
Friday 17th May 2019

Dear Parents

In Meeting for Worship this week, we continued to explore the theme of Inspirational People. Two weeks we looked at Alex Zanardi, a well-known international sportsman with a range of resources at his disposal, who overcame a horrific accident to triumph in the Paralympics. In place of this heroism, I wanted the children to consider of someone younger, from a humbler background who overcame a different kind of adversity.

And so, we looked at the young life so far of Malala Yousafzai. Hers is an incredible tale of courage, conviction and vision. As a 12-year old, living in a region of Pakistan oppressed by the Taliban, Malala campaigned for her right to an education and, as a result, was shot three times. Fortunately, she recovered, spending much of her recuperation in Birmingham, where she turned her attention again to her studies, gaining GCSEs and A Levels and now studying PPE at Oxford University. Not content with overcoming her injuries, Malala has continued to campaign for opportunities for equal access to education the world over. Her incredible achievements were recognised with her award of the Nobel Peace Prize – the youngest recipient ever. Even the youngest of us can achieve great things.

Elsewhere this week, we have seen a range of sports fixtures as we have tried to cram them into a shorter than usual half term. With Rounders and Cricket matches for both boys and girls on Tuesday and Wednesday there are some sore hands from all the catching and fielding. Sporting endeavours also included welcoming about 160 young people from seven other schools for a Sports Partnership tournament on Friday. While the weather wasn't quite up to that earlier in the week, the grounds and the ten pitches (yes, you read that correctly!) looked fabulous. A huge thank you to Dave Brassett and the PE department for organising the event and to the Grounds team for preparing the pitches. Catch up on all the results later in the newsletter.

The children have also had the chance to show their "best sides" when we had black and white portrait photographs taken. Information on these will be going out soon, as will our class group photographs which we will be taking next week.

Next week we are looking forward to further fixtures, assessments for many of the classes, before finishing the half term with our Pyjamarama Day and KS1 Celebration Meeting.

Congratulations to the children who received Head Teachers awards this week:

Harry – Y3,
Ava, Harriet and Kaiya – YMA
Emily – Y4KS
Niamh and Evie – Y5
Emmeline and Imogen – Y6AP

Have a wonderful weekend.

In friendship

Edward Rossiter
Head of Junior School
Sibford School

PS. Did you know that the average age of Nobel Peace prize winners is 62? Malala was just 17 when she was awarded hers.

Foundation and Reception

It has been another lovely week in Early Years, making the most of the sunshine. After our unsuccessful attempt to spot tad poles in the pond last week, Jason came to the rescue and put some in a tank for us to look at. First, we explored the small nursery pond where we found pond snails, pond fleas, caddice fly larvae and tad poles. Then it was over to the big pond to see what Jason had fished out for us and to check out what we could spot on the surface. We saw pond skaters, water spiders and even a newt. We had to go back and read Mr Magnolia, who has a pond with a frog, a toad and a newt but sadly.....only one boot! We used all these lovely experiences to make up some number stories.

All but one of our caterpillars have made their chrysalis. We think (hope) the fifth one is a little younger and is doing things in their own time. We have been making our own mini books about a whole array of very hungry animals from sharks and giraffes to cats and dinosaurs.



In other exciting news the children have all gained their 'Early Years Certificate in Woodwork'. This means they have been shown how to safely hammer a nail, use a vice to hold wood while they saw it and how to sand the wood down, so it does not have splinters. They can now have a go at creating something of their own soon (with lots of supervision). The brief is open and I cannot wait to see where their imagination takes them. They are already enthusiastically thinking of things they want to make. I am hoping we can incorporate their creations into some helicopter stories next week.

Woodwork is the theme of our 'Stay and Play' next Friday (24th May) so if you know any children aged 3-5 (or turning 3 before September 2019) please let them know.



Year 1 and 2

What a better week for Year 1 and 2 to be able to use the great outdoors for their classroom. After being challenged by Becca Edwards to piece jigsaw puzzles of different flowering plants and trees back together, they enjoyed the British sunshine to explore and observe the structure of fauna in our surroundings. This also helped them to understand the needs of plants in order to survive. However, they weren't feeling so kind to all the cress seeds presented to them! In a comparative investigation, they 'planted' seeds in different conditions and have been observing them across the week and recorded their findings.

