
Friday 25th January 2019

Dear Parents

For two days this week, the Junior School roll swelled to well over 130! I can hear immediate questions from you about where they might have come from, and indeed, where they might go as within our classrooms! We welcomed 46 prospective Year 7 pupils in for their Entry Day assessments. This was a chance for them to have a go at pottery, science, climbing as well as complete a couple of short tests. It was also an opportunity for them to meet, spend time with and carry out some team-building challenges alongside our present Year 6s: a group of 77 in total! This bodes well for next year and our Year 6s made excellent guides to our guests throughout the two days.

Building on the Entry Days, we also have our Scholarship day tomorrow for prospective Year 7s, for both internal and external candidates. There are various scholarships that pupils can apply for and Toby Spence and I have been very impressed with the high standard of application received so far: next year's Year 7 teachers are going to have their work cut out for them! Elsewhere, I'm pleased to report that the cold weather did not deter our intrepid footballers and netballers who braced themselves against the sleet and snow in their fixtures, the first of the new term, against Cokethorpe on Tuesday. There will be more information about these later in the newsletter, but well done to all who took part. Next week we have even more fixtures which should see just about all of the Key Stage 2 children representing the school - fingers crossed for slightly warmer weather!

When they haven't been involved in fixtures and hosting taster pupils, many of the children have also been taking part or running new clubs. As part of the Discovery Award, some of the pupils in Year 5 and 6 have been challenged to develop their leadership skills in teaching or supporting others in learning a new talent. We have a full range of opportunities on offer, from craft to coding and from drama to running - it will be a surprise if there's anyone left on the playground! I have been very impressed with their creativeness and application - even down to sorting out their own registers - and I look forward to seeing them spreading their talents to younger pupils.

I have also been impressed with the impact of their work last term. Many of them raised money for local causes or shone light on local issues, such as littering, in a bid to improve their communities. Special mention though goes to Emma, Lily and Oscar who, mindful of a dangerous crossroads just outside Sibford Ferris on the way to Banbury, wrote to Victoria Prentis asking if the junction could be made safer. We came back after Christmas to find that the road markings and signage have been redone, thereby making the road safer. Well done to all of them.

Congratulations to Elena and Rory who received the Head Teacher Awards last week for their creative writing and also to Chelsea from Year 4.

Edward Rossiter
Head of Junior School
Sibford School

Ps. Did you know that the average lead pencil will draw a line 35 miles long or write approximately 50,000 English words? (I'm not sure whether this includes pencils chewed by users though!)

Foundation and Reception

Following on from our visit to 'Planet Zim Zam' last week we have been exploring some alien recipes that are 'out of this world'. It started with (edible) Alien pizzas, with all sorts of colourful dough and crazy toppings - including yellow alien boggies! The children measured out everything themselves, using tablespoons, teaspoons and pinches. They helped me to write up the instructions which I will be putting on to the new recipe section on the Early Years firefly page soon. You will also find the recipe for singing biscuits on it. When making the biscuits we could add 6 alien treats (smarties and raisins) - we had to decide how many of each we would have. We have also been making lots of (inedible) imaginary alien recipes! Including purple singing sandwiches and all sorts of crazy Jelly recipes - one of which has to be put in the freezer for 40 years! The children also helped me to turn the role play corner into a baby clinic. They had lots of fun taking their baby dolls to be weighed and checked over by the doctor.



Year 1 and 2

Chocolate Mousse for a Greedy was the book of the week in Year 1 and 2. They worked on how to make rhymes, thinking about the sounds in the words, but realising that they're not necessarily using the same spelling sound, e.g. fox and socks. They used this to help them write their own rhyming sentences with their names, which you will see or have to duck under when in their classroom. With so many different characters in the book, this helped them to start to understand how speech can be used and ended the week with 'putting SAID to bed', thinking of alternative words instead.

They became shape detectives in their Maths, exploring faces, vertices and edges of 3D shapes; developing their understanding about shape properties, before Becca Edwards gave them only cocktail sticks and plasticine and then left them to their own devices to make various 3D shapes!

