achievements here at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School and are extremely delighted with our GOLD awards. This year, we are going for the '**Platinum**' award - the highest 'School Games Award'. You can only be accepted to try for this award if you have been awarded 'Gold' for at least four years running., which we have!

Wish us luck! We will keep you all updated!

As always, thank you for your continued support with PE and sport, it is much appreciated.



ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term we have been having great fun travelling 'Around the World' for our topic. Each week we've boarded 'Acorn Airways' and jetted off to a new continent, meeting different animals, site-seeing, experiencing different cultures through art and tasting different foods. Come journey with us as Acorn Class 'goes global'!



"I like the peas, water makes the spice go away"



"I like the smell of it"



"I love pizza on a Friday!"

Fantastic Food!



"I want cheese and tomato on mine"



"I have never seen that before but I liked it"



Welcome to our Pizza Restaurant!

Fantastic Foodies
The children have enjoyed trying foods from all over the world. From making their own pizzas (both real and pretend in our popular pizza parlour) to spicy Indian delicacies and sweet Canadian pancakes with maple syrup - the Acorns have had their tastebuds truly tickled!

All Aboard Acorn Airways!

Each Monday, the children have joined Captains Blake and Benjamin for a super flight to a new continent, despite some small grumbling regarding the lack of a snacks trolley during the flight, we have successfully navigated our way to Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania and both North and South America. Children have taken in-flight security very seriously, staying in their allocated seat and keeping the gangway clear. They have diligently put their seatbelts on when the light has come on and have had (pretend) lollipops and sucky sweets at the ready for take off and landing. They have had fun exploring the continents upon arrival, travelling in pairs and finding out all about their new surroundings.



This is your Captain speaking... on behalf of all of us at Acorn Airways we wish you well on your onward journey.

What can you see?
Are we in the countryside or a big city?

What is the same and different to where we live?



Whatever the Weather!

Although this term has certainly not lived up to it's name of 'Summer' yet, that has not stopped our Acorns from exploring, our favourite day of the year happened a few weeks ago - Blossom Day! It's a truly magical day in Acorn and the children love using the blossom for all sorts of play.

Art-venturers!

As our travels have taken us around the globe, we have experienced art from many different places and had a go at experimenting with new techniques and styles ourselves.

We started looking at different printing techniques, such as ones used in the intricate production of Indian and African textiles and experimented by using rollers to create our own printed designs. In Australia, we looked at some Aboriginal dot-art, looking for patterns, and describing what we could see before having a go ourselves working carefully with our fine motor skills to produce carefully thought out patterns. Just like the real art we experimented on different materials, some choosing card, paper or even wood. Finally, we looked at Inukshuk stone markers, created by Inuit peoples in the far reaches of Northern Canada, Greenland and Alaska. We used stones to make our own flat-lay interpretations of these imposing monuments.



World Class Learning

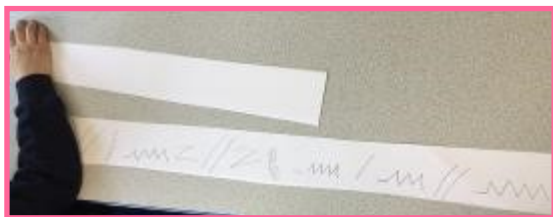
Of course, it goes without saying, that despite our jet-setting lifestyle over the past few weeks, the children have still had time for some marvellous maths and wonderful reading and writing. Our Message Centre continues to be one of the most popular areas in our classroom and when our pizza area was found to be in need of a new pizza cutter, the children utilised their fine motor skills to not only make one in the Making Area but then post it to the correct address so it reached our chef timely and safely! Our maths this term has focussed on areas as diverse as 3D shapes, to 20 and beyond and answering the question 'how many now?' by solving 'first, then and now' problems using adding and subtraction skills.



Beech Class News



The drier, warmer weather makes it easier for us to use the outdoor spaces for learning. Here we are practising our ball skills out on the Big Field!



