



October 2021

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a lovely start to the school year. Our nursery children have settled in well and children across the school seem very happy to be here. The atmosphere in the classrooms is very focused, with children busy learning in whichever ways are best suited to their age group and attainment. Although things aren't quite back to normal, it has been lovely to be able to welcome more visitors into school. In KS2, we have welcomed staff from the Oxford Museum to run practical workshops with the children to support and enrich their topic work on the themes of Stone Age to Iron Age, and Ancient Greece.

It has been great to take part in inter-school sporting events too, not to mention our whole school Mini-Marathon fundraiser in which even the littlest children took part. The nurse has been in to do vision screening and the photographer has been in too. These are simple things which all contribute to a much welcomed sense of normality.

Whole school assemblies have been fun, including the music we are listening too. We are having a focus on sharing a wide range of musical genre with the children across the academic year, starting with the joy of Motown!

The children also explore Global Learning themes through weekly assemblies and we have decided to share some of these resources alongside the weekly bulletin in case you want to discuss them with the children further. Our children are very aware of global issues and are very keen on caring for the environment. They recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of a ban on glitter in school because of their concerns about plastic in our oceans.

As you will all be aware, our office administrator, Sadie Meadows, has just left us to take on a role in the care sector. Sadie has been a highly valued member of staff here for over 11 years and we will miss her. We had a number of strong applicants for her role and are delighted to be welcoming Ms Aoife Mannix to the office team after the holiday. I am sure you will all be patient and supportive as she settles into this multi-faceted role.

On behalf of all the staff here, I wish you a safe and happy half-term holiday.

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan (Headteacher)



Best Class Attendance
this half term:

Beech 98%



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



FAREWELL FRED!

Mr Fred Inns, who attended our school as a boy and has served as a governor here for an incredible 42 years is stepping down. Over the years, Fred has made countless visits to school to talk with the children and answer their questions about all sorts of things connected with the history of the school and the local area, including his own boyhood experiences here. He has also welcomed classes into his air raid shelter, bringing history lessons to life. The children have loved spending time with him and we are hoping that he will continue visiting for years to come.

ACORN CLASS NEWS

Welcome to Acorn and welcome to Autumn! We couldn't be more proud of the wonderful way our youngest little Acorns have settled into school, this term we've had so much fun settling into our new classroom and school, getting to know our teachers and grown ups who look after us and, of course, making lots of new friends. We've also enjoyed watching as summer has turned to Autumn and making new discoveries every day. Read on to find out more!

In Acorn class we have so many different things to do to help us learn, both inside and outside. We spend some time together learning together as a whole group and lots of time exploring on our own or in small groups to find out more about the world around us. We love being creative and finding new ways to do things and learn new skills.



MARK MAKING

In Acorn class we love mark making - doing lots of activities like this will help us to become great writers in the future! Here you can see lots of ways we love to mark make including with paint, play sand, gloop, in our role play area and in our ever popular 'message centre'.

This half term has seen lots of counting and measuring.

We have counted how many children there are in our class each morning, how many children want different fruits for snack and even how many pine cones we found (48 in case you were wondering). We

have done lots of measuring too, including of each other!



MEASURING AND COUNTING

Beech Class News

We have had a fantastic first term in Beech class, finding out all about our local area and enjoying two brilliant class books, *The Story Tree* and *The Jolly Postman*. We went for a walk around our village following our route on aerial photos. We spotted the post box and looked to see what time the letters are collected.



In maths we have been learning all about place value and different ways of representing numbers.



In P.E lessons we have been exercising and developing coordination using a 'French skipping rope'



As part of our learning in forest school we made our own miniature Sukkahs based on what we had found out in RE.

A sukkah is a temporary hut constructed for use during the week-long Jewish festival of Sukkot.

It is topped with branches and often decorated with autumnal, harvest or Judaic themes commemorating the time God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness they inhabited after they were freed from slavery in Egypt.



Autumn Day in Willow Class

We have taken full advantage of the beautiful autumnal weather. We decided to have a whole day to explore this season. We created some beautiful artwork and writing!

The children (and grown-ups) had a wonderful day and we all agreed that 'Autumn' is one of our favourite seasons.



Fitting with our 'Autumn Day' we started with a range of beautiful images and then created descriptive sentence (using a range of features) to describe them. Their thoughtful and expressive use of language Impressed us all...





Fitting with our theme, in Forest School we explored Autumn in the natural environment. We thought about Building Learning Power and stretched many of our 'learning muscles' to create Autumn inspired art using a range of natural materials. It was lovely watching the children explore these autumnal changes with huge smiles on their faces!



Oak Class

What an amazing first term we have had in Oak. The children have settled back into school life so well and, as always, we have done lots of learning and had a lot of fun.

As part of our Humanities this term, the children produced some amazing watercolours. Our focus for the paintings was 'perspective' and the children did a fantastic job.

