

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a busy half-term it has been. As well as all the learning and extra-curricular activities, we have had a number of audits and reviews looking at our wider practice across the school.

Our mid-term Peer Review, led by WMAT School Improvement Director Steph Lovett, focused on inclusive practice in lessons. **“Teachers engagement with training and research, coupled with their excellent knowledge of all children, enables them to reflect on and select the most appropriate approaches and strategies for teaching and learning. Staff consistently reflect on the impact of these strategies and refine approaches where necessary...Consistent and deliberate routines and strategies support all year groups to achieve well. Children understand what the expectation is within their lesson and they engage fully with it. From EYFS to Year 6, children are engaged in their learning, proud of what they are doing and happy to share their learning.”**

Our Safeguarding Audit, led by WMAT CEO Dr. Annabel Kay, evidenced that our safeguarding procedures are robust, that safeguarding has an appropriately high profile in school and that our children can speak confidently about how to keep themselves safe. All children that she spoke to felt they had a trusted adult in school they could speak to if they had any worries.

Our local authority full day Health & Safety audit also went well, the auditor commented, **“It was clear that the systems you have in place for your compliance checks are working well.” “I really felt the H&S was in a really good place for the school, everything felt organised.”**

All of these formal matters linked to the smooth and safe running of the school aside, the term has been great fun from an educational and extra-curricular perspective, even for the year 6 children for whom this was a SATs term! As you can see in the pages that follow, all sorts of interesting and exciting things have been going on, including **Forest School sessions for all of the children**, with many more enrichment activities to come next half-term.

Have a wonderful half-term holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back on the first day of June.

With warmest wishes, Jane O’Sullivan, Headteacher



RAFFLE WINNER!

Our 400th birthday party last summer feels a long time ago now. The P.T.A did such a fantastic job of organising the event and the raffle prizes were really impressive. Kyryl from Oak Class won a flight in this plane and took to the skies during the Easter holiday just gone. Thank you, P.T.A!



Best Class Attendance this half term: **OAK CLASS, 98.2%**



Children return to school on **Monday 1st June**



ACORN CLASS NEWS

Another fantastic term in Acorn Class has just whizzed by! This term our topic has been 'Around the World'. We have been exploring continents and countries, looking at a world map and learning about the climate, environment and the animals of the world.

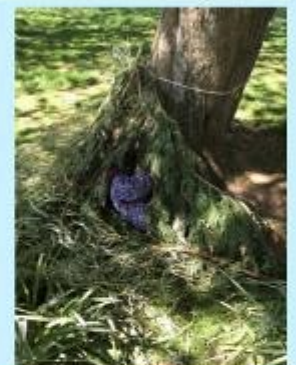


Wonderful World!

We have had a great time learning about different countries and cultures in lots of different ways. We tasted foods from around the world and talked about the different flavours, textures and ingredients we discovered. The children loved using our giant world maps to 'walk across continents' and locate different countries, helping them to develop an understanding of the wider world in a fun and active way. We also learned about a variety of animals from different areas, took our bus on a World Tour and are now enjoying shopping in our 'World Supermarket'! We used play dough alongside world maps to explore the shapes and locations of the continents. It has been wonderful to see the children's curiosity, confidence and enthusiasm grow as they learned more about the wider world we live in.

Exploring Outside

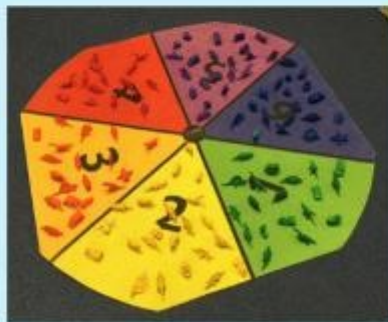
Outdoors, the children have continued to enjoy lots of exciting learning experiences. During Forest School sessions, they worked together to build dens and had great fun toasting marshmallows over a real fire to make delicious s'mores. We have also had other great outdoor adventures such as discovering the joys of trees including bark rubbings and using natural materials to create art. We also took a walk to the village pond, where the children carefully searched for wildlife.



