



October 2023

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had such a positive start to the academic year. The children have settled well into their new classes. They are doing lots of focused learning and having lots of fun.

It has been lovely to welcome parents into school for various things, including our Meet and Greet event, our Reading Week and our phonics and reading workshop for new Reception parents.

Next half-term, we will be holding our first parent consultation meetings of the year when you can come and discuss how your child is getting on at school, with their teacher.

We have had a strong focus on reading so far this year and will continue to do so. We have appointed our first Reading Ambassadors. These children have all shown themselves to be committed readers who are able to convey their love of reading to others. Their role within school is to work with the adults to promote this love of reading across all of the classes and share their passion for reading.

Please do continue to support and encourage your child to read at home every day. A strong 'reading habit' and the access to the wealth of knowledge, imagination and experience this provides, is one of the most important gifts that we can give the children.

A sense of community involvement is also very important. Children take their various roles and responsibilities in school very seriously; from our Sports leaders, to our School Council, to our Reading Ambassadors and all manner of classroom monitors. They are rightly proud of the positive contributions they make.

It is also a joy to be involved in wider community events such as the 'Big Apple festival'. We were delighted to be asked to be involved in this through the contribution of artwork and participation in the scarecrow trail. The feedback from those families and children who attended the event was really positive. Everyone had great fun. Many thanks to the children of Willow and Oak classes for the vibrant artwork that was exhibited in the Village Hall, to Mrs Coffey, Mrs Williams and the children of ASC for the excellent scarecrow and to the festival committee for involving us. Let's hope this becomes an annual event.

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:

Willow 98.34%



Reminder!

Children return to school on
Monday 30th October

On Jeans 4 Genes Day we raised £83.50.

Thank you so much for your support for this important cause.

The Jeans for Genes campaign raises awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic condition and raises money to fund projects that make a difference to the lives of those affected.



The Macmillan
Cake Sale
raised £121.40



THANK YOU !



WHERE WILL THOSE MINIONS APPEAR NEXT?

ACORN CLASS NEWS

Happy Autumn from all the children in Acorn Class. In September it was lovely to welcome friends old and new to our class and we have been having lots of fun getting to know each other and settling into life at school. This term our topic has been 'This is Me' and we have enjoyed talking about our families and our homes and have all been very excited about starting in Reception and Nursery. We have been very busy and look forward to sharing all our news with you.



Creative Counting

We love exploring numbers in Acorn Class. We've had lots of fun already talking about our birthdays, some of us are 3, some have just turned 4 and we even have some 5 year olds now too! Maths really is all around us, everyday we each have a turn to count how many friends are at school and conkers are counted to decide which book has been voted the most popular to read in our daily book club. In our maths sessions we have been matching, sorting and comparing objects - asking questions and seeing what is the same and different, we have also looked at patterns and measuring and have just started our new topic looking at the numbers 1,2 and 3. The conversation around maths in Acorn is always buzzing with the children showing great enquiring minds, always

Adventures Inside...

Inside our classroom there are lots of creative places for us to play and learn. Our role play area is very popular with a home corner and a vet's surgery.

We also have a wonderful time making and creating in our Message Centre and Creative area and the sand tray is always a hive of activity. All of our activities help our learning from developing our social skills and emotional literacy through out interactions during role play to our fine motor skills, needed for future writing success as we snip and stick we never stop learning even when we don't realise it ourselves!



...And outside!

Our dedicated Acorn Class outside area is also full of opportunities to learn and explore. Thanks to the fine, warm weather we have been spending so much time outside this term which has been fantastic. Some of our most popular things to do outside at the moment are playing with the dinosaurs and using words like 'herbivore' and 'carnivore' to describe what they like to eat. The sand area and water area is a big hit and great fun for our budding scientists to investigate floating and sinking. We have also explored our outdoor area with crayons and paper, finding interesting textures to take rubbings of as part of our art activities this term.

We love to use the equipment in creative ways too, ball runs are really popular and we work together to problem solve when it goes a bit wonky! The Mud Kitchen never stops and Ms Blake, Mrs Benjamin and Mrs Evans have been served up some real culinary delights this term including organic smoked salmon and eggs, chocolate cake with extra sprinkles and some slightly dubious looking drinks!



Acorns by Name... Acorns in Nature!

The Acorns have also been Nature Explorers in our wider school environment too. We have been on nature trails, really looking closely for changes in the season as Summer has (finally) started to let Autumn in. We loved using clipboards, it made it us all feel very grown up!

We have also explored beyond the Acorn classroom to look for circles - both natural and man made. We enjoyed spotting them and photographing them to create a photo collage. We found so many circles and couldn't stop spotting them when we got back inside too!