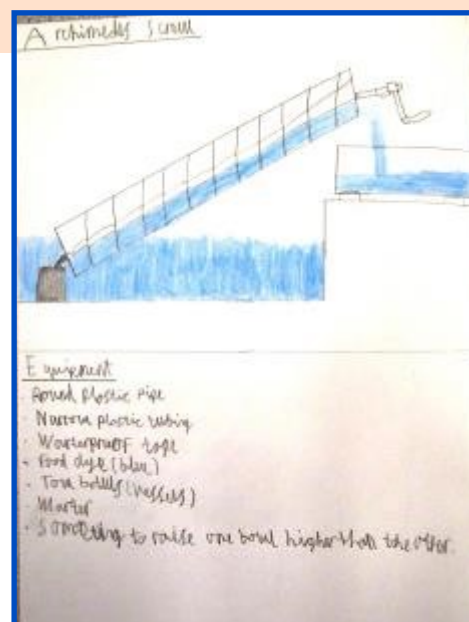
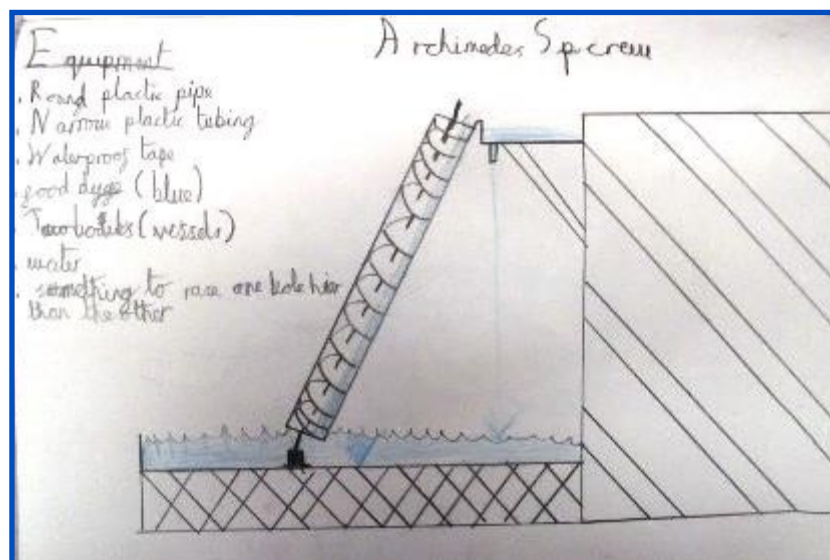


Throughout the term, the children have continued to use and enjoy their sketch books. These are 'owned' by the children and they are able to use their creativity to 'sketch' pieces they choose.



Archimedes Screw

Our D&T project this term was to recreate an Archimedes Screw. This was a machine for raising water, allegedly invented by the ancient Greek scientist Archimedes for removing water from the hold of a large ship. The children had to discuss and plan before they started to embark on their project. We all had so much fun and they worked brilliantly.



We had great fun, working collaboratively, to make and then test our Archimedes' Screws



Hmmm! I wonder what we could adapt to make it even better?

Pomegranate Artwork

As Headteacher, I recently had the pleasure of stepping in as Oak Class teacher for the day. As part of a lovely learning day, and in keeping with their topic theme of Ancient Greece, we explored the story of Persephone and the Seasons. The children explored rich vocabulary and wrote creatively to describe Hades' Underworld and Demeter's Earth. We then explored a real pomegranate, tasting the seeds as poor Persephone did! The children used pastels to create some really beautiful drawings of our pomegranate.



Black History Month

During Black History Month, we learned about various influential figures, who despite hardship, prejudice and adversity have shown their value to society and shown that all people, no matter their colour or background can excel and should be treated equally.

Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Alex Scott, Paul Stephenson, Diane Abbott, Jesse Owens, Malorie Blackman, Claudia Jones, Alma Thomas, Kelly Holmes are just some of the people we discussed. They have pioneered in their fields, often being the first black person to achieve their milestones.

Politics, Journalism, Social Work, Art, Sport, Activism, Writing and even Space Science are just some of the areas in which they have excelled.



These beautiful collaborative collages were inspired by the work of Alma Thomas.



THANK YOU P.T.A

For funding both of the history workshops in KS2 which enriched the children's learning in a way they won't forget.

For organising the Cauliflower Cards fundraiser

For organising the Bags 2 School collection

Brilliant!

PE Lessons

Acorn Class: The children have been using the resources and skills learnt in PE lessons in the Acorn outdoor area during child initiated times. The children have been working on PE fundamentals such as jumping, hopping, skipping, and travelling backwards, forwards and sideways.



Beech Class: Some action shots from Beech class- French skipping, how brilliant!



Willow Class and Oak Class: Both classes have been learning the skills and game play for 'Tag Rugby'. All children have thoroughly enjoyed this sport within their PE lessons. Both their confidence and ball skills have really increased as the term has gone on.

Willow Class started to increase their game play and even managed a mini match within house. Oak class have increased their play and have been gaining confidence and knowledge when refereeing the matches. They have also really enjoyed their weekly swimming sessions this term too.

To finish our 'Tag Rugby' this term, we had a joint PE session. The children were so excited to do this and show off their personal skills to each other.



Sibford Gower Sport

What a *fantastic sporting* term it has been!

We have taken part in many great tournaments this term; year 3 and 4 girls' football, year 3 and 4 boys' football and year 5 and 6 tag rugby!

All the children represented the school brilliantly, showing amazing teamwork, resilience and perseverance. We are extremely proud of them all.



BOYS FOOTBALL



TAG RUGBY



GIRLS FOOTBALL

Upcoming events

(please note these may change)

- Wednesday 3rd November - Year 5/6 Swim Gala @ Sibford
- Tuesday 9th November - Years 3/4 and 5/6 Cross Country
- Thursday 11th November - Years 1/2 Cross Country
- Friday 19th November - Cross Country Final for qualifying pupils @ Sibford 10:00 - 11:00
- Thursday 25th November - KS1 Multi Skills @ Warriner
- Thursday 27th January - KS1 Dance @Warriner

Have a lovely holiday!
Stay safe