



October 2020

SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

During the first half-term of the new school year, the children have settled back into the new 'normal' well and school is a very happy place to be. Both attendance and behaviour in bubbles across the school are excellent and the children seem pleased to be back with friends and teachers. While many of the children very much enjoyed the extra time they spent with their families during lockdown, they have come back with a renewed enthusiasm for learning at school and are really enjoying lessons, whether in class or outside in the fresh air.



I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all the positive messages we have received from many parents in support of staff and all the thought they put into the children. It really is important for our teachers and teaching assistants to hear from parents that their hard work & commitment is appreciated, especially in the current, difficult times.

It seems such a long time since we last collated one of these half-termly newsletters to share with you. During the pandemic so far, we have made some changes to our communications with you which mean it is now appropriate to adapt this newsletter too.

We have redesigned the class pages on our school websites in the anticipation that you will access these on a weekly basis to find out much of the detail of the things your child has been doing at school through the weekly updates, photo galleries and termly topic information. As you will be aware from the weekly bulletin, the Class Pages drop-down tab now sits on the top bar on the home page of the website to make your child's class page even easier to find.

SIBFORD GOWER ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL



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CURRICULUM

ACTIVITY

While we intend to keep these half-termly newsletters in place, we also don't want to spend valuable time replicating information that you will be looking at elsewhere, and so these newsletters will be simpler and a little shorter.

We are still including class pages but these will be focused on one or two things that the children have particularly enjoyed doing or want to share with you, rather than going into the kind of detail more helpfully shared on the website.

Have a lovely half-term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday, 2nd November.

With warmest regards,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher

Best Class Attendance this half term:

Acorn Class 99.5%



The Warriner Farm says THANK YOU !



Your donations for the pumpkins raised a fabulous £121.15

Acorn Class—Dinosaur Planet

We explored the different ways in which dinosaurs laid their eggs. In a line, in a circle, in a spiral and in groups of five! We even had a go at counting in groups of five!



We became Palaeontologists for the afternoon and searched for Dinosaur fossils in the stone. It was great fun, but rather dusty work! We looked in our dinosaur books for find out information about our discoveries.



We have also been exploring Dinosaurs using our 'pack and play boxes'. Please book in to our dinosaur museum!





Beech Class

We have had a fantastic first term in Beech class, creating and hatching our own dinosaur eggs, cloud watching, story telling, fossil hunting, creating art with natural materials, making our own clay fossils and many more exciting activities. We have also read almost 1000 books between us and are absolutely loving being back at school!





Willow Class

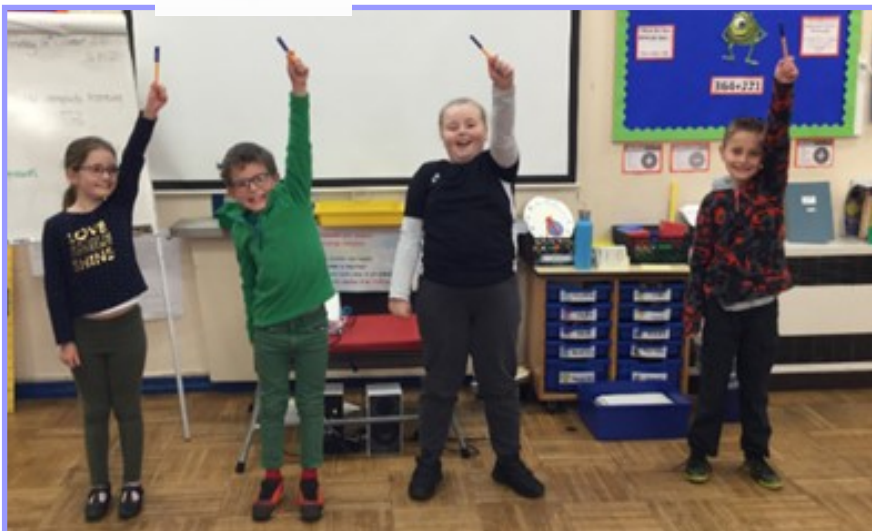


What a wonderful term we have had. It has been full of excitement, engagement and hard work. We have enjoyed getting to know each other and becoming Willow Class family!

The children have really enjoyed our topic on 'Gods and Mortals'. They have enjoyed learning new information, exploring artefacts and, of course, the creative side to the project. I am very excited about next term and our new focus!



Forest school has been a huge success this term. The children have explored many areas of the school grounds and it has been lovely watching them be creative when using natural materials. Some of their favourite activities have been; tree decorating, creating their names and mini dens.



