



School News

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had a great start to the New Year. Our new teachers have settled in quickly, there is all sorts of exciting learning going and the children look very smart in the new school uniform.

We are all feeling very positive about the year ahead and the opportunities it offers.

Our Wombats school council have been elected and held their first meeting, with roles and responsibilities agreed.

We have lots of exciting things lined up for next half term too, including a visit from top gymnast, Dominic Cunningham, a visit to Oxford Castle for our younger children, lots more sporting events, Bonfire Night and then all the lovely things that happen at school in the lead up to Christmas.

Please read on to find out about some of the

things that have been happening so far.

Have a lovely half term break.

With best wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan,

Headteacher



HARVEST FESTIVAL

It was lovely to welcome so many friends and family to the local church for this year's Harvest Festival Celebration. The children shared some lovely artwork, including leaf animal collages and beautiful pastel drawings inspired by the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo. They sang well and it was very pleasing to see how confidently children from Willow and Oak Classes read their poems and reading in front of quite a daunting audience. In readiness for this celebration, our very own and talented Mrs Downes made a harvest loaf with children from EYFS and Year One which will be

on display in the church, alongside some of the artwork.



RECYCLING AT SIBFORD



As part of our focus on reducing waste and improving recycling at school, we had a Special Assembly with visitors from Cherwell District Council, who gave a really interesting presentation on the theme of Re-use, Re-cycle, Re-duce. Our children impressed our guests with their knowledge and asked some very good questions. Parents can help by remembering to avoid packaged snacks at playtime.

Best Class attendance this term: Acorn Class **98%**



Don't forget your Sponsor Forms for next terms Sports for Schools Event. This should be great fun and much of the money raised will be used for new sports equipment for the children.



Children return to school on Monday, 30th October.

Acorn Class

Our new Foundation stage children have all settled in really well since they started school in September and we are very proud of them (and their parents!)

Acorn class have been busy this half term exploring seasons, finding shapes outside and preparing our outside area for planting bulbs. There certainly was lots of weeding that needed doing! But it was quite exciting pulling up the really big ones! Some children said they looked like ghosts, as 'the roots were dangling down!'



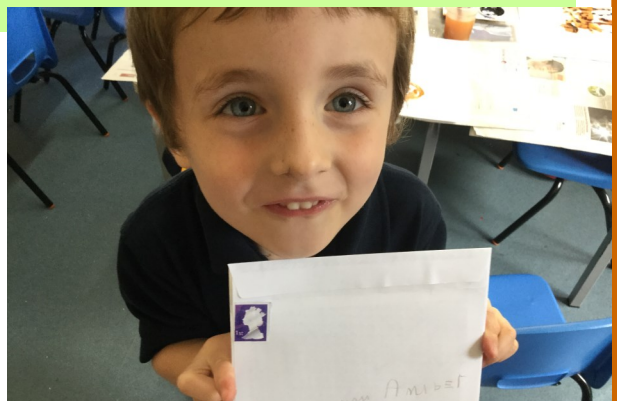
We have read the book 'The Tiger who came to tea' and we decided to make a real café in the role play area. The children took orders, prepared sandwiches and paid for them with real money.



Some children also painted tigers. There was lots of tiger talk about colour and the patterns on a tigers coat.



Acorn class have also made a post office in the classroom as we have been learning about where we live, our addresses and writing ours and our friends names. It certainly is a busy place with lots of writing going on! Remember to stick a stamp (or two or four) on!



The children have really enjoyed learning about money and coins and are growing in confidence counting it too!

BEECH CLASS

Beech class have had a fantastic start to the year with our topic 'All About Me'. We have been learning about our families, friends and local area. We have talked about the things we like and dislike and thought about how our differences make us all special and unique. We have been reading The Tiger Who Came To Tea and enjoyed writing our own version of the story. We also enjoyed reading Meerkat Mail and writing our own postcards to the main character Sunny.



We have been learning how to throw and catch. We have practiced our banana split positions and learnt how to check that our partners are ready. We are all getting very good!



We have been using all sorts concrete apparatus to help us with our addition in maths. The conkers were very popular!



In Science we have been finding out about the human body and the different things we need to keep us alive. As part of this we built dens in forest school for playmobil people and thought about how we would provide them with shelter, food and water. Milo thought that we needed windows so that they could see the views and get lots of daylight which would help them to be happy. This sparked a really interesting discussion with all of the children thinking about the things we have in our homes and whether these are luxuries or necessities.

We have absolutely loved our forest school sessions. We have been out in all weathers and have been developing our noticing skills by spending the first few minutes of each session finding out listening carefully and looking closely at our environment to see what



has changed. We have also been creating art using the different coloured leaves we have found and practiced our counting by setting them out in lines.



Willow Class

We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Saxons this term. Did you know that our nearest Saxon town is Banbury? That was one of our favourite facts!!