Understanding how Central American Bark art requires a careful touch, they worked on their paint skills, thinking about how to paint carefully within a given line; some of them quite surprised at how they could get different widths from a one paint brush dependent upon the pressure. Barnardo, the chocolate loving bear visited them from Mexico taught them about different landscapes, to make observations and describe what they see accurately, they worked in teams to group a selection of pictures he'd mixed up! They ended the week finding out about a significant individual who was responsible for a lot of the exotic food and spices we eat today. Hopefully you might see some portraits of him in the classroom next week...



Year 3

Year 3 began the week consolidating their understanding of how cast and mould fossils are formed, and what better way to do this than by 'making' fossils themselves. Firstly, they took a shell (to represent the bones of a recently deceased animal) and pushed it into a lump of clay (to represent sedimentary rock, built up over thousands of years). They then removed the shell (to represent the bones of an animal gradually eroding and being washed away by ground water) and an imprint or 'mould' was left in the exact same size and shape as the shell. They then filled this mould with plaster of Paris (to represent minerals building up and turning into hard (impermeable) rock over thousands of years). Finally, they removed the clay to reveal a cast or 'fossil' of the original shell.



The cold weather did not stop Year 3 from getting outside! In Geography, pupils have been learning about how the coastline is always changing, including how erosion and deposition help to create land features such as spits. They made their own rocky beaches in trays, before making waves to mimic the movement of the ocean and observing what happened to their beaches.



In English pupils have finished reading *Fantastic Mr Fox*, which they enjoyed immensely! They have begun writing their own stories which follow the same structure as *Fantastic Mr Fox*, which all begin with descriptions of rather unlikable characters.

Finally, Year 3 have breathed life into their dragons which now have some glistening wings to go with their beautifully patterned bodies.

Year 4

Year 4 have been on the path to enlightenment this week, as they are starting to learn about Buddhism. They have been channelling their inner calm to understand how Siddhartha Guatama went from a privileged royal lifestyle in Nepal to becoming The Buddha (teacher), in a state of wisdom and enlightenment after witnessing what was outside his palace walls. Storyboards and drama helped to bring the story to life.

4KS are hot on the heels of 4MA with the design of their moving toy vehicle. They understand and can draw circuit symbols and have explored closed and open circuits. Now comes the fun bit of thinking about how their vehicle will look, be constructed and most importantly, move!

Year 5

This week Year 5 have continued working on their Materials topic in Science exploring the properties of various materials in their investigations. You can see "which is the bounciest ball?" investigation being measured here on the left and "Which is the best mopper-upper?" being assessed on the right. The children had to design their own investigation into the qualities of these materials as well as carry them out. Recording carefully and methodically helps them to come to conclusions about what they have learned.



Year 6

Despite the cold weather, the 6NH classroom was boiling over with shouts of "Order, Order!", "Aye!" and "No!" as the class got into the role of MPs and had a heated debate on the issues of the day. With the issues of Monday being "Should children be in school from 8am until 6pm?" and "Should children under 16 have free travel on buses and trains?" it was quite tough for some Year 6 children to find themselves having to argue for or against something they did not quite believe in. With that, shouting silly noises at each other, waving bits of paper in the air, and fiddling our expenses (expect requests for extra pocket money this week parents) it really felt like we were in the commons. Even the chairs in the room are green!

Away from politics, Year 6 continued learning about the weather. It was something all too familiar to us this week – cold fronts and warm fronts. Hopefully those isobars, red semicircles and blue triangles on the weather forecast will be making a lot more sense and expect to see the children looking up in wonder as they try to work out if they are looking at cirrus clouds or cumulus.

They have started to look at the work of author Philip Pullman, and have enjoyed devising their own Dæmons, based on the concept in 'Northern Lights'. Amongst the creatures chosen were a Bush baby a Red Squirrel, a Wolf and even an Axolotl! Fabulous 'extended noun sentences' were written to describe their Dæmons, and amusing similarities drawn!

6AP's Maths group have been thinking about different units of measurement. Did you know an average toilet weighs 25kg (thanks Rosie), and the Titanic was over 52 million kgs (thanks Toby)!



Sport Reports

U11B Football vs Cokethorpe - Lost

A side formed of Year 4, 5 and 6 boys braved the elements to take on a strong Cokethorpe side. In weather that switched mercilessly and at will from sleet to rain to snow, the team started off strongly: resolute in defence and energetic moving forwards. Although they shipped a number of goals they grew as a team as the match went on with Tom and James strong in defence and Max and Ellis producing some fine saves in goal. Well done everyone - let's build on it next week.

