



## Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 146

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013



Dear parents,

What an exciting week this has been for all of us! As Thursday arrived and the unveiling of the new building was finally here, it was lovely to look at the sea of excited faces arriving at school in the morning. Both children and parents alike were delighted to see the fantastic learning space that has been created, and many of you commented on how light and airy it was, despite being partially underground. Hopefully all of you will by now have had the chance to have a look inside the new building, and see the result of so much hard work over the last few years. We have a really spacious new classroom, a very well –equipped multi-purpose resource area, a new music room/group room and of course, the much anticipated all-weather sports pitch to follow.

This morning, too, was a flurry of excitement, as the portakabin was finally hoisted from its temporary home on the playground and dangled in the air, before being taken away on a lorry. Staff, children and villagers alike watched it all happen and waved a final farewell to “the tank”. It is lovely to have the playground back again, and the view from the office has certainly improved!

A very big thank you is due to every single person who has been involved in bringing this vision to reality. Staff, parents, children, governors and locals have all come together in a massive fundraising effort to raise a phenomenal £145,000 (in fact slightly more!) The target set, of raising £130,000 in 3 years, was certainly an ambitious one. But we rose to the challenge and thanks to the energy and commitment of everyone involved, we have been able to create a building which will make such a difference to the education of our children in this very special rural school.

**Please do read the attached leaflet, written by Viv Bennett, our Chair of Governors, which tells the story of the new classroom and how we came to be where we are today.**

### Classroom News

#### Reception:

This week the children have certainly been making the most of the beautiful sunshine, spending time in the garden watching our tadpoles as they change and grow, building dens and planting seeds in our role play 'Potting Shed'! We have been looking at the non-fiction book 'My Bean Diary' and learning about how a bean germinates and grows, we have focused on finding the answers to questions in the text and looked at question marks. In maths we have explored the capacity of different containers and used language such as full, empty, almost full, half full and overflowing. We have used measuring scoops to find out how much water several containers hold and then put them in order of capacity.

Interest table this week: The table will be split into two sections, 'Things that are heavy' and 'Things that are light'

Please note that Mrs Platt will not be in the classroom for the next couple of weeks while she recovers from a knee operation. Miss Read will be teaching every day until Mrs Platt returns.

## **Years 1, 2, 3 and 4**

The highlight of this week has obviously been moving into their new classrooms. The children have been amazing during a slightly disrupted week and are all now settled into their new classrooms.

## **Years 5 and 6:**

The Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a challenging maths lesson yesterday afternoon, when they tried to work out how many different seating arrangements there were for the Year 1 and 2 children in their new classroom. The challenge posed was to find out how many different seating arrangements there were if children were arranged in 4 tables of 6 and one table of 5. The children would be assigned to a certain table, but could sit in any of the 5 or 6 places at that table. Brains were hurting by the end of the afternoon, and we were still talking about it this morning. The final solution has not yet been revealed as some of the children have taken the problem away to work on over the weekend! But suffice it to say that Mrs Butler has quite a lot of options from which to choose!

## **Stars of the Week**

One of our parents was awarded Star of the Week this week, for all the hard work she has done in the Reception children's garden! Thank you and well done to Rosie's mummy, and to all of our other stars of the week who have been working very hard and getting on so well.

Reception – Mrs Heath, Rosie's mummy

Years 1 & 2 - Lara

Years 3 & 4 - Esme

Years 5 & 6 – Joe

## **Playground**

You will probably all have noticed that we now have a bouncy new layer of woodchip for the children to play on underneath the climbing frame. Thank you to Mark Woodgate, Colin Woodward, Tolly and Phyllida who helped to spread the bark after school on Wednesday.

## **Jewellery Evening**

Stella and Dot Jewellery Evening in aid of Great Tew School is being hosted by Pippa Kitchen at Ilbury House, Deddington, OX15 03P on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May from 8 – 10 pm. 25% of all sales will go to the school. All those placing orders will be entered into a draw on the night to win a necklace. Come along for wine, nibbles, a chat and try on some lovely jewellery.

## **Good Manners' Champion**

Our Good Manners Champion this week was Millie in Year 3. Millie has lovely manners in the classroom; she always works hard and lets other children get on with their work too. Millie is very kind and considerate to other people and as a result she has lots of friends. The children told us: *she doesn't call out; she ignores people if they are being silly; she is always very smiley; she always knows what to do because she is good at listening.* Well done Millie – you certainly deserve your cup. Keep up the good work!

## **Summer Fete – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

The Supporters Club will be holding their annual Summer Fete on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Signing up sheets for running the various stalls will be going up on the notice board on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

## Tea for Tew at Cornbury - 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July



'Tea for Tew' will be providing cakes and beverages, amongst other things, for festival goers at Cornbury this July, for the third year running. In order for this event to be a success, we are asking parents, friends and family to please donate cake ingredients for the waiting dedicated bakers to get started on all those delicious 'Tea for Tew' signature cakes, which will be on offer over the 3 days (and nights!)

A Wish List can be found on the wall in Angela's office and on notice boards around the school. This year, we have divided the wish list into year groups for ease. It would be wonderful to start receiving some produce as soon as possible so that the team of bakers can make a start – July will be here before we know it !

If anyone has a Costco card, perhaps you could let Sharn or Michelle know and club your donations together...

Thank you all in advance for your continuing support.

The proceeds from this event will go to fund the exciting plans which Mrs Miles has for creating a Key Stage 2 learning hub in the main school building.

### **Athletics Festival**

*On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 12 children from years 4-6 took part in the Chipping Norton athletics tournament. Emily, Polly, Marcus, William, Charlotte, Ella, Toby, Angus, Molly, Chloe, Joe and Ewan all took part in 5 different events, including 75m sprint, 300m run, long jump, howler throw and a whole team event, the 600x12 relay, in which after a dropped baton they came back and won!!*

*There were four trophies up for grabs and due to their excellent teamwork and super effort they brought all four home. All in all it was a great day and the children were pleased to come home victorious.*

*By Molly and Ella.*

Well done to the whole team. We are all very proud of you.

### **Mr Simon Duffy, Headteacher of Chipping Norton School**

#### **Meeting for Parents on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 6.00 pm**

Mr Simon Duffy, Headteacher of Chipping Norton School, will be coming to talk to parents on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 6pm. Please put this date in your diary and come along to meet him and hear what he has to say about the school. He will also be talking to the older children during the afternoon.

### **School Photographs**

The photographer has been booked for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June and this year they will be taking a class photo for each class, as well as a whole school photo, giving parents the option of choosing which they prefer.

I hope you all have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend after what has been a busy week.

Mrs Lucy Miles

## Dates Coming Up

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday – no school
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs tests for Year 6 children
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	School Summer Fete
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Tag Rugby Festival
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Meeting with Mr Simon Duffy, Headteacher of Chipping Norton School – 6pm
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 and 2 trip to Hill End, Oxford
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	U11 cricket tournament at Great Tew
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	School Photographs
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Sponsored Walk
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Tri Golf Festival for Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 and 6 trip to Cornbury Estate
Weds 26 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 transition day at Chipping Norton School
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Key Stage Two production – 6pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Key Stage Two production – 6pm
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Cornbury Festival
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Parents' Evening – 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Parents' Evening – 5.00pm -7.00pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service
	Term Ends