



October 2024

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a lovely half-term we have had! The weeks seemed to speed by as we moved from Summer into Autumn.

Although our main focus is always on learning, which has been fun in itself, recent weeks have also been enriched with lots of extra-curricular activities, including special visits and visitors as you will see in this newsletter.

We have now appointed our Sports Leaders who do a wonderful job of supporting our younger children to be involved with organised physical activities at lunchtime, our Reading Ambassadors who help to promote a love of reading throughout the school, and our Pupil School Council (the WOMBATS) which will have a special focus on environmental matters this year. Well done to all those pupils who have been chosen for, or elected to, these important school roles.

There is much to look forward to next term, including the PTA Firework and Bonfire Night, the trip to Conover Hall for Oak Class, and all the lovely things that go on in the run-up to Christmas.

The first week back brings our parent consultation meetings. Although our formal assessments are not until later in the Autumn Term and will be reflected in the end of term Report Cards, this is a good opportunity to talk with the teacher about how your child has settled into the new academic year and how well they are engaging with learning. We look forward to welcoming you into school for these.

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 CLASS 96%



On Jeans 4 Genes Day we raised £66.35

Thank you so much for your support for this very 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 those affected.



Reminder!

Children return to school on
Monday 4th November

Harvest Celebration



It was lovely to welcome so many of you to the church in Sibford Gower for our Harvest Festival celebrations. The children enjoyed singing and sharing their art work. What a lovely occasion!



ACORN CLASS NEWS

What a fantastic start to the school year! We have been so busy this first term, welcoming back old friends into Acorn Class and saying hello to new members of Nursery and Reception, it has been great fun getting to know everyone. We have had so many adventures together already - cooking and making activities, exploring indoors and outdoors, learning so many new things and - most importantly - having lots of fun together!

Red
Leaf,
Yellow
Leaf



Delightful Dough

This year we are adventuring into the fabulous world of dough - each week we head on down to the Dough Disco to work out our funky finger moves and then enter the fabulous world of Story Dough where we let our imaginations run wild as we shape our dough into weird and wonderful things then bring them to life with our special 'Secret Codes'. Both these activities, aside from being so much fun for everyone involved, are great for our fine motor skills - working the muscles needed for future writing success. The 'code' element of Story Dough also shows us that the marks we make have meaning and purpose.

Phonological Awareness

While the Reception children have their daily phonics session, Nursery enjoy activities that get them ready for phonics through stories, songs, games and instruments



Marvellous Maths

Acorn Class have made a great start to their maths learning, as part of our Mastering Number sessions we have explored the numbers 1,2,3 and 4. Although this may seem simple, this is to get the children thinking about these numbers really deeply rather than simply being able to 'count' them aloud. We have looked at what these numbers might look like and enjoyed making the numbers in different ways and going on a 'number hunt' around our school. Numbers play a really important part in our class routines too, each morning we count to see how many children are here and in our Book Vote we compare our two towers of 'voting cubes' to see which has 'more' and which has 'fewer', further developing our mathematical language in a wider range of contexts.



JEANS
FOR
GENES



Jeans For Genes

On Jeans For Genes day we all wore our denim to raise money to help change the lives of people affected by various genetic conditions. It just so happened that Mrs Benjamin's jeans needed a bit of a 'glow up' and the children were more than happy to oblige! Painting on fabric was a different experience and we had great fun!

Fabulous Feelings

Starting Nursery or Reception is a time full of lots of big feelings. In Acorn Class we encourage everyone to share how they are feeling and we use our Colour Monster display and matching knitted cuddly monsters to help us. Talking about our feelings is not only important for our mental wellbeing but also is a great way to develop empathy with others.

When we read stories we often talk about how the characters are feeling and start to link these feelings with behaviours. One story we read recently was The

Gingerbread Man, the children then enjoyed decorating 'feeling' ginger biscuits with raisins - we had lots of different 'feelings' and characters from the story.



Creative Cookery

Food activities are a great way to develop all sorts of skills in Acorn class. From fine motor, new sensory sensations, science skills, developing language around questioning - there are a lot of things to be gained to cooking in addition to the obvious yummy result! This term we have enjoyed decorating cakes for Macmillian, decorating biscuits to show different feelings and making some Gruffalo Crumble to tie in with the Apple Festival.