Back at school, in our outdoor area, the children have loved developing their physical skills on the equipment, creating imaginative recipes in the mud kitchen and exploring the falling blossom by sweeping, collecting, transporting and even "cooking" with it in their play.

Marvellous Maths

In maths this term, the children have been exploring so many concepts. We started by exploring 3-D shapes through a variety of practical activities. They enjoyed sorting everyday food packets by shape and building models to explore concepts such as curved and flat faces. We have also been learning about pattern; sorting and matching objects, identifying "what comes next" in sequences and creating our own repeating patterns. The children have continued developing their understanding of numbers to 20 and beyond, representing teen numbers using a range of practical resources such as Numicon, cubes and counters to deepen their understanding of quantity and number composition.



Printmaking in Art

In Art this term, the children have explored a range of different printing techniques and enjoyed experimenting with the effects they could create. We used 3-D shapes to investigate the different shapes made by each face and had great fun printing into play dough, experimenting with different amounts of pressure to create a variety of patterns and textures. The children then explored printing blocks, first using ready-made stampers, experimenting with colours and colour mixing, before designing and creating their own tiles, which we are looking forward to using and testing this week.



Caterpillars...soon to be butterflies:

We have been closely observing our class caterpillars as they grow and change each day. The children have been fascinated by how quickly they have increased in size and have enjoyed making daily observations.

We are excited to share that two of our caterpillars have now formed a chrysalis. This has provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about life cycles and the process of metamorphosis, as well as to develop their scientific observation and discussion skills.



Time: We have been developing our understanding of time by exploring the duration of different events and learning to measure in hours, minutes and seconds. The children took part in a practical investigation using timers, where they measured how many jumps they could complete in 30 seconds. This hands-on activity helped them to experience the passage of time and begin to understand how time can be measured in real-life contexts.



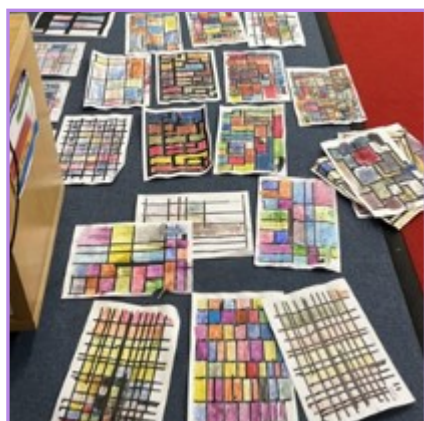
We love everything about Forest School!



History: To introduce our new topic on the Great Fire of London, we began with an engaging prediction activity to spark the children's curiosity. A selection of mystery objects, including flour, a rolling pin, toy flames and cakes, were revealed to the class. The children used these clues to make thoughtful predictions about what our new learning might involve. This activity encouraged them to develop their historical enquiry skills, ask questions and make connections, providing an exciting start to our exploration of this significant event in the past. Our exploration finished when we created our very own Great Fire of London, using all sorts of safety precautions of course. Thank you Mrs Williams for teaching us all about fire safety!



Beech Class participated in the NOSSP Multi-skills event at The Warriner School. They had great fun and it was lovely to see some of our ex-pupils as Sports Leaders.



Beech Class News

Art & Computing: When art meets technology! As part of our computing unit using Purple Mash, the children explored digital art through the 2Paint app. They created line designs inspired by the work of Dutch painter, Piet Mondrian, focusing on shape and composition. The children then printed their designs and used watercolours to carefully paint within the sections they had created. This cross-curricular activity allowed them to combine digital creativity with traditional artistic techniques, while developing their understanding of line, colour and artistic style.



Willow Class News

We had an **exciting finale** to our French work on clothes this term, with a Willow Class fashion show! The children brought in some striking clothing items and cut a dash on the "catwalk" as their partners described what they were wearing... with beautiful French accents.

Mrs Coffey, Mrs Downes and Mr Cameron were very impressed with the confidence they all showed and with the level of French they have attained since the start of the year.



Willow Class had a wonderful time when they visited the Earth Trust for their Anglo-Saxon today. What a great way to enrich their learning in History!