U11A Football vs Cokethorpe

Draw

PoM- Oskar W

On a freezing cold day, Sibford started slowly and found themselves 2 nil down quickly. This sprung the boys into life, and they showed a lot of character to get themselves back into the game. Just before half time Fred managed to get a goal back to give us confidence going into the second half. Luckily the boys started the second half a lot brighter and were putting lots of pressure on the Cokethorpe team. This pressure was rewarded when Finn drew us level with a very smart finish. The game then become very open and both teams had chances to take the lead, Sibford were grateful for a number of great saves by Oskar to keep them in the game. A quick break from Sibford resulted in Fred running through on goal and finishing well to give us the lead. The boys defended well to keep the lead but a late Cokethorpe penalty saw them draw level. This was a fair result overall, but the team should be very happy with their ability to come back into the game against a very good side.

U11 A Netball v Cokethorpe A

Win

PoM - Lara

An excellent performance from our under 11 A team in their first match of the Netball season. The team worked exceptionally well together. Accurate passes in the centre third ensured that the ball was delivered to the circle where Lara and Olivia worked with determination. As the game progressed, Sibford girls became more and more confident. They found spaces on the court and followed their passes. There were some lovely goals scored as Lara demonstrated her ability to shoot from a range of positions within the circle. Meanwhile in defence, Emma worked tirelessly to intercept a number of powerful passes from the opposition. A tremendous performance during the 3rd quarter of play secured the win for the Sibford girls.

U11 B Netball v Cokethorpe B

Draw

PoM - Amber

It was excellent to see our Sibford B team rise to the challenge of their first Netball match. They started the match well with accurate passes which delivered the ball to the circle. Sibford dominated play in the first quarter, however they struggled to make the most of the goal opportunities. The team continued to show real determination and managed to score a goal just before half time allowing Sibford to take the lead. In the second half, both teams improved their performance. Amber worked hard as C and Mila worked with determination as GD. There were further goal opportunities for both teams and Cokethorpe's goal in the final minutes resulted in a draw.

A fantastic afternoon of netball - all girls should be very proud of their performance.

Sibford School Ski Trip (Years 4-13) - Friday, 5th April to Saturday, 13th April 2019

There are still a few spaces available on the above ski trip this Easter. If you would like your

child to attend the above trip or require further information, please contact Lynne Singer lsinger@sibfordschool.co.uk as soon as possible. This will be an excellent opportunity to ski in Rodeneck in the Italian Alps. For parents of children who are already signed up there will be a Parent Information Meeting on Friday, 1st February at 3.45pm in the Ensemble Room in the Music Block.

Pie n Quiz Night - Friday, 8th March 2019

PSFA is to hold a Pie n Quiz Night on Friday 8 March. Tickets cost £8 per person including food. Suggested team size is 6 people. Buy tickets as a team (invite your friends) or come along as an individual/couple and teams will be made up on the night. Tickets are on sale from reception. Numbers are limited so get in quick!

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 28 th January	SFL Parent/Teacher Meetings
Tuesday, 29 th January	U8/9 Football/Netball v Kitebrook – Away U11 Hockey (boys) v New College School – Away
Wednesday, 30 th January	Years 5-6 Swimming Gala – Interhouse – H
Friday, 1 st February	Junior School Open Morning Music Meeting, Main Hall at 3.40pm Ski Trip Parent Information Meeting, Music Block, Ensemble Room at 3.45pm
Tuesday, 5 th February	U11 Hockey (boys) Tournament at Home U9-11 Netball v Carrdus – Away
Wednesday, 6 th February	U10-11 Rugby v Bruern Abbey – Away
Thursday, 7 th February	U11 Athletics Inclusion Event – Warriner – Away
Friday, 8 th February	1030-1145 EYFS Stay/Play Session U11 Netball v St John's at Home U9-11 High 5 Netball – Interhouse at Home Year 6 Celebration Meeting at 3.40pm in the Dining Hall

PSFA PIE W QUIZ NIGHT



**7.30pm Friday 8 March
in the Dining Room**

Tickets £8 per person including food

Soft drinks will be supplied but feel free to bring your own wine/beer

Make up a team (adults only) and come and join us ...
numbers are limited so don't leave it too late!

Tickets on sale from the Junior & Senior School reception