
Friday 21st September 2018



Dear Parents

"Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and to find the inward source of our strength. Seek to know an inward stillness, even amid the activities of daily life. Do you encourage in yourself and in others a habit of dependence on God's guidance for each day? Hold yourself and others in the Light, knowing that all are cherished by God." (Advices and Queries,3)

On Monday I talked to the children about the structure of Meeting for Worship and how, Quaker or not, taking some time to be calm, be settled and be in the here and now can be very helpful. We all have increasingly busy lives, especially the children, with long and packed school days, clubs before and after school and (for some starting this week) sports fixtures. Sometimes it is easiest to run from task to task, appointment to appointment, without taking the opportunity to pause and think about what we have been doing and what we have achieved. But the chance to be still, in both body and mind, can allow us to recharge our batteries and reflect on our actions and achievements. A valuable skill as we encourage the children to review their work to seek improvements.

Today is World Peace Day and so the link to calmness and tranquillity is apposite. Throughout the day different classes have been involved in different activities related to this, with Year 5 and 6 making origami peace cranes and other classes dancing and writing peace poetry.

Peace is often focused upon as the antonym for war: a state that only exists in opposition to conflict and strife. However, peace can also be the vehicle by which peace is achieved. Perhaps if more of those involved in hostilities took time to pause, to settle, to be still then alternative solutions to confrontations might be easier to achieve.

Jellyfish have invaded Foundation's classroom this week. They are dangling from the ceiling and causing a great deal of excitement. The children have been learning that jellyfish have no

brains and no blood, "but how do they think" was the response from one child, to which Helen Hoy said they don't.

The children in Reception have begun to blend letters together to make words and this has seemed very tricky to start with, especially when learning that the letter "a" is both a letter and a word. The children have also been ordering numbers correctly from 1-10 and then extending to 20. The children in Nursery have been learning how to distinguish different sounds as a starting point for learning phonics. Nicola Key hid lots of different objects that make the same sort of sound in a bag and the children had to try and work out what each object was. They had to try and distinguish between dry leaves and a paper bag; which is difficult but really helps them at a later stage to identify tricky letter sounds such as "m" and "n" which sound very similar.

It's been another busy week in Year 1 and 2, they've continued to investigate all about themselves in all their topic work. The children were a little bemused when Becca Edwards took them outside to 'look at a tree' and then asked to talk about it, later comparing it to a family. It all made sense when they eventually created their own family trees, discussing the differences and similarities between our families. After having been visited by the 'bones doctor' they were then put to the test to piece back together their own skeletons, reinforcing the importance of bones in our bodies and why they protect the squidgy bits inside! They also looked at Sibford from a different perspective, starting to understand what maps are for and what they can show us, from roads to rivers and fields. This then helped them to investigate how to make different features using building blocks and Lego.



Year 3 had a bit of a surprise at the beginning of the week, where they were presented with a range of animal skulls. Here, they examined the teeth of their skeletal friends to find out if each animal was a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore, purely based on the shape of their teeth.



The morbid theme continued into Tuesday whereby Year 3 looked at some of the rituals involved in Ancient Egyptian burial. This was not as mournful as you might have thought however, since the Ancient Egyptians believed that life continued after a person had deceased in an afterlife, which was like their life on Earth, except everything was perfect. They also believed that people would need to take important items with them through to the afterlife and consequently, were buried with them. Pupils examined the contents of the tombs of important Ancient Egyptians, and thought about the items that they might like to take with them to an afterlife. Year 3 thought of a range of important items that included a bed, a toothbrush and a jar of Nutella (my personal favourite).

Thankfully, geography took a more light-hearted note, and pupils spent the afternoon sketching the living history area from a bird's eye view, which they did with impressive accuracy!

Year 3 ended their week on a much more light-hearted note, as they marked international peace day with poems about peace, paper doves and dances which transcend language, culture and any previous conflict.

The highlight this week for both Year 4 groups was the very special lesson delivered to the children by none other than their Head teacher Toby Spence. Children were delighted by the History lesson which taught them how we know about the past and how we can tell from artefacts/clues in the ground (or above!) what past civilisations were like. Toby Spence started the lesson by tasking the children to locate where Hadrian's Wall, London and Oxford were on their outdoor map of the UK. Well done to 4KS who beat 4MA with more accurate mapping skills.

The lesson went on to challenge children's powers of deduction regarding what functions some rather odd looking artefacts might have. Children discovered that Roman Boxing gloves did not resemble modern day boxing gloves. When faced with a hypocaust system children contemplated its function. With a little cajoling they realised that the Romans were extremely good at constructing underfloor heating. Like a good piece of literature the lesson introduced a mystery. Bones found inside the Vindolanda site had the children on the edge of their seats considering the meaning of this unusual discovery since all Roman burials were normally found outside the walled Roman encampment. We were very impressed with the thoughtful and inquisitive questions that the children came up with to challenge the Head. A very big thank to Toby Spence for an excellent lesson.

In Maths this week Year 5 have been getting to grips with place value in numbers with 2 decimal places. Using physical sidesteps across the classroom, has helped the children learn that when they multiply a number by 10 the number gets larger so they take a step to the left (move one decimal place to the left) and if you divide a number by 10 then you take a step to the right (move one decimal place to the right). Try this out at home, they should be able to work with 2 digit numbers with 2 decimal places, multiplying by 10 and 100. We have ended



our week on a peaceful note, trying not only to spell out the word but also what "peace" means to us.