Outdoor Adventures

If we were to describe our attitude to outdoor fun in Acorn it would probably be 'whatever the weather' (within reason!!) - the children are getting very good at getting ready for outdoor adventures by putting on their waterproofs and wellies, developing those independence with tricky zips and funny 'all-in-one' suits (is that an arm or a leg hole?!). Once ready, the children love exploring the outdoor space in Acorn Class. Vehicles are always popular and the children love queuing for petrol and a mechanic service. The mud kitchen is another popular area (we can recommend the hot chocolate although they do come with slightly dubious sprinkles...), our climbing and balancing equipments adds a different level of challenge and our portable writing resources are great for taking down cafe orders or just enjoying drawing (or having a manicure with pen lids for new nails!). The Autumn sunshine has also given the children a chance to explore shadows - seeing how 'tall' our shadows are was lots of fun and surprised us all!

Hide and Seek Animals

Autumn brings us many changes, from the last days of the summer sun to the blustery Autumnal days, filled with swirling leaves and falling conkers. It's not just us who notice this change though, animals do as well and we have been learning about some animals that hibernate over the winter. We learned about different hibernating animals and, using printing and sticking, made some 'homes' for these animals. We also made some hedgehog homes outside!



Beech Class News

Beech Class Science

In our science lessons, we have been carrying out weekly investigations. Each investigation involves making predictions, testing, ensuring tests are fair and hypothesising. Here we are investigating materials which float or sink.



Investigating stretch in materials: You will find more pictures of this on our class page.

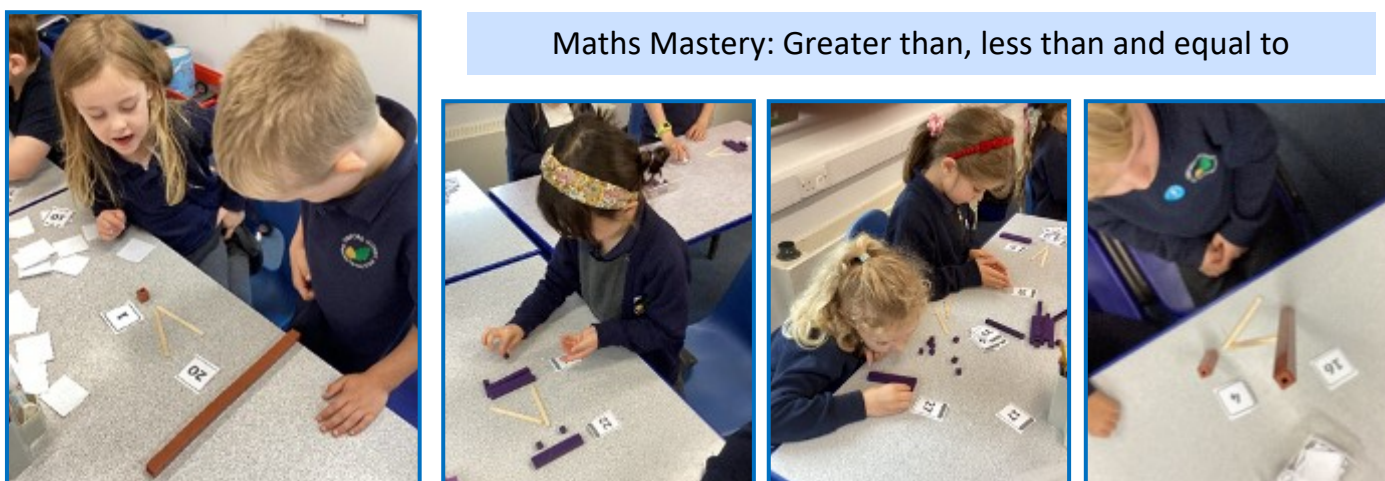


We encountered a problem:
Mrs. Oliveira's table cloth was not waterproof and she was getting water stains on her wooden table!

Our brief was to test materials to find a suitable material, that is waterproof, to go under her table cloth.



Maths Mastery: Greater than, less than and equal to



Art Pathway: Spirals

We invited children to use their whole body to create large scale "Spiral Drawings".
We used a range of media and spaces to create such spirals.