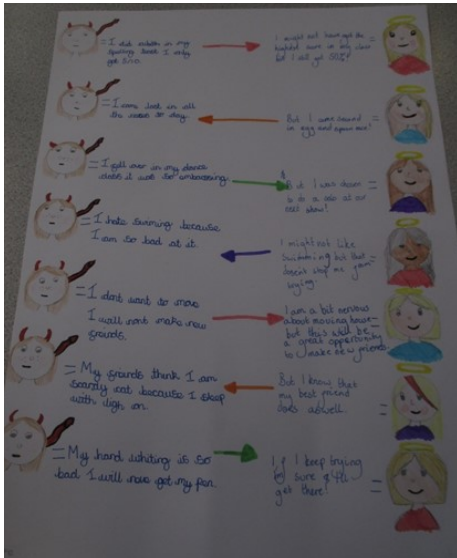
The children have been working extremely hard on their presentation and handwriting this term. I have many children in 'touching distance' of their pencil and pen- how exciting!

However, a special well done to these children who have been awarded their 'pen licences'. Lots of hard work, resilience and practice has gone into their success.

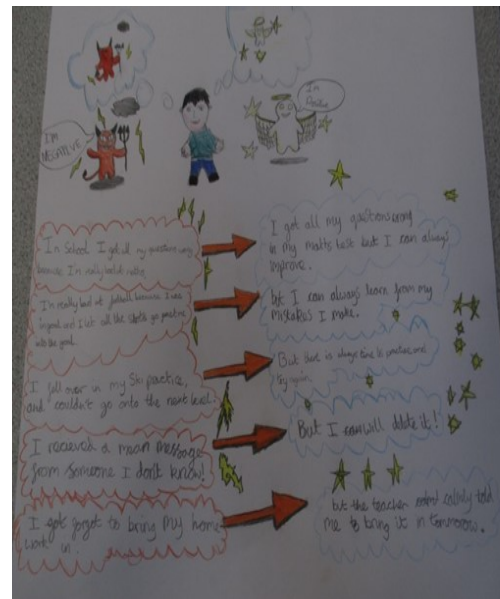
Well done!

Mental Health Day

It was Mental Health Day on Saturday 10th October. We had a class discussion about different feelings and the impact they can have on our lives and the lives of others.



Oak Class



We then put our ideas on paper, showing how we can turn negative thoughts in to positive ones. As you can see, they produced some really thoughtful work.



Alchemy Island Models

What a fabulous, innovative day the children had building their Alchemy island models. The children worked from their draft and the results were incredible.

Black History month

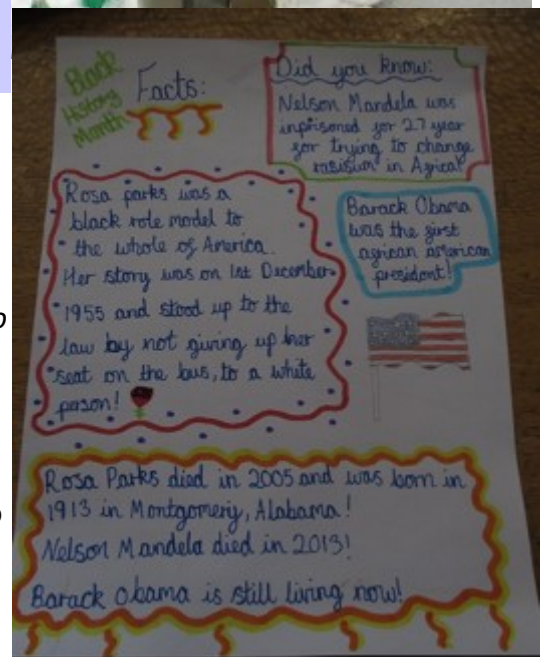
We watched a video clip about Rosa Parks. We then had a class discussion and small debate about the issues that were raised in it. Here are some of the children's thoughts:

'I think it is very upsetting that today black people still have to protest for equality'

'We all have the same heart, whether you are black or white'

'Without people like Rosa Parks, I think we would be living in a very unfair world'

We then went onto discuss other black people in history who have made a difference.





