

Friday 19th October 2018



FREE Stay & Play Session
FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER
to find out more visit
www.sibfordschool.co.uk

Dear Parents,

And so half term ends with a suitably busy week – maintaining the theme of the term so far. It seems only yesterday that we were welcoming children into their new year groups and yet, over the past six and a half weeks they have all progressed well and achieved a great deal. At the beginning of term I spoke to the children about the idea of challenging themselves, of setting targets that they could work towards and in some of the work I have seen around the school since then it is evident that they have taken on the advice.

On Monday, in Meeting for Worship, we thought about how we might approach overcoming a challenge. I gave them the example of the feat of tearing a phone book in half with just their hands. Now, when I was little, that was quite something as a phone book was at least two inches thick! The yellow pages I had for my demonstration was less than a finger's width... and none of the children knew what it was! If ever there was a sign of the times to make you feel old!

Nonetheless, even in its slimmed down format, no one was able to rip the book. So we thought about alternative ways to approach the problem and they came to the conclusion that there is more than one way to skin the proverbial cat (no animals were harmed during the Meeting for Worship I might add!) Ideas were proffered about tearing each individual page at a time, a fitting analogy for learning to read in lots of bite-sized chunks. Mila came up with the concept of looking at the challenge in a different way in order to solve it – I had said tear the phone book in half, but hadn't indicated where that division of the half was. Under her instruction it was easy to rip the book in half by opening it and tearing directly down the spine. Sometimes solutions to problems are more simple and straightforward than we first think. Finally (with a little help practising at home from YouTube), I showed them that we can use science and creative thinking to rip the book by folding in to create tiny air pockets meaning that we rip the pages singly rather than in a big clump. Fortunately, the demonstration worked in front of the children!

The key is, with each of these examples, that we have it within us to overcome challenges. Sometimes by dogged perseverance, sometimes by creative thinking and sometimes by applying what we already know – the real skill is finding the right way to answer the question.

Throughout the week we have seen a range of problem solving skills in operation, amongst other notable learning techniques. As reported on below, the U9 football team, showed brilliant teamwork to win the NOSSP tournament. While on Wednesday, as the school role briefly doubled, Year 3 and their friends from St John's used all sorts of talents when undertaking their various activities. I hope they can keep it all going after half term.

We've also managed to squeeze in auditions for children from Year 5 and 6 who wanted to be considered for bigger roles in our Christmas production. Well done to all of the children who stepped forward, the standard was very high and it has given us a good headache when it comes to casting decisions! Parts, along with the title of the play, will be revealed after half term!

Foundation have enjoyed the last week of their "Under the Sea" topic. At the start of the week they completed a sea creature quiz where they successfully guessed which creature the questions related to. The children were particularly interested by the poisonous creatures and as a result have been making poisonous play dough creatures. The quiz theme continued during Forest School as the children went on a mini beast hunt. They worked in pairs to spot the insects on their list. They learnt how important insects are to the environment and why we need to take care of them.

In Maths, the children have all been exploring the language of more or less. On Thursday, they thoroughly enjoyed a picnic where they could count which plate had more or less sweets and which plate had zero.

Can you believe it's the end of their topic already? Year 1 & 2 children have enjoyed bringing together all their learning for 'All About Me', ranging from more Art/DT, to linking their understanding of how we and animals change as they grow. Following on from their work on understanding emotions, they ventured to the pottery room to make their clay faces with different emotions. They investigated how to manipulate the clay into different shapes, then used different tools to create different textures. In addition, they designed an unusual poster with information about them around the side.



Number and place value is always a tricky thing to get your head around, so Becca Edwards thought she'd challenge the children even further this week when linking number words in too! Some of the children solved number problems making sure the numbers were in the correct order after being muddled up. In case they hadn't worked hard enough, Becca Edwards finished off the term with a Big Write following up on their work on settings and Funnybones, rewriting the story in their own words.

A very busy week in Year 3! Year 3 have been presenting their wonderful Egyptian half termly projects. It seems that Year 3 have been busy at home too, since clearly lots of work and effort had gone in to making the projects so fabulous! On Tuesday, Year 3 learned about Howard Carter's extraordinary discovery in Egypt in 1922. Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb has been described as the biggest news story of the century, and Year 3 attempted putting themselves in Carter's shoes, as he lived such a monumental moment, by writing a diary entry from his point of view.

Wednesday was by far the busiest and most exciting day. Year 3 welcomed 90 friends from St Johns RC school to join them for an Egyptian-themed activities morning. These included painting a pillar fit for an Egyptian temple, orienteering with an Egyptian problem to solve involving arranging and translating hieroglyphics, Ancient Egyptian jewellery-making and recreating the wonder that Carter felt as he first set eyes on King Tutankhamun's tomb.



Wednesday's excitement did not end with the morning however; the afternoon brought with it a time machine which transported the pupils back to 1922! They had the honour of meeting Howard Carter himself! (Who knew that he looked remarkably like Ed Rossiter?) Year 3 asked him lots of questions, therefore learning lots about the discovery.



Finally, Year 3 had the opportunity to receive their finished Canopic jars (organs not included) and paint their miniature pharaohs. What a way to wrap up the half term!



Children in 4MA were delighted with their finished Roman pots, with an aged finish they looked as if they had just been excavated from an ancient Roman site. Well done to John James for his authentic eye. All things Roman continued in both 4MA and 4KS as children had a go at making Ancient Roman bread which included the use of Rye flour.