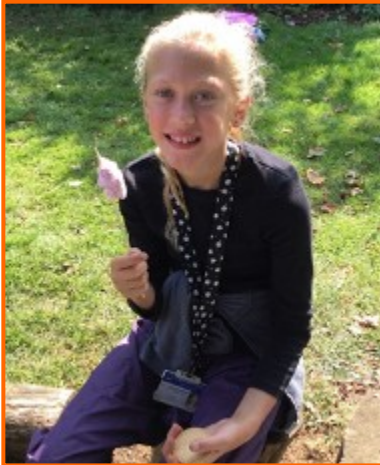


We displayed some of our Spiral artwork in the classroom.



Willow Class News

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 new 'Willow Class family'!



Fabulous Forest School

We are so lucky that Mrs Davies and Mrs Williams are both qualified Forest School teachers. 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."

"Making a fire was amazing, I have always wanted to do that!"

The Battle of Edgehill

We have thoroughly enjoyed our topic this term; we have explored locations and got lost in maps (for hours!). We have learnt about the English Civil War in great detail and very much enjoyed learning about the 'Roundheads' and the 'Cavaliers'.

Finally, we created our very own re-enactment of the BATTLE!



We had a successful homework celebration!
Thank you to all who were able to attend.
We had a wonderful afternoon.

Art in Willow Class



We enjoyed making pictures for the Apple Festival and for Harvest Festival.

Oak Class News

Science: We've kicked off our year as scientists with a look at classifying living things. Firstly, the children learned what the seven indicators of a living thing are before trying to sort out this huge puzzle of grouping 54 different living things into groups of 4 according to what they had in common!

Thursday 5th September 2024 LO: To group and sort animals based on their observable features.

Find connections between the living things at the bottom and classify them in groups of 4 below. What are the connectors?

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | |
| | | | | | | |
| 10 | | 11 | | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------------|------------|
| bee | daffodil | fern | jasmine | mushroom | sea mouse | toad |
| bifidobacterium | dog | flu | juniper | newt | shark | toadstool |
| chicken | duck | fly | scabiosa scabiosa | pine | shag | torii |
| chickpea | eagle | frog | linch | rabbit | snail | swamp |
| cod | earthworm | gecko | limpet | robin | snake | water lily |
| Covid-19 | erwig | goldfish | mackerel | rose | spider | whale |
| crocodile | e-cod | hepatitis | moss | sula manilla | stomatococcus muhlenbergii | whale |
| daddy longlegs | father zoster worm | hunas | mould | scorpion | tick | yeast |

We then moved on to classifying vertebrates and then invertebrates. For the latter, we took advantage of our wonderful orchard to find, record and photograph some examples of our local invertebrate community. They found all sorts of creatures, ranging from spiders and daddy longlegs to beetles, flies and ants' eggs!



Being the studious group that they are, the children have enjoyed working together to carry out their own research into more unusual living things, focussing on recording their findings using scientific vocabulary (e.g. to avoid talking about "bugs"!).

For the last few weeks of term, we have started looking at different models of how to classify living things, which is helpful when new species are discovered.

Oak Class : Le Français

To fit with the theme of Shackleton and Antarctica, we have been learning all about creatures from the Arctic and the Antarctic. The French language focus has been on question forms and decoding unfamiliar language using cognates (words which look the same as in English), near-cognates (words which look like they probably mean the same) and context, as well as words which they have already learned from French lessons in previous years.

The vocabulary theme is obviously connected to animals and their physical features, diets and habitats. Interwoven with this theme, we have also been revisiting “language basics”, such as numbers, greetings and pronunciation work.

The children have continued to grow in confidence at using spoken French, and with a fantastic pronunciation too!

jeudi 5 septembre 2024

L'Objectif : Apprendre des animaux arctiques

La sterne arctique


Qu'est-ce que c'est ?

C'est comment son aspect physique ?

Qu'est-ce qu'elle mange ?

Où habite-t-elle ?

Quelles sont ses particularités ?



h. chag. live in all the oceans and eat of the fish

Year 6 work on the arctic tern

jeudi 19 septembre 2024

L'Objectif : Apprendre des animaux arctiques

Le Manchot Empereur


Qu'est-ce que c'est ?

C'est comment son aspect physique ?

Qu'est-ce qu'elle mange ?

Où habite-t-elle ?

Quelles sont ses particularités ?