With the help of some children's personal experiences of London, they focused on famous landmarks within the capital and created their own London Red Bus Fact Books. They soon realised that city life is quite different to that of rural Sibford.

Wednesday was the day that they had all been waiting for. They were finally allowed to build their cars and their engineering skills unleashed and with the help of a hairdryer, the children were able to test their vehicles. Becca Edwards was particularly impressed with how reflective the children were after completing their builds, starting to realise how to improve their designs or what worked particularly well.

In previous art lessons, the children had been provided with 'seasonal colours', however Becca Edwards wasn't feeling as generous. Only supplying the primary colours, the children were asked to investigate and create a range of different colours and tones, this will help them to create their final masterpiece of their topic next week!

In their Maths they revisited number facts for doubling and halving, thinking about how knowledge of place value can help them to explore more difficult calculations, but also that there are some number facts that you just must know!



Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been analysing the data from their straws investigation. They found that the more straws that are bunched together, the more weight they can hold per straw. This is similar to the structure of the stems of plants which helps us to explain why the stems of plants are so strong! As well as writing up what they found from this investigation, the pupils acted as real scientists and put their information into (very professional) line graphs.

After a week on the windowsill, Year 3 examined the sticks of celery which had been placed in food colouring and watery paint. They discovered that, there was very little change in the sticks of celery which had been placed in watery paint, but to their surprise, they could clearly see that the black food dye had been absorbed by the celery, and had coloured the narrow tubes with a scattering of black.

As well as marvelling at the amazing function of the stems of plants, Year 3 also took a close look at leaves. They made pretty prints by painting the leaves and used this as an opportunity to study the patterns of the plants' veins, as well as admiring their amazing function of turning sunlight into energy.

Speaking of plants, Year 3 have been tending to the willow tunnel where, as well as creating an interesting and complex structure for our younger pupils to play in, they have been learning about reproduction by vegetative propagation.

Finally, Year 3 have of course, found time to time travel back to The Iron Age where they have been learning about Celtic jobs. Year 3 were each allocated a role which would have had a place in a Celtic village, including a blacksmith, a druid and a basket maker. They found out about their roles before explaining them to the rest of the class, including why their job was important, who they relied upon and who relied upon them. They then created a movement and sound to embody their role around the roundhouse. Finally, they were called into the roundhouse by their tribe's leader for an emergency meeting. Here, they found out that another tribe had stolen one of their cows, and they thought about what they should do. After several suggestions, the tribe decided to build a hillfort to live upon for safety.



Year 4

This week in 4MA children were challenged to get into groups and make different types of sherbet. After recording their variations, they carried out a survey (anonymously) to find out which sherbet children preferred. Their main ingredients for fizz were citric acid and bicarbonate of soda. Icing sugar helped make their sample sweet. Congratulations to Ava, Harriet and Kaiya who came up with the winning combination. Parents: don't worry, hygiene guidelines as set out by CLEAPSS were followed!



4KS finished reading the true story of Henry 'box' Brown. We learnt how Henry, a slave from America, came up with an ingenious solution to escape his horrible environment. The children enjoyed hot seating to think about questions Henry's friends may have come up with upon hearing his plan to post himself to freedom! Letters were then written from Henry to his friends to tell of his exciting journey, making sure we were: writing in the first person, using past tense, including powerful verbs and adverbs, and describing our thoughts and feelings.

In RE 4KS have started to explore the Bible and how it can be used to make the world a better place. This week they explored each of the 10 commandments and consolidated their knowledge of them through a miming game of 'guess the commandment' - can you think which one Emily and Susannah are acting out here...



Year 5

Year 5 have been getting themselves into line this week - firstly by exploring some key world events and deciding whether they were before or after the Victorian era as we begin our research into this time period. They were pretty accurate doing our outdoors sorting activity and later in the week we delved into the BBC History website and found out some much more detailed information about Queen Victoria's life. The children chose the details that most interested them to make their own timelines of the Victorian era. Hopefully, by deciding on what interested them the most, they will be able to recall the facts later down the line...