Willow Class had a fabulous time at Forest School this term. We thoroughly enjoyed exploring nature, creating imaginative dens and learning new skills. We finished our day with a camp fire and, of course, a 'delicious s'more'.



Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health is extremely important to us in Willow Class and is an area that we value massively. We discussed things that keep our 'heart and head' happy and healthy.



Oak Class News

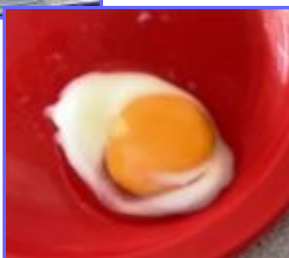
Oak Class have embarked on a very hands-on topic in science this term, which will take us up to the summer holidays: materials and their properties. We started with exploring different mystery materials in feely bags, where the children were tasked with describing what they were feeling to their partners before they both took a guess at what was inside.



We then moved on to exploring the properties of different materials, starting with heat conductivity and flammability. To do this, we visited the fire pit next to the big field and used fire to test the properties of a range of materials.



Our latest experiments involved changes in materials and how we know whether these are reversible or irreversible. This involved poaching an egg and heating marshmallows in the microwave, burning a candle, adding salt to water and adding vinegar to bicarbonate of soda.



... and the topic has only just begun!



Oak Class Forest School Day



Oak Class had the most excellent Forest School Day with Mrs Williams and Mrs Downes. It was especially lovely for Year 6 to be out and about in the fresh air after 4 mornings of SATs tests under formal examination conditions. The children had a great time rummaging for materials and suitable den sites, then den-making, swing-making and time around the camp fire. **Hooray for Forest School!**





History in Action

Oak Class headed off to Oxford Town Hall to take part in a 'Dark Side of the Victorians' workshop which included a mock trial. Taking part as defendants, barristers, the judge and the jury members, this was a very memorable experience for the children. The workshop was designed to support the study of the Victorians and Citizenship and involved the children in looking at the harsh realities of Victorian society through the Victorian Justice System.

Although the children were learning through acting, the trials were based on real cases, including: Julia Ann Crumpling, aged 7, accused of stealing a perambulator. Rosa Halliday, aged 12, accused of stealing cheese, tea, calico, flannel, and other articles by false pretences at Witney. William Merriman, aged 16, accused of stealing a gold ring and gold watch from rooms at the University of Oxford.



READING

at home

EVERY DAY

Just a few minutes a day can make a **BIG** difference!

Reading at home every day plays a vital role in your child's success in primary school and beyond. It supports their learning, builds confidence and helps develop a lifelong love of reading.

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE BENEFITS:



BUILDS STRONG LANGUAGE SKILLS

Daily reading helps children develop their understanding of words, sentence structure and how language works.



IMPROVES VOCABULARY

Children learn new words and how to use them, which helps them express themselves clearly and confidently.



DEVELOPS UNDERSTANDING & CONFIDENCE

Regular reading helps children make sense of stories and information, boosting their confidence in reading and learning.



STRENGTHENS CONCENTRATION

Reading helps children focus for longer, which supports learning in all areas of the curriculum.



SUPPORTS LEARNING ACROSS ALL SUBJECTS

Good reading skills help children succeed in every subject, from maths and science to history and beyond.

Read together. Learn together. Grow together.

Thank you for making reading at home a part of your everyday routine. It makes a world of difference!

TOGETHER, WE INSPIRE CONFIDENCE, CURIOSITY AND A LOVE OF LEARNING | EVERY PAGE COUNTS

Eight Tips for Reading with Your Child

Tip 1: Talk to the teacher

Learning to read can be daunting for both children and parents, especially if reading doesn't come easily to you, either. So don't be afraid to ask your child's teacher for help – after all, they're the experts!

If your child has a willing teacher, you could ask that they make a video demonstrating how to read with a child. If they can't make a full video, perhaps they could record a summary of all their other tips and tricks.

Tip 2: Don't go it alone

I open my classroom doors fifteen minutes early on Tuesdays and Thursdays and offer the space for parents to come in and read with their children.

Your child's school may be able to do this. If it's something they can't offer, perhaps instead, you could reach out to other parents to find a way to share reading tips and book recommendations.