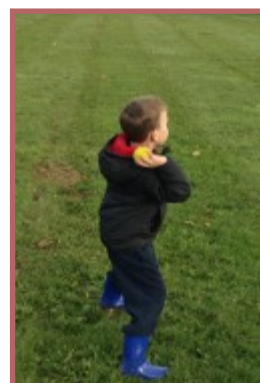
Sport at Sibford Gower



As you can imagine, sport and PE sessions have been different this term due to current circumstances. However, this has not stopped us being active and having wonderful, and energetic IP.E lessons. The children have all been fantastic and adapted to the changes in school extremely well. We haven't been able to attend any events outside of school this term **so we brought the events to us!**

As a school, we took part in our yearly 'Quad Kids' event. This consisted of a long distance run, a 50/75 metre sprint, long jump and a standing throw. We completed the event over a few weeks to make sure we got our best results.

The results were AMAZING from all classes. The top five scores from each class will be sent off to the Warriner Cluster Schools and will be compared to find the winners for our area (We will keep you updated!).



Super Scores

- Zachary (Acorn Class): 50 metre sprint, 13.25 seconds
- David (Acorn Class): Standing throw, 5.90 metres
- Freddie (Beech Class): Standing throw, 15 metres
- Holly (Beech Class): Standing long jump, 1.41 metres
- Ronnie (willow Class): Standing throw, 15 metres
- Isabella (Willow Class): 50 metre sprint, 9:42 seconds
- James (Oak Class) Standing throw, 27.10 metres
- Oliva (Oak Class) Standing long jump, 1.74 metres



TOP PRIZE for a SUPER SNAPPER

Over the summer, Henry Boyles of Willow Class, a very talented young photographer whose work many of you will already be familiar with from his annual photographic calendar, took part in a nature photography competition for Helen & Douglas House Hospice. We are delighted to be able to share the news that Henry came 1st in the 6-10 year old category with this beautiful photograph.

Very well done, Henry!



P.T.A News

This year we have a new PTA committee continuing to support enrichment opportunities for all the children at our wonderful school. The PTA is a non-profit, all-volunteer association which is run by parents just like you to benefit all the children at Sibford Gower Primary School. We hope you will get involved with the PTA as much as you are able, and help to support all the things we do to fundraise for our school.

During the pandemic we will see many of our popular PTA events missing from the calendar and fundraising will be challenging but we believe this year is more important than ever to pull together as a school community and unite our efforts. We are encouraging all parents to help us with creative ideas for fundraising and enrichment during these unusual times.

Please look out for our events in the weekly bulletin. You can find out information on the PTA link on the school website and you can follow us on Facebook @ Sibford Gower Primary School PTA.

If you would like to join the committee or attend the next meeting, please email Ali Smith at seaecho10@gmail.com.

Our next meeting will be via zoom at 7pm on Monday 2nd November and we would love to see as many people as possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our previous committee for the time and commitment they all made to the PTA efforts for the past few years.

Warm regards,

Ali Smith (Acorn and Willow Parent)

& Charlotte Watkins (Beech, Willow and Oak Parent).

2020/ 2021 PTA Committee





A Letter from our Chair of Governors, Mr Paul Manthorpe



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and all of your loved ones are safe and well.

I am writing to you all to introduce the Governing Body of our school.

The members are:

Jane O'Sullivan – Headteacher

Rachel Blake – Staff Governor

Frazer Argyros-Farrell – Parent Governor,

Alex Greenhalgh – Vice-Chair, Parent Governor,

Sarah Coe – Director Appointed Governor

Sue Cook – Director Appointed Governor,

Fred Inns – Foundation Governor

Paul Manthorpe – Chair, Director Appointed Governor

The Governing Board is made up of, largely, local people who are all acting as volunteers. Our role is to "have three core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent."

(Governance handbook For trustees of academies and multi-academy trusts and governors of maintained schools, Nov 2015)

Like everyone else at the moment we are having to change the way that we meet and do our work as Governors. Our meetings are 6 times a year – at the moment on 'Teams' – and we are in contact with the staff at the school and the Trustees of the Warriner MAT regularly to help and support the smooth running of the school.

We are all very lucky to have our school and the dedicated staff to keep our children safe and well-educated. In these problematic times, with rules and advice changing, it is important for us all to remember that the public face that people present may mask some very difficult and trying situations in their private lives. We must try not to judge or to draw erroneous conclusions but to offer everyone support and understanding.

Our school is a haven for our children and we can only hope that no further restrictions will be put on the education of our loved ones. However, we can be assured that the whole staff will do everything that they possibly can to keep the school open and everyone safe.

Finally if anyone is interested in becoming a Governor and further supporting our school please do not estimate to contact me to discuss this – I can be contacted via the school office.

With many thanks and best wishes.

Paul Manthorpe
Chair of Governors