The Sailing Adventure by Emmeline, Year 6

Last week Year 6 went sailing at Farmoor Reservoir because Sibford School want us to get out of the class room and learn new skills.

First we got onto the bus. It took us half an hour. Everyone on the bus was very loquacious - even me!!! We finally arrived at Farmoor, got out of our seats, grabbed our bags and headed off to the reservoir. The lake was humungous. We went into the changing rooms to get changed. While we were getting changed, some of us had a lot of difficulty putting our wet suits on! We managed to get them on in the last minute! When we got out of the changing rooms we were walking like penguins. I was very excited because this was an opportunity to try something new.

Next we headed to the instructor. His name was Paul. He was great fun, but he explained the rules in a serious manner. When he finished we headed off to get our boats. We chose our partners and I was with Olivia. It was great learning how to get our boat ready. We took it down to the water and slid it off the trolley. We jumped in and sailed off with everyone else. I fell in 3 times! It was so fun. I would recommend sailing to anyone.

Well done to the following children who were awarded Celebration Certificates this week:

Y1/2 Oscar
Y3 Jonah
Y4MA Henry
Y4KS Jago
Y5 Erin
Y6AP Nicholas
Y6NH James

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

In friendship

Edward Rossiter
Head of Junior School
Sibford School

Ps. Did you know that turkeys can blush? I'm not sure what they have to be embarrassed about though!

Sports Fixtures

On Wednesday this week the U10 girls set off in very windy conditions to play their first netball fixture of the year at Kitebrook. Match one was against Kitebrook. Our GA and GS did not even get to touch the ball as we couldn't quite link our play between the centre and attacking third.

Kitebrook kept beating us to the ball and were skilful at intercepting our passes. We marked well in defence, keeping their tally to just 4 in the first half and none in the second.

The girls listened to and acted on advice given, and in our second match against Windrush the ball pace increased. Unfortunately, the oppositions shooting was excellent, despite the dogged determination of the defenders. We had one shot at the net, which was a goal - so a 100% record for Niamh!

It was a great team effort in tricky conditions, we never gave up and improvements were evident across the two matches.

Captain and player of the matches was Kezia - well done!

Sibford Equestrian Teams

NSEA and Unaffiliated ODE at Swalcliffe

Sibford School equestrian teams got off to an impressive start at the beginning of the school year when they competed in the NSEA and Unaffiliated ODE at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian. Riders competed in three categories: dressage, show jumping (over 80cm, 90cm or 100cm jumps) and cross country. Sibford's 80cm team and the 90cm team both came first overall in the team competitions, qualifying for the National Championships in October. Well done to Tom, Y6 who was part of the 80cm team who came first.



Rectory Farm NSEA Show Jumping Qualifiers

Well done to our school equestrian team who took part in this event on Saturday, particular mention goes to Ella-Mae and Amber who represented the school for the first time and both had a clear round. We're looking forward to seeing the team in action again at Beachborough Eventer Challenge next month. Well done to all involved!



Keeping in touch

Now that the start of term is well and truly underway, it would seem timely to remind parents of the different mobile platforms Sibford School uses to share news and events.



Social Media: It is estimated that more than 40 per cent of the population use social media ... and Sibford School is no exception. You can follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram ~ links to all three can be found on the homepage of the website www.sibfordschool.co.uk so do feel free to like and share what we are up to.



The D6 School Communicator App: This is a stand-alone application designed to simplify school-parent communication, the beauty being you can personalise the information you receive. So, for example, if the school is closed due to adverse weather conditions, everyone will be alerted via the app. However, if the coach bringing Year 7 pupils home from a visit is stuck in traffic, only parents with pupils in Year 7 will receive the news. To install visit: <https://d6.co.za/education/downloads/> then go to 'Personalise' tab and select the relevant channels for you and your children.



Classlist: this is a free, private social network that lets school parents achieve more in less time. Effectively it's a virtual school gate where you can connect securely with other parents in the school and in particular those with children in the same year group as your own. To download click on the link of the Parent/Pupil section of school the website.

Junior School Apple Day - Friday, 28th September 2018

The staff and pupils of the Junior School would like to invite you to our annual Apple Day on Friday, 28th September from 3pm. For those new to the school, Apple Day is an opportunity for the children to use the bumper crop of fruit from the orchard creatively, to design stalls to raise money for charity. The apples are used in a variety of ways; taking advantage of their tastiness - or their usefulness as projectiles!

PSFA Second Hand Uniform Shop

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open on Fridays 3.30pm to 4.30pm (in the staff room entrance lobby)

Christmas Box Appeal 2018

Sibford Junior School is once again supporting the Christmas Box Appeal. For more information please visit www.fscinet.org/christmas. Completed boxes must be returned by Monday, 12th November 2018.

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 24 th September	SFL/SEN Support Plan Teacher/Parent Meetings from 3pm
Friday, 28 th September	Junior School Apple Day, 3pm (Parents welcome)
Tuesday, 2 nd October	U11 A/B Football v New College – A
Friday, 5 th October	Whole School Open Morning
	U11 Rugby Training Day at Warwick – A
	Celebration Meeting, Dining Hall at 3.40pm (Parents welcome)