Tip 4: Ditch the reward charts

For children who feel frustration, boredom, anger, or embarrassment when reading, rewards in the form of transactions, like stickers or treats in return for a set amount of reading, won't help. Their reward needs to come from inside: the simple pleasure of reading, which a chart can't make happen.

Tip 6: Piggyback on established memories

If there's something a child already loves – a favourite place, person or thing – try bringing books into this experience. If a child loves swimming lessons, try sitting in the observation deck beforehand with a book. If your child loves being on an outdoor walk, they could take a book.

Try altering the time of the day that you read. One of the biggest successes I had was when a father started arriving at school ten minutes early and reading with his daughter in his van.

Tip 5: Reframe the emotions

For people who love to read, somewhere deep in their memories are positive associations with books. Children haven't had long enough to let these experiences grow yet.

Use physical and sensory stimulation to help positive emotions grow. Examples include snuggling up with children in a duvet with hot chocolate and a tasty snack whenever they read their school book, and holding something tactile.

Tip 7: Read with new people

Children could try taking their book on a visit to a favourite aunt or have a cool cousin read with them. Reading at home promotes familiarity with books and an interest in reading, so the person reading with them doesn't always need to be an expert in how to instruct and coach.

Tip 8: Utilise the Reading Record

Use the reading record for communication, not just documenting when reading has taken place. Rather than waiting for parents' evening, you could use the reading record to ask for advice, further reading, or clarification if there's anything you're not sure about.



SPORT AT SIBFORD GOWER

(Term 5)



We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful group of **Sports Leaders**. Every day, they set up activities for lunch time play. They work hard to create inclusive games for all.

Many of our children look forward to their lunch times with our “fantastic Sports Leaders”.

This term they had a big focus on equipment and looking after it. They worked as a team to tidy the green shed- great job!



A huge WELL DONE to our year 5s who took part in the 'Bench Ball Festival' this afternoon. A fantastic afternoon had by all!

The School Games value for the festival was 'determination'. Each and every one of them illustrated this brilliantly. ❤️

Well done Sibford Gower 🌟



We had a wonderful day with 'Harry Baker'. Harry has always loved football and although his teachers didn't think he would be able to keep up in matches, he proved them wrong and has become a World Cup Paralympian. [Harry Baker - Great Athletes](#)

Sports Day

Friday 19th June - School Sports Day

Friday 26th June - Reserve Sports Day

More information to follow on our return to school.

Our fantastic 'DJ's' Eli and Sebastian. They controlled the music during our fitness circuits,



Thank you for all your support, including the sponsorship. As well as supporting the Great Athletes programme, you helped raise £170.40 to spend on sports equipment for school.

Very exciting news...

We had some new 'wall bars' installed. The children were very much part of the process and enjoyed watching the equipment being installed there were lots of 'sneak peeks'! The excitement and energy throughout the day was lovely to be part of! Huge thanks to Mrs Davies for making this happen—a lot of work went on behind the scenes, organizing quotes and talking with companies, but we got there in the end.

Out with the old, in with the new...



Our thanks to Chris from Universal Services for all his hard work and some precision installation.
www.universalservicesuk.co.uk



SEN Newsletter

Another *successful* SEN coffee morning this term. We had 'Usma' in from the 'Oxfordshire Parent and Carers' support. It was a very supportive morning with great advice for all.

For more information please do see the links below

Website: <http://www.oxpcf.org.uk>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/oxpcf>