To conclude our exploration of sound in Science, Year 5 have been learning that sometimes sound is unwanted or even dangerous. First, we explored situations and jobs where excessive noise could be a problem and then set ourselves the challenge of designing and constructing a pair of ear defenders. Building on their knowledge of which materials are the best sound insulators - they could use newspaper, shredded paper, scrap paper, cellophane, cotton wool or polystyrene chips together with a pair of either plastic or polystyrene cups. We then tested to see which materials kept out the most sound. As you can see, the results were both creative and effective!



In Maths this week, Alice Pennell's group have been busy measuring perimeters and areas of various spaces around school as well as measuring shapes in the classroom. Meanwhile, Nick Hadley's group have spent their week drawing squares, the perfect rhombus (well done, Rosie!) and perfecting their use of compasses in drawing circles. Whereas some children managed to get their circle looking, well, circular, straight away, others had to persevere through an entire lesson – a good way to earn a Resilient Rhino sticker. We are happy to report that everyone got there in the end. Most of the group went on to draw a hexagon within the circle as well.



Year 6 have also been evacuated this week. We haven't had a calamity over in the Year 6 classrooms, but the children have been putting themselves in the position of a child who was evacuated from London during Operation Pied Piper in the early part of World War Two. Nick Hadley and Alice Pennell were both amazed by all the ideas the children were getting down on paper (many sheets of it) and look forward to reading these over half term. If these letters are even half as good as the amazing models and games the children made for their half term projects, they are in for a treat. Well done to the children (and parents who helped) for these wonderful half-term projects.



The following students performed in Music Meeting last Friday, Thea Y3 and Susannah Y4.

Head of Junior School Awards:

- Tabitha
- Bertie M
- Yasmin
- Harry K

The following children were presented with Celebration Certificates at our Celebration Meeting today:

- Eliza, Y1/2
- Evie, Y3
- Oliver, Y4MA
- Susannah, Y4KS
- All of Year 5
- Eva, Y6AP
- Tabitha, Y6NH

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break and enjoy the Halloween festivities!

In friendship,

Edward Rossiter
Head of Junior School
Sibford School

Ps. Did you know that the largest pumpkin ever recorded weighed in at 2,624.6 pounds and was grown in Germany in 2006? Imagine having to carve that for Halloween!

Sports Fixtures - Match Reports

Year 3/4 NOSSP Small Schools Football Tournament

On Tuesday we hosted the North Oxfordshire Small Schools Football Tournament. 8 teams from around the North of the county attended, in what was a very competitive competition. Sibford started slowly in the tournament drawing our first game



against a very strong Shennington team. This result seemed to spark the team to life as they produced some sensational football throughout the rest of the tournament. We ended up winning our last 6 matches, finishing on 19 points out of a possible 21. This was enough to see us crowned North Oxfordshire Small Schools Champions!! This is the first time for a few years that we have won the competition so all players should be very proud of their efforts, as their teamwork was the main reason for them winning. This means we now qualify through to the Oxfordshire School Games finals on Wednesday 3rd April. Well done to all 7 players.



Sibford School Swimming Gala

On Wednesday 3 local schools visited Sibford for a Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 friendly swimming gala. This proved once again to a very competitive event. All participants that took part did the school extremely proud and produced some outstanding times, many of which were personal bests. Congratulations to the Year 3/4 teams, who for many was their first ever swimming gala, both the boys and girls ended up winning their competition. Both the boys and girls' teams races went down to the last race with Sibford winning both freestyle relays to take home the victory. There was also success in the Year 5/6 age group with our girls winning their event and the boys A team also winning their competition. Special mention to our boys B team who finished 4th out of 5 in a very strong event. Well done to all that took part.

Toddlers warmly invited to come and play at Sibford

From next half term, Sibford School Early Years is introducing free Stay & Play sessions for toddlers and their parents/ grandparents. These sessions are aimed at parents looking for a place in our Nursery or Reception class.

The first sessions will take place from 10.30am - 11.45am on Friday 9 November and Friday 23 November and will offer parents/carers the perfect way to have fun with their child whilst engaging with other families, Early Years staff and our own children.

If you have any friends or neighbours with three or four-year-olds then please do let them know about this new initiative. Spaces are limited so pre-booking is essential. Spaces can be booked by contacting our admissions officer, Elspeth Dyer email edyer@sibfordschool.co.uk or telephone 01295 781203.



FREE
Stay & Play
sessions on Friday
9th and 23rd November
10.30am ~ 11.45am
to book call Elspeth
on 01295 781203
Sibford School, Sibford Ferris OX15 5QL

Christmas Box Appeal/ Poppy Appeal

We have now launched the Christmas Box appeal; the web page below will direct you to more information. Please do use the time during half term to prepare a box/boxes and bring them into school by the 12th November. Please ensure that you include the £3 to cover their delivery and if possible do complete the gift aid slip. Thank you.

<https://www.fscinet.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/>

After half term we will be selling red poppies to support the Royal British Legion and white poppies to support the Peace Pledge Union.

Lost Property

Mila, Y6 has lost her fleece, PE top and 1 sock, all named, please could everyone check their bags in case they have been picked up in error.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 5 th November	Return from Half Term
Tuesday, 6 th November	U7-11 Cross Country Partnership Trials – H
Wednesday, 7 th November	Sibford Junior Choir - Children Singing for Children, St Mary's Church, Banbury – Afternoon Rehearsal and Evening Performance
Thursday, 8 th November	U7 Cross Country NOSSP Family Tournament – H
Friday, 9 th November	EYFS Stay and Play Session – 10.30am to 11.45am Celebration Meeting, Main Hall at 3.40pm
Monday, 12 th November	Cycle Safety Course recommences after half term
Tuesday, 13 th November	U9-11 Cross Country NOSSP Family Tournament – H
Friday, 16 th November	U9-11 Cross Country, Cokethorpe – A U11 TAG Rugby NOSSP Partnership Finals - A