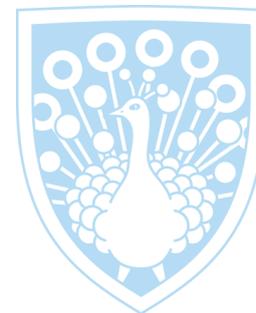




Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 161

Friday 18th October 2013



Dear parents,

We have had another fun and busy week in school, with lots going on in all of the classes. I ended the week on a high, spending a very enjoyable day with the Year 5 and 6 children at Combe Mill (more of that below).

Reception

In Reception this week we have looked at the letters c and k, noting that they make the same sound but look very different. In maths we have been testing our counting skills by combining sets of objects to find a total. We have used simple addition language such as count, altogether, total, equals, more than, less than, fewer... We have been working hard, adding the final touches to our self portrait projects. We have found ways to add details such as buttons and explored some different paint effects to create legs, trousers, shorts and skirts!

The Autumn themed Interest Table has now sadly come to an end, we have really enjoyed your contributions and Ben's fabulous carved pumpkin has got us talking about Halloween and Bonfire Night!

Interest Table: Next week we would like you to have some fun with alliteration, finding an object or a picture that begins with the same sound as your name and seeing how far you can go, for example, Sophia's sofa is a soft as silk! If you want an extra challenge you should try to write your caption, or ask a grown-up to write it for you and you could help any bits that you can, such as your name.

Year 1 & 2

The children have been working hard on their stories, learning how to use a range of time connectives to start their sentences and make them more interesting. In maths, they are getting more confident at telling the time. The children are all looking forward to showing us their fantastic castles in one of our assemblies next week.

Year 3 & 4

The children have enjoyed learning about life in the workhouse with Mr Wadham; he brought this to life for the children by bringing in some photographs and old records relating to his own family. They have written some powerful diary accounts from the point of view of a Victorian child in the workhouse. The children have been thinking more about how to ensure that they eat a healthy balanced diet, and they have used their scientific knowledge to write a letter, persuading someone to eat more healthily.

Year 5 & 6

In Year 5 and 6 the children have been developing their problem solving skills, some even learning to use simple algebra to make a general statement. They had a high action science lesson yesterday, involving an imploding coke can, in which they had a practical introduction into how condensed steam was used to generate power with which to drive engines.

Year 5 and 6 Trip to Combe Mill

Today the year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a hands-on, fun-filled day at Combe Mill Working Museum. The children took part in a range of practical activities, learning about: steam power and how it is used to drive engines; the workings of a water wheel; pendulums and clocks. They spent time tinkering with a variety of different machines and equipment and particularly enjoyed their time spent exploring the forest, learning to use their eyes and ears really carefully. However, the highlight of the day was undoubtedly their time spent in the Forge, where every child (and adult!) was able to make their own fire poker. We are all delighted with our creations.

We had lots and lots of compliments from all of the staff who ran the workshops and worked with the children, all of whom are volunteers. You would have been very proud of your children – I certainly was!

Many thanks to Michelle Adams and Alex Sears who kindly agreed to come along with us today.

If you are looking for a fun day out, there is a Steaming Event at Combe Mill this Sunday from 10am to 5pm. The water wheel and the steam engine will be running and there will be plenty to do. I know that some of the children are quite keen to go back! <http://www.combemill.org/>

Stars of the Week

Well done to all of the following children who have been working hard and impressing their teachers.

This Week:

Reception:	Louis
Year 1 & 2:	Loic
Year 3 & 4:	Archie Grant
Year 5 & 6:	to be revealed next week, as they were not in school for our assembly

Good Manners' Champion

Our Good Manners' Champion this week is Milo in Reception. Milo has particularly good manners around the school and he is always good at saying please and thank you. This was particularly noticed during our Harvest Feast last week. The children told us: *he is always very smiley; he is fun to play with; he has good table manners; he puts his hand up; he is good at saying please and thank you; he is a really nice buddy and I like playing with him.* Well done Milo – you do indeed have lovely manners. Keep up the good work.