Twitter: @oxpcfforum

Instagram: ox_parentcarers_forum



SEN Events— May Half Term

Sensory-Friendly & Inclusive Fun	Creative & Educational Workshops
<p>Thomley – Worminghall</p> <p>A purpose-built centre for SEN children and their families with play, sensory spaces, creative activities. Open throughout half term with themed days. www.thomley.org.uk</p> <p>SportWorks Short Breaks – Bicester</p> <p>Multi-sport sessions during the holidays https://bookwhen.com/sportworkssc#focus=ev-s5ed-20250522161500</p>	<p>Winnie-the-Pooh Teddy Tea Party (29 May)</p> <p>Crafts & stories at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum https://www.sofa.org.uk/product/winnie-the-pooh-workshop-teddy-tea-party-29-may-2025/</p> <p>Junior Model Making – Pendon Museum (28 May)</p> <p>Creative fun in a calm setting https://pendonmuseum.com/events/junior-model-</p>
Outdoor Adventures	Holiday Camps & Events
<p>Big Bale Play – High Lodge Farm</p> <p>Straw mazes and open fields (24 May–1 June) https://www.highlodgefarm.com</p> <p>Mini Farmers – Roves Farm</p> <p>Feed animals and explore the farm https://rovesfarm.co.uk/whats-on/mini-</p>	<p>Active Camps – Various Locations</p> <p>Inclusive multi-activity fun ☒ https://www.oxfordactive.co.uk</p> <p>Just Camps – BanburyGames,</p> <p>sports and friendships https://www.justcamps.co.uk</p>

Didcot Fun Day – FREE!
 Hosted by Active Future South Oxfordshire
 ☒☒ **Wednesday 29 May, 11am–3pm** at Edmonds Park, Didcot
 Inclusive games, inflatables, arts & crafts, food & drink, and lots more for families!
<https://shorturl.at/mWxQr>



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

≧ A TEAM EFFORT ≦

Regular school attendance is vital for your child's learning and growth. Both **parents** and **schools** have important roles to play.

PARENTS CAN HELP BY:



Making sure your child arrives on time every day.



Notifying the school if your child is sick or absent.



Encouraging home learning and routines like sleep and healthy habits.



Communicating with teachers about your child's progress.

SCHOOLS CAN HELP BY:



Tracking attendance and following up on absences.



Providing support for students facing challenges.



Keeping parents informed about attendance policies and resources.

WORKING TOGETHER:



When parents and schools work together, children are more likely to:

- ✓ Do better in school
- ✓ Build stronger relationships
- ✓ Develop good life habits
- ✓ Reach their full potential



Every day counts.

Let's support our children's success—one day at a time!



GOOD ATTENDANCE TODAY.
Bright futures tomorrow.

If you have concerns about attendance, please reach out. We're here to help!





Who makes up our Governing Body?

Emma Mattingley

Chair of Governors & Parent Governor

Charlotte Cavaghan

Trustee appointed Governor

Robin Meller

Trustee appointed Governor

Aysha Majid

Parent Governor

Jane Fletcher

Trustee appointed Governor

Michelle (Shelli) Williams

Staff Governor

Selina Chard

Trustee appointed governor

The Trustees of the Warriner Multi Academy Trust believe that the best way to achieve effective governance in a multi academy trust structure is through collaboration between an overarching Trust Board, focused on the needs of the Trust as a whole, and Academy Committees (sometimes known as Local Governing Bodies) focused to ensure their individual school meets its vision and delivers the best possible outcomes for it's children.

The governance role is a strategic one. Governors act as "critical friends" who support and challenge the school leadership leadership. They attend regular governing body meetings where they discuss and interrogate a range of reports from the headteacher and other WMAT colleagues, governors make visits into school. This ensures that they know the school really well and can see that what we do matches what we say we do.

Sometimes our governors do some very practical things to make help out too, like organising an upcoming 'friends of the school' working party to re-paint the New School fence. Thank you Emma!

WOMBAT NEWS



Our Pupil School Council, the WOMBATS, have continued to hold their regular meetings. They have been considering new playtime equipment , skipping ropes, balls, etc. to replace some of the current things, which are getting a bit tatty.

It was also the WOMBATS, a number of years ago, who identified the coloured school fence as a 'Grot Spot'. The current panel also say thank you in advance to the volunteer working party for giving up their time to paint this.

In their role as our Eco-Council, the WOMBATS are promoting our Sustainability Fair. Each class will have a stall at which they will sell items they have made. All products will either be made of recycled/recyclable materials or will promote the WOMBAT eco-theme for this year, 'Protect our Local Wildlife'

The Fair will be held on Friday 12th June between 2:30 and 3:30pm. It will take place on either the Old School playground or in the hall, depending on the weather. Please do bring some cash with you. All profits will go towards developing our outdoor classroom areas.

Happy Holiday!