Year 5 work on the emperor pen-

jeudi 26 septembre 2024

L'Objectif : Apprendre des animaux arctiques

L'Orque Épaulard


1. Qu'est-ce que c'est ?

2. C'est comment son aspect physique ?

3. Qu'est-ce qu'il mange ?

4. Où habite-t-il ?

5. Quelles sont ses particularités ?



Year 5 work on the killer whale

jeudi 3 octobre 2024

L'Objectif : Apprendre des animaux arctiques


Le léopard de mer

Qu'est-ce que c'est ?

Qu'est-ce qu'il mange ?

Où habite-t-il ?

Quelles sont ses particularités ?



Year 6 work on the sea leopard



We created lovely pastel drawings of the Shackleton expedition to get ready for our themed work.





The children in Oak Class worked collaboratively to make poster art for the Sibfords' Apple Festival. They stencilled, printed, coloured and collaged to make these vibrant images, in celebration of the humble apple.



A is for Apple Festival



Reception and nursery children from Acorn Class made these beautiful apples from screwed up newspaper and 'mod-roc'. Once painted, we added a stalk and leaf and popped them into the basket. Lovely!

The children in Willow Class explored the effect of pressure on pencil tone to create these beautiful montages of apple images. They worked very carefully and thoughtfully.





Year 5 Art Day at Sibford School.
Oak Class year 5 children spent a day in the Art Studios at Sibford School. They had a great time exploring screen-printing, etching and clay work.
Thank you, Sibford School



At Sibford Gower, we love to read!



Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you for bringing your children to our annual Scholastic Book Fair. This is a good way to get the children excited about books and reading. Your purchases raised £220.14 for the school which will be spent on books for the library areas.

Summer Reading Challenge



Well done to all those children who took part in the Summer reading Challenge over the summer break. It was lovely to invite Karen Seymour, based at Hook Norton library, back into school to present the awards to the children.

Reading Ambassadors, 2024-25

Our Reading Ambassadors are chosen rather than elected. They are pupils from Year 23up who provide pupil voice in developing strategies to promote a love of reading and reading engagement across the school.

This year's ambassadors are:

Ember Watkins, Leo Elliot, Frazer Pounds, David Chard, Eleanor Brace, Imogen Rees, Scarlett Lloyd-Silverman, Beaux Perkins, Cecily Gordon & Robyn Tattersall-King.

Well done all of you!

Reading Week in School

A heartfelt thank you to all those parents, grandparents and other family members who were able to come into school to share books with their child as part of our termly

Reading Week.

This is a simple activity, which brings a lot of joy.



Wear Red Against Racism



Children from across the school wore an item of red clothing to mark **'Wear Red Against Racism Day'**. This day is an important opportunity for us to send out the message that our school community welcomes diversity, celebrates it, and takes a stand against racism in all forms.



Our school Reading Ambassadors introduced a special reading assembly for the whole school. They talked about books that they liked and why they would recommend them to others. All the children had a lovely time sharing some of their favourite books with children from other classes.

Reading Ambassador's Assembly

TASHI LHUNPO MONKS



We were delighted to welcome the Tibetan monks from the Tashi Lhunpo monastery into school for a very special workshop. The adults and children from Willow and Oak classes learned about many things during the afternoon, including how to blow a long horn, a dance to vanquish demons, how the monks 'debate' to show learning and how to follow the chime of a bell to lose their thoughts and meditate. What an extraordinary and interesting time we had!



Recycling Week

We rounded off Recycling Week with a very special assembly. James Nolan, a Waste Service Development Officer for Cherwell District Council, and his team came into school to talk all about recycling, including the correct things to place in each bin. We learned a lot but our children, as always, impressed us with what they already knew. This was an excellent way to 'kick-start' our year long focus on sustainability and the things we can do to take care of the environment.



The children were especially excited by the arrival of an extra special guest! **Binbo the recycling mascot.**

Palisander - Recorder Revolution!

The children took part in an inspiring interactive concert at Tudor Hall, designed to ignite children's passion for music making. There was an amazing array of recorders 6 inches to 6 feet tall!

The performance included traditional music from the British Isles, songs by Kings, sparkling baroque concertos and surprising contemporary techniques.

The event marked the beginning of the Banbury Music Festival and we are so pleased that our children were invited to be a part of this.

Thank you Tudor Hall School.



Macmillan Cake Sale

A huge thank you to all of you who donated cakes and gave your time to support this charity event.

We raised an amazing £ 165.93 for this important cause. Thank you so much.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

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.