Year 6

This week, 6NH have been concentrating on Greek myths. They have read the stories of the Trojan Horse and Theseus and the Minotaur, as well of some of the exploits of Jason (not Harris) and the Argonauts. They took this knowledge and applied it to writing their own myth stories after much planning of heroes, journeys, Ancient Greek city states and monsters. There have been some very imaginative creatures created along the way - although the half-man, half-armadillo was vetoed by Nick Hadley; sorry Tabby. In History, both classes have begun to investigate where and how these stories might have originated, learning that the palace of King Minos might have been structured like a Labyrinth, for instance.

All of Year 6 have been busy on the sport's field this week, with some super results from the girls and the boys. There are lots of fixtures coming up next week, so look out for the emails parents!



Sport Reports

ESSA Regional Team Relay Finals

Last weekend Finnley, Oscar, Sam and Emma travelled to Guildford to compete in the medley relay at the ESSA Regional Finals. In the heats Emma started the race well placing us in a strong position. This was maintained throughout the race enabling us to finish a strong second and thus securing a place in the final. In the Final, Finnley impressively stepped up the pace on the breaststroke leg, followed by a good freestyle by Sam and a very strong finish by Oscar. It was an extremely close and exciting race with Sibford finishing a very strong 5th out of the whole of the South East. Well done!



U11 Cricket v Kitebrook - Wednesday, 15th May 2019

On Tuesday we hosted Kitebrook for a Under 11 A and B team cricket fixture. Many of the pupils were playing a cricket fixture for the first time and lots of progression was made by pupils throughout the fixture. The A team produced an outstanding bowling display taking 11 wickets in just 12 overs to restrict Kitebrook to 197, in a game where the team starts on 200. Sibford then batted sensibly making sure they didn't lose many wickets and ended on 239 securing a 42 run victory. The B team bowled well but found Kitebrook in hard hitting form and set us 277 to win. Sibford batted well hitting lots of 4s but unfortunately just lost too many wickets and fell 15 runs short of winning the match.

U11 Partnership Tournament @ Sibford - Friday, 17th May 2019

On Friday we hosted a partnership tournament with over 200 pupils competing from 9 different primary schools. We entered both a year 6 boys and girls team into the tournament. The girls skills developed throughout the tournament and each one of them should be proud of their efforts. Being the only girls team in the tournament to constantly bowl overarm meant that we gave away more wides than other teams but this developed throughout the tournament. The boys team had lots of close matches in their group stage but managed to win their group that set up a semi final with Sibford Gower. An inconsistent bowling performance meant that we had lots of runs to chance but luckily the batters produced the goods and saw us through to the final. Unfortunately it was one step too far and we were beaten by a very good Christopher Rawlings team in the final.

U11 Rounders v Kitebrook - Wednesday, 15th May 2019

U11 A team - Win

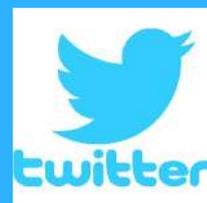
An impressive start to the rounders season for the U11 A team. Despite limited opportunities to practice due to a hectic schedule of sporting events this term, the Sibford girls performed very well in glorious sunshine. Good fielding and communication between the team limited Kitebrook's scoring to half rounders and several runners were stumped out. When Sibford came to bat, there were some strong performances and half rounders scored alongside an excellent full rounder scored by Olivia. Elena, taking the last hit, worked with determination and ended the game with another full rounder scored and a win for Sibford! A great result and a lovely afternoon of good team spirit and sportsmanship.

U11 B team - Drew

After only a couple of sessions of rounders, the B team put in a solid performance against Kitebrook on Wednesday. Consistent bowling from Lara ensured that we did not give away many ½ rounders. Our fielding improved over the course of the match, with better communication and backing up helping to limit their rounders scored. There was some excellent striking of the ball, and sensible running enabled us to capitalise on half and full rounders. We will be working on quick decision making in the field, to ensure that we are stopping ½ rounders being scored when we can. Very positive play in the sunshine - well done!