In our Art lesson, we explored mark-making in response to music. We made marks to represent noises made by different instruments. Then we drew these onto strips to make our own composition. Mrs Evans held some of the strips up and our little 'orchestras' followed the script to play the composition.



We were really pleased to perform our special 'Great Fire of London' assembly in front of the whole school AND our families. Everybody had a special part to play and it was great to be able to share some of the things we have learned.

Beech Class Trip

The children in Beech Class had a fabulous morning at the Butterfly Farm. They were able to walk through the tropical garden with exotic butterflies and birds flying around them and got to hold some of the other creatures too. As well as being great fun and very memorable, the trip reinforced some of their recent learning about animal life-cycles. What a lovely time they had!



Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm

Willow Class Newsletter

We have had a wonderful term with lots of new learning and exploration, and stretching our learning muscles. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the 'Anglo Saxons and The Vikings'. We are **super** excited that we will be continuing this topic next term (especially with our class trip coming up after half term!)

As a class we have taken on challenges, developed and discovered new skills and achieved many personal goals (big and small).



Mental Health Awareness Week

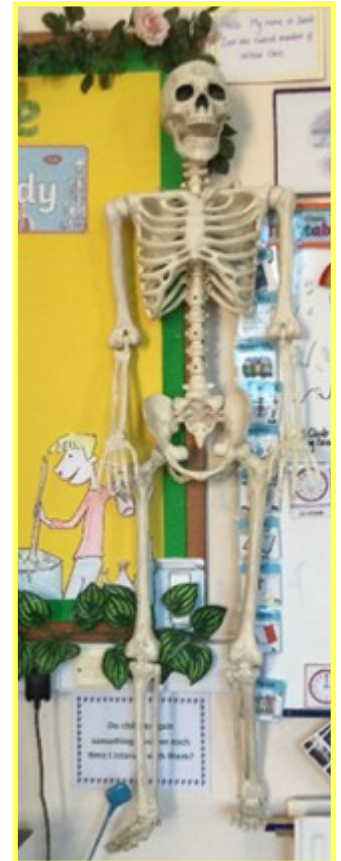
Mental Health and well-being is extremely important to us in Willow Class and is an area that we value massively. During Mental Health Awareness Week, we discussed things that keep our 'heart and head' happy and healthy. We created the most beautiful artwork to illustrate this



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!) and, 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!



So proud of you



One subject that is a firm favourite in Willow Class is

SCIENCE- *it is delightful watching their little faces light up when they conduct their investigations and learn new things.* Our theme this term has been 'The Human Body'.

We are very pleased to introduce... Derek! The children used their British Values to vote on his name. He is the latest member of the Class and helps us with our learning weekly!

PTA

Thank you to everyone who came to the P.T.A Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Book Swap. The children had great fun making their reading choices and a new P.T.A committee was voted in. A PTA run pop-up cafe and Teddy Tombola is planned for Thursday 20th June, 3.10pm, on the Old School playground.



Oak Class Science



Last term, our focus was on materials and states of matter. We began by looking into the properties of solids, liquids and gases before considering the flammability and heat conductivity of a range of materials by building a fire in the fire pit. We also experimented with reversible and irreversible changes in materials, as well as how to filter dirty water so that it was drinkable (Mr Cameron happily volunteered to drink water which had been extracted from a salt solution!).



The final thing we did on the topic was to make our own biodegradable plastic – it worked out pretty well... eventually!



WE LOVE SCIENCE AT SCHOOL!

Since half term, we have been working on life cycles of living things, starting with flowers. We dissected some lilies in order to gain an understanding of how the different parts of the inside of a flower help it to reproduce. We have also looked at the life cycles of other species, including the green turtle. As the term ends, we turn our attention to the life cycle of humans, focussing on the important changes which happen to us during puberty and the parts of our bodies which prepare us for reproduction.



As always, Oak Class continue to be very curious and deep-thinking scientists and we have had some great discussions on the topic of evolution and inheritance. We will conclude our topic in the coming weeks with a look at fossils – how they are made and what we can find out from them.

HAPPY HOLIDAY!