Beech Class Newsletter

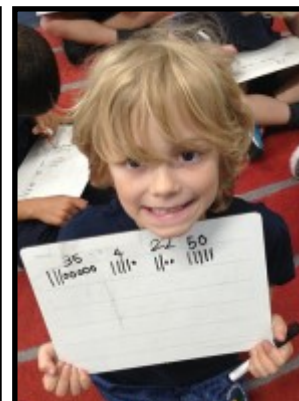
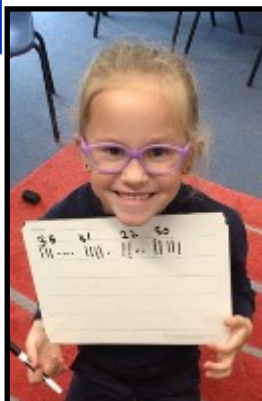
During a science lesson we identified a range of different on site trees and discussed their key features. We compared the size and shape of different leaves identifying a range of on site evergreen and deciduous trees.



As part of our design and technology unit of work, the children have explored, how to strengthen paper. This week, we will be designing our badges based on what we love about where we live. The children have absolutely loved this project!



Here is a snippet of our maths mastery journey so far this year.



Book Club

We began our Beech Class Book Club this term. We had an incredible book recommendation from a member of the Beech Class Team. She shared what she enjoyed about the book and said, "It was about kindness and being nice!" The children asked lots of questions. Each week we will look forward to another book recommendation from a Beech Class member. We will decide who this is each Monday! It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic everyone was about sharing books.



As part of our learning in Geography, we went on a field trip to the local village hall and the church. We identified and discussed the human and physical geographical features in our local area.



Willow Class Class

What a wonderful term we have had. It has been full of excitement, engagement and hard work. We have enjoyed getting to know each other and becoming a Willow Class family!

Fabulous Forest School

To start our year off, we had a whole day of Forest School. This was a wonderful day allowing us to get to know each other and enjoy the skills and tasks of Forest School.



"I really enjoyed making small homes for the wildlife"

"I made a huge ball run out of logs and sticks. We then tested it with apples and it WORKED!"

"My favourite part of the day was making a café with my friends. We used berries and apples."

"WE found some old pipes and used the sticks to create *natural plumber world* for the animals"

"I LOVE my journey stick; I even learnt how to use different knots!"



The Stone Age to the Iron Age

We are really enjoying our theme this term. The children are super- excited to be carrying it on next term!

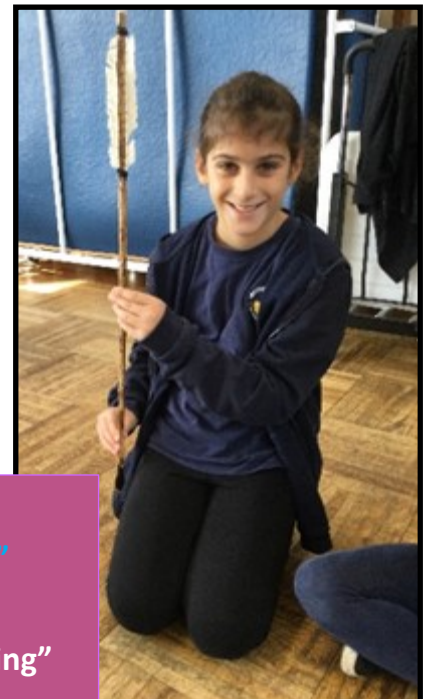
We had a special visit from The Oxford Museum to enhance our learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. It was a fantastic morning.

We learnt lots of new information, created our very own human timeline, got to hold and explore REAL artefacts and ,to finish off, we had the opportunity to carve axe heads out of soap.

It was brilliant day, and a great great curriculum enrichment opportunity for everyone!



We had great fun!



"I can't believe I held an actual flint from the Stone Age!"

"Carving the soap was so much fun and tricky all at the same time"

"Can she come back for our next topic?"

"I really enjoyed our workshop- the human timeline was interesting"

Oak Class

Ancient Greek Workshop

This term we have been learning all about the Ancient Greeks. Oak Class were lucky enough to take part in an interactive workshop delivered to us by The Woodstock Museum. This really helped to bring aspects of the children's learning in history to life in a way which will be very memorable.

The children had so much fun and, of course, learnt so many new things. Brilliant!



The children began by talking about the origin of the Olympic Games and how it has developed to the present day. They took part in some of the original events, including running, jumping and wrestling!



The children then went onto making their own ceremonial discuses out of clay. They engraved these with Greek lettering and a Greek symbol.

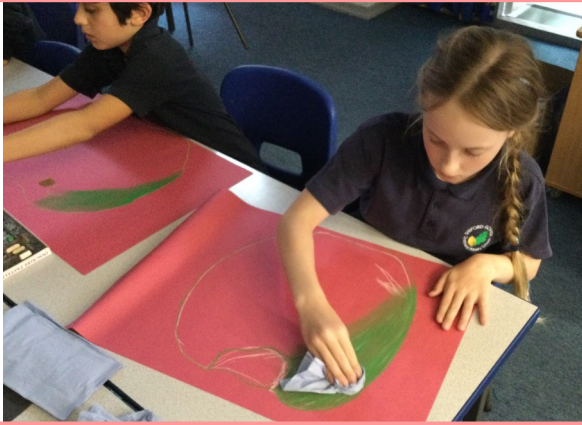
We also practised our jumping. The children had to measure how far they jumped with the **Halteres** compared to jumping without. **Halteres** were hand-held 'dumbbells' made out of stone or metal. The weight was intended to give impetus when jumping and does seem to help you jump further.