Sibford Junior School has so much to sing about and share that it now has its own dedicated Twitter page. Give @SibfordJS a follow on Twitter and keep up to date with all the Junior School news and daily activities.

[https://twitter.com/SibfordJS'](https://twitter.com/SibfordJS)



Friday, 24th May 2019 - Junior School Pyjamarama Day

On Friday, 24th May, for a minimum donation of £1 Junior School children can come to school in their pyjamas or onsie to support the BookTrust. BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity. Each year they reach 3.4 million children across the UK with books, resources and support to help develop a love of reading.

Activities Week - Year 5 and 6 - Monday, 3rd to Friday, 7th June 2019

We will be leaving school as close to 8.30 am on Monday, 3rd June as possible, travelling on a

Cheney coach. Children are to come to school in casuals. Please meet at the swimming pool car park from 8.10 onwards. If you have had a long journey to school please allow time to visit the toilets in the Music Block. Packed lunches will be provided. We shall be back at school on Friday 7th June at around 3.30pm depending upon the traffic. However, we cannot guarantee to be in Sibford before the school buses leave so please arrange to collect your child from school if they normally travel on the bus.

While we are away we will be using the Sibford School Communicator App as a way of keeping in touch with parents, especially when it comes to keeping you up to date with our return journey. The app is available for computers, tablets and internet enabled mobile phones and can be downloaded on as many devices as you wish. Visit the Sibford School website and click on the app button to download. You then need to ensure you select Year 5 or Year 6 in the personalisation menu. The app can also be downloaded from:
<http://www.schoolcommunicator.co.uk/download.php>

We will keep you notified of arrival and departure times using the Communicator App.

If you have not done so already please return the Medical and Consent Form to Lynne Singer by Wednesday, 22nd May 2019.

SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY, 15TH JUNE!

Please save the date for our annual open day on Saturday, 15th June. This is a compulsory school day for all pupils. Families are encouraged to join and experience the wide array of presentations and displays put on by pupils, staff and parents. More details to follow.
Saturday, 29th June 2019 - 2pm to 6pm - PSFA Summer Fun in the Sun - Family Day

A note for your diaries that the PSFA Summer Fun in the Sun Family day will take place on Saturday, 29th June from 2pm to 6pm. Entry is £3 for Adults and £2 for children. Refreshments will be available, have fun in the music tent, join in the art and crafts and enter a team in the "Sibford Challenge". If you would like to help please email PSFASibfordSchool@outlook.com.

Junior School Eco Council

Do you have any old mosaic tiles which are left over from a kitchen or bathroom project? If so, Eco Council would love to make use of them for a potential project.



Dates for the Diary

Tuesday, 21st May

U9 Rounders v Kitebrook – A

Thursday, 23rd May

U9-11 (Years 3-6) Triathlon/Aquathon Inter House Event
Y3-4 from 9am to 11am
Y5-6 from 11am to 1.30pm

Y3/4 Horse Riding within PE Lesson

Friday, 24th May

Pyjamarama Day

EYFS – “Stay and Play Session” 10.30 – 1134

U11 (Y6) Cricket v St John’s -H

Celebration Meeting – Years 1 and 2 at 3.40pm in the Ensemble Room, Music Block

Half Term begins 4.15pm

Monday, 3rd June

Return to School

Year 5 and 6 Activities Week 3rd June to 7th June 2019

Wednesday, 5th June

Year 3 and 4 Visit to Pizza Express, Banbury

Friday, 7th June

Celebration Meeting – Y4 at 3.40pm in the Ensemble Room, Music Block.

Save the date

More info to follow



PSFA Summer fun in the Sun

A family day at Sibford

Date: Saturday 29 June 2019

Time: 2pm – 6pm

Entry: Adults £3, Children £2



Refreshments available

Have fun in the music tent

Join in with arts and crafts

and

Enter a team in the ‘Sibford Challenge’

To get involved please email—PSFASibfordSchool@outlook.com