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>



School Attendance: The law has changed

From 19th August 2024, Penalty Notice fines for school attendance have changed

The Government has introduced a new National framework for Penalty Notices. The key points are:

5 days of unauthorised absence

Penalty Notice fines may be issued for any term-time absences that are unauthorised (for example, a 5-day term-time holiday), whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a rolling period of 10 school weeks.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any 10-week period

Penalty Notices will also be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any rolling period of 10 school weeks.

A school day has 2 sessions

1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day

A school week means any week in which there is at least one school lesson. The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 5 sessions of holiday plus 5 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 20 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in one week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 4 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer term and a further 6 within the Autumn Term).

What is a Penalty Notice?

A Penalty Notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated Penalty Notices are being issued and they are not working to change behaviour they are unlikely to be the most appropriate tool. Therefore, from August 2024, only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. Any further offences will result in criminal prosecution.

The law is clear that, in each individual case where a Penalty Notice threshold is met, the school must consider whether a Penalty Notice is appropriate.

First offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised period of term-time absence or irregular attendance, the amount of the fine will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

Reduced to: **£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.**

Second Offence in a 3-year rolling period

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised period of term-time absence or irregular attendance to the same parent for the same child, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

There is no reduction in the amount for prompt payment.

Third Offence or Any Further Offence (in a 3-year rolling period)

The third time an offence is committed for an unauthorised period of term-time absence or irregular attendance by the same parent for the same child (including those by other local Authorities) a Penalty Notice will **NOT** be issued but the case will be referred to Oxfordshire County Council's Education Welfare service for prosecution. This may result in fines of up to **£2,500 per parent, per child.**

Cases found guilty in a Magistrate's court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate.

Oxfordshire County Council have the discretion to issue penalty Notice fines before the above threshold is met in cases where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term-time holidays below the threshold or for repeated absences for birthdays or other family events.

Unchanged

Penalty notices are issued per Parent, per Child. This means that fines are issued to each parent for each child who is absent, for example, if 2 siblings are absent for a term-time holiday, this may result in each parent receiving 2 separate fines.

To view the latest copy of the School Attendance Policy, please look on the school website at: <http://www.sibford-gower.axon.sch.uk/policies-notices-and-reports.html>

Sport at Sibford Gower

What a term it has been!

We have participated in many sporting events this term (Which have been great fun!), enjoyed a range of PE lessons and even qualified for the next round of Cross Country!



T1 Rugby- Our year 6 children took part in a new festival this year, T1 Rugby. It was a festival to learn the new skills and play of the game. The picture says it all... A great afternoon had by all!



KS1 and KS2 have taken part in the 'Annual Cross Country' event this term. A new course for many as the event was at The Warriner. All children had a wonderful time and ran their little socks off!

A special mention to Holly, Liam, Cecily Gibson who have qualified for the next round!

GO TEAM SIBFORD GOWER!



PE is an important part of our curriculum and a subject that we thoroughly enjoy!

Meet our new Sports Leaders...

The children wrote their applications at the start of the year. I was **extremely** impressed and therefore they were all chosen! I feel a good year ahead.



Team building with Oak Class

From our littlest Acorns...to our 'mighty' Oaks, we all love to participate in Sport.

SEN at Sibford Gower



Welcome back! A positive start to the year here at Sibford Gower.

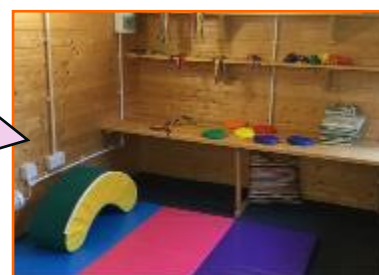
We had our first 'SEN Coffee Morning' of the year, which was lovely! We had a visitor in from 'Oxfordshire Parent/Carers Forum' who were extremely supportive and provided us with some great websites and support groups. If you were unable to attend this time, don't worry we have many planned in throughout the year!



I like it in here!
The animals are my favourite!

Our sensory room is in full swing! This has been used positively and productively already and is a great area for all our children to use when needed.

I really enjoy this space; it is so calming!



WOMBAT SCHOOL COUNCIL



Our new School Council has now been democratically elected. This year, as well as representing the views of their classmates in conversations with the school leadership team, they will focus on environmental matters and the contributions children at school can make to improving and protecting our environment. To find out more about our School Council please look at their page on the school website .

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

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!