At the end of our Ancient Greek Olympics workshop, we had an award ceremony in which the winners received a medal and a laurel victory crown.



ART FOR THE BIG APPLE FESTIVAL



These are just a few of their drawings.
You can see more on the school website at

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



We were so pleased to be asked to participate in the 'Big Apple festival' on the first Sunday of October.

The children love art lessons and this gave them an opportunity to practice careful looking and mark-making as part of an observation drawing lesson.

The children in Oak Class worked with soft pastels to create large scale drawings of a cooking apple from our school orchard. Although they all drew the same apple, their finished pieces were strikingly varied!

Copies of the children's artwork were exhibited at the Village Hall for everyone who attended the Apple Festival to see.

We feel sure that some of our children will have their artwork in exhibitions in the future too.

What a talented bunch they are!

Reading Matters in School...and at home!

We have appointed our Reading Ambassadors and they have led their first organised reading event in school. They introduced themselves during a special assembly where they talked about why they felt reading was so important.



OUR READING AMBASSADORS

Then the children in Willow and Oak Classes found partners from a different class to share a favourite book with and explain why they would recommend it. They were very respectful and all enjoyed reading to their partner and listening to them read. Well done, Reading Ambassadors!



These are some of the reasons our Reading Ambassadors love to read so much.

We invited Karen Seymour, the librarian from Hook Norton Library, back into school for a very special assembly to give all those children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge their award medals. Very well done to all those who took part.

Fraser: "Reading improves your vocabulary by a massive amount. With a fiction book, especially if there is lots of description, you can really feel like you are in the character's world."

David: "Reading really gives you an increase in your knowledge and your vocabulary"

Scarlett: "When you read, you can go all over the world whilst standing still. It's like free magic"

Martha: "Bookworms have a bigger brain than other people. The more you read, the more you learn"

Molly: "The reading curriculum is important in school. It's educational, good for your vocabulary and it is really magical when you get the perfect book for you"

Charlie: "If you don't read, you've missed out on a whole other world"



It was really lovely to invite parents and grandparents into school each morning during Reading Week. Thank you so much to all of you who were able to come and join in.

Sport at Sibford Gower

It has been an exciting start to the year already with sporting events, PE within school and other sporting activities.



Meet our new Sports Leaders

Sports Leaders have a huge responsibility in school. They run lunchtime sessions for both KS1 and KS2 children. They have a coned area on the playground and create wonderful, fun and active games for all. In order to become a Sports Leader, the children have to write a letter explaining why they should be picked. This year, the letters were excellent! We are very lucky to have children who are so proud to take on this responsibility!



On Wednesday 18th October, our sports leaders had the opportunity to work with our local Youth Activators. They provided new games for them to try at lunch times, discussed skills and values needed for these sessions and as a team, created some new and exciting warm ups for their very own lunchtime sessions.

Our years 3 and 4 boys took part in the first sporting event of the year. They took part the U9s football festival at Sibford school. It was a wonderful day out and the boys played with great sportsmanship and determination.



Next, we had the GIRLS! They participated in the U9s girl's football festival and had a wonderful afternoon. For many, this was the first time they had participated in a football tournament! To see them smiling and having fun on the pitch as they represented their school was great, and is exactly what these tournaments are about!



Planned Upcoming Events- *These events may be subject to change*

Years 5 and 6 Tag Rugby	2nd November 2pm to 4pm	The Warriner School
Key Stage 2 Cross Country	9th November 2pm to 4pm	Sibford School
Key Stage 1 (Beech Class) Cross Country	10th November 10:00 to 11:00	Sibford School
Key Stage 1 Dance Festival	23rd November 10:00 to 11:30	The Warriner School

THANK YOU P.T.A

For supporting with our MacMillan Cake Sale and our Meet and Greet event.

For organising the Cauliflower Cards fundraiser

For organising the Bonfire Night which we are looking forward to.

Brilliant!

If you would like to find out more about being involved with our PTA, please contact;

Ali Smith seacho10@gmail.com or Charlotte Watkins chirpie34@hotmail.com

WOMBAT SCHOOL COUNCIL

The children have now elected their School Council class representatives. The council have met to agree roles and responsibilities and to set their schedule for monthly meetings with the Headteacher across the school year. We will share more WOMBAT news as we get down to business after the holiday.

We have already begun identifying Hot Spots (things we love about our school) and Grot Spots (areas of the school where we think some improvement is needed). To find out about some of the things the School Council achieved last year, please look at their page on the school website :

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

A message from Alex Greenhalgh, Chair of Governors

Dear Sibford Gower Endowed Community,

I would like, on behalf of the governing body, to wish all parent/carers, staff members and children a restful and enjoyable October half term.

It has been an exceptionally busy but incredibly positive first term for the school . I know how much will be happening in school next term with many exciting learning opportunities so please do try and rest and come back full of energy.

Best wishes, Alex Greenhalgh

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.

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 8:40 a.m.

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

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, you can look on the school website at: <http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/early-birds.html>

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!