What a fabulous term we have had in Willow Class. We have learnt lots of new and exciting things and have developed many 'learning muscles' in the process.



"Did you know... The Saxons designed and made their own straw and wooden houses because they wanted to be different to the Romans"
Izzy Stebbings



We have been working extremely hard on our writing this term and have produced some amazing, creative work. One of our favourite pieces of writing was our Saxon Diaries. We became a Saxon for the morning and loved putting ourselves in their shoes. We stained our pages with tea to give an old effect and then used drama to help us feel what it would be like to live and work like a Saxon!

Marvellous

Maths:

This term we have been working really hard on our number sense. We really enjoyed being creative with place value!

ICT We have had SO much fun this term in ICT. We have been designing our own chocolate bars and wrappers. We researched into our ingredients and priced them too. We even got to taste different flavours to see what was best for our design!



Super Science:

Fantastic Fossils- This has been a great topic in science. We have loved learning about fossils and Mary Anning. We even made our own fossils!



Maple Class



We have had an amazing term in Maple class and there has been lots of fun and learning. Our topic focus has been The Picts and as well as doing lots of research we have also done some great art-work, which is being exhibited as part of a community art project.



We have been looking at Pictish designs and symbols and then painting our chosen design onto stones. We have also made Pictish standing stones out of clay and engraved our names in Ogham which is the Pictish language.



In Science we have researched many interesting facts about the Solar system and we made a scale model to hang in our classroom.



Lots of sport has taken place and we have been able to get out in the lovely autumn weather. In Games, the children have been revising their tag rugby skills.



In P.E. we have been doing bench ball and dodgeball, concentrating on our ball skills and teamwork.



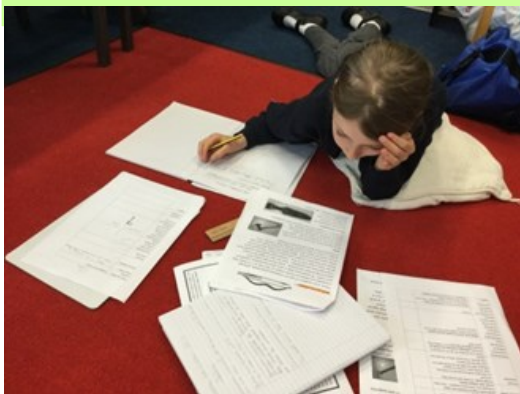
Oak Class

Oak Class have settled beautifully into the challenges and excitement of Y5 and 6.



PICTS AND SCOTS

We have taken on the challenge of the topic of 'The Scots' and have been busy making our own promontory forts and hillforts. First, we designed a fort in groups. We took into account historical details like how to make the most of natural defences and what materials would have been available between 300 and 800AD.



WRITING: In Writing we have learned how to write non-chronological reports. We learned a report off - by - heart and performed it and we became 'Professors' - world authorities on an animal of our choice! We had to be able to classify our animal using the Linnaean System and write and present a report. We have learned about weapons and warfare of the Picts and Scots and written our own report using the passive voice.

MATHS: Oak class have become number experts!



We have learned about place value and started using formal methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide - we used climbing Mount Everest as a real life context and worked out how much oxygen we had left and how much further we had to go! We are also tackling arithmetic skills every week.



Sibford Gower Sport



We have had so many sport events this term already. It has been wonderful to watch the children compete so brilliantly in all events, and with the excellent sporting attitude and team spirit that is typical of our children.

Years 3 and 4 football tournament 3rd October



We entered two teams into the tournament & ...
BOTH TEAMS WON!
Off to the county finals now...



It was the same brilliant story at the Rugby Tournament and the team will be heading off to the **Tag Rugby County Final** too!

Years 5 and 6 Tag Rugby tournament 10th October 2017



Many thanks to all those parent volunteers, governors and staff who give up their time to make our participation in these events possible. It couldn't happen without you!

Children from Key Stage Two took part in the Triathlon Event at Sibford School. This was a well organised event and the children performed really well, whether working as a team, or competing in all three challenges individually.



We came in the top 5 in 5 events:

- Year 3 Girls Relay—2nd
- Year 3 Boys Relay— 5th
- Year 4 Girls Relay—4th
- Year 5 Girls Individual—2nd
- Year 6 Boys Individual—4th

**Well done to all who took part.
You're great!**



UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	YEARS	VENUE
31 st October	Cross Country	1 & 2	The Warriner
7 th November	Cross Country	3,4,5 & 6	Sibford School
14 th November	Multi- skills festival	1 & 2	The Warriner
28 th November	Dance festival	1 & 2	The Warriner



FUN AT LUNCH TIME



While we are eating, we want things to be calm and civilized ; a bit like having our own restaurant at school. The food is excellent and the tablecloths provided by our PTA make the tables look smart. We have now introduced lunchtime monitors too. The older children help the younger ones, by serving and encouraging. This is an excellent responsibility for them and they are doing a great job!