They're Back!!

Unfortunately head lice are back in school, currently in residence in Reception and Years 3 and 4. Please could you check your child/children's hair very carefully, and if necessary treat them as soon as you can so that we can eradicate these very unwelcome visitors. Thank you.

Tudor Hall – 'We Will Remember'

Last Saturday, Emily, Herbie, Phoebe, Polly, Theo and Tilly went to Tudor Hall to learn a little about the First World War. We all thoroughly enjoyed our morning and certainly learnt quite a lot in the process. The children had fun making their own bombs, which though possibly not entirely accurate or life threatening did take flight and were certainly very beautifully decorated. They also learnt about how people would have communicated during the war and had a go at communicating with one another in Morse Code and at writing (and then censoring) letters home from a soldier.

Gentle Reminder

Could we just remind those of you that may have forgotten, that permission slips (and voluntary contributions) for the pantomime in December need to be returned to the office as soon as possible please.

Bag2School

Our Bag2School Collection is this week, on Wednesday 23rd October. If you have not already done so, please look out any good quality adults' and children's clothing, sheets, blankets, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts and handbags. All items collected are for RE-USE and so must be of good quality. Duvets, pillows, carpets, off-cuts of material are not acceptable. Filled bags should be brought into school on Wednesday morning and left by the gate (unless it is pouring with rain, in which case we will have to collect them in the hall.) If you need more bags, Angela has some in the office. Many thanks.

Secondary Applications

A reminder for our Year 6 parents that Thursday 31st October is the closing date for applications for secondary school places for September 2014. Please could you make sure you complete your application before the closing date, if you have not already done so, to ensure you are in the County's system.

Packed Lunches

I know that one or two parents are a little concerned that their children aren't eating all of their lunch and that quite a lot of food is going back home at the end of the day uneaten. As you know, the children don't throw things away, and this is so that you do know what they have eaten for their lunch. Many of them, particularly the younger ones, are spending a very long time eating their lunch. They are supervised, chivvied, nagged and encouraged to eat everything they have, but even after 45 minutes or more some of them will not have not finished. (There are some exceptions, and we do have a few hungry souls who devour everything in their lunch boxes within minutes!) If your child is one of our slower, more reluctant eaters and is bringing quite a lot of their lunch home with them at the end of the day, can I suggest that you reduce the quantity and the choice for them, make things as small and bite-sized as possible, and that you don't include any distractions that are likely to stop them eating what you really want them to eat.

I am currently in discussion with an alternative hot lunch provider, looking at options open to us.

Dance Party – Saturday 16th November

A reminder that tickets are being sold in the office for the Dance Party on Saturday 16th November. Tickets cost £20 and this includes cocktails, supper (including wine), DJ and dancing 'til late and an entry into the free prize draw. There will be a well-stocked and well-priced bar, and for a little additional entertainment for those less keen on strutting their moves on the dance floor, there will be a professional roulette wheel. There will also be taxis to the surrounding villages available at the end of the night. This promises to be a really enjoyable evening and we hope that lots of you will be able to join in the fun.

If there are any Reception, Y1 and Y2 parents who would like to volunteer to help with the food for the buffet, sign-up sheets are in the cloakrooms outside the classrooms. If you have any questions please speak to Sarah Heath (Rosie and Isabelle's mummy) or Kerry Rees (Tilly's mummy). Thank you.

Can You Help With Transport?

On Wednesday 23rd October some of the Year 5 and 6 children are taking part in a hockey festival at Chipping Norton School. We are currently looking for more drivers (with CRB clearance and insurance) to help with transporting the children. If you are able to help please let us know. We would need to leave school at 1.30pm. Many thanks.

Best wishes for a happy and restful weekend,

Mrs Lucy Miles