We were delighted to welcome grandparents and carers into school to join the children for a special lunch of lasagne or vegetarian chilli provided by our wonderful caterers, Freshstart. This was a very sociable occasion. and our Y6 dinner monitors did a wonderful job of ensuring that all our grandparents had everything they needed. Grandparents then joined their grandchildren in the sunshine of the playground for the rest of lunchtime.

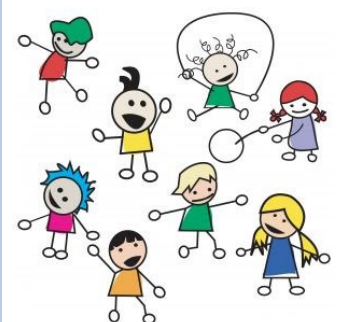


We have new sports leaders at lunchtimes too. They plan and set up activities designed to encourage cooperative, active play.

While the craft leaders focus on activities which encourage creativity and sociability.



Ms O'Sullivan bought us some special digging tools to use on our playground digging pit. This provides lots of opportunities for sharing and negotiating and is also lovely and messy!



WOMBAT NEWS

Elections have been held in school and our new Pupil School Council have been elected. The WOMBATS (Willow, Oak, Maple, Beech & Acorn Talk to Staff—in case you were wondering!) have held their first meeting and will be convening again to consider the next lot of Hot Spots & Grot Spots early in the next half-term. If you want to see how much they have achieved through this process over the last few years, please look on the WOMBATS page of the website which can be found at -



<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/wombats-school-council.html>

Sibford Gower Primary School PTA –

Committed to supporting the School to enrich and enhance our Children's experience

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy start to the academic year with many things already crossed off our list and many things in the pipeline:

Christmas Cards have been designed, ordered and are being printed

We had a fantastic response to our Bag2School collection, a total of 53 bags were donated – THANK YOU so much for supporting us with this fundraiser

We are in full swing organising the Bonfire Night and the Christmas Fair

We have held a non uniform day in exchange for Chocolate which will be used on our Chocolate Tombola at the Christmas Fair

We are organising the Smarties fundraiser again so that we have another fun day like the Circus day. We hope you are getting lots of extra chores done around the house in exchange for 20p's.

We would love all your unwanted cuddly toys for our Teddy Tombola at the Christmas Fair

Key dates for your diary:

Monday 30th October – please return all Smarties tubes to school

*Saturday 4th November – Bonfire Night, tickets can be ordered in advance or you can pay on the gate. Please help us 'spread the word' and share the Bonfire Night post from our PTA Facebook page. Bring along family and friends too. **This is a great night.***

Wednesday 8th November - PTA meeting, 7.30pm in the KS1 staff room

Thursday 23rd November – Christmas Fair, Sibford Village Hall, 3pm until 6pm. Please help us 'spread the word' and share any Christmas Fair information from our PTA Facebook page and tell all your family and friends too. As well as lots of fun activities for the children we have some fantastic new stalls too so you can start, or finish, your Christmas shopping!

Thursday 7th December – the Children's Christmas Disco

As always, if you can help volunteer at any of our events please do let us know.

We are very grateful for your continued support.

Have a lovely half term

Best wishes

Andrea PTA



Key Stage Two History Topic Work



The children in Willow, Maple and Oak Classes have been doing a history topic, exploring the themes of Anglo-Saxons, Picts or Celts, depending on their class. As part of this they were set a research project for homework. The results were so impressive, and so varied, that we shared them in whole school achievement assembly.

Well done, all of you!

Fundraising in School

We have had a number of fundraising events in school this half-term.

- ◆ Oak Class raised an impressive £54 for our friends at the Rojo Rojo Orphanage in Kenya by harvesting the fruit in the Orchard and then 'selling' it to the school community.
- ◆ Jeans for Genes day raised a total of £38
- ◆ The Macmillan Cake & Coffee morning raised £154.
- ◆ Many of you sent in Harvest donations for the food bank

However hard things can feel at for all of us at times, it is so important to raise our children to reach out to help others who may be in need, and to try and make a positive difference in the world. Thank you all for your ongoing support and generosity when we hold these fundraisers or collections. When combined, even the smallest of donations help to make a difference.

If you, or anyone you know, has a child who is due to start school next September, please let them know about our Open Morning for Prospective parents which is taking place next half-term.

Is your child due to start school in September 2018?

Sibford Gower Primary School
would like to invite you to our

OPEN DAY

Tuesday 14th November 2017, 9.30 to 11am



Come & have a look around, meet the staff and find out about all the things our friendly and welcoming village school has to offer your child.

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.