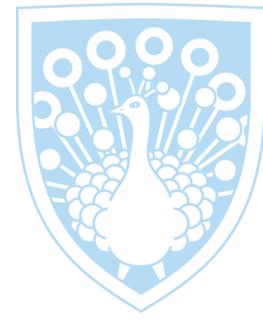


# Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 162

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013



Dear parents,

A busy half term has come to an end and though the tans haven't quite faded and the Summer still doesn't seem too long ago, we have packed in a lot of learning and a lot of fun.

## Reception

We have worked carefully and thoughtfully to create our beautiful stained glass Autumn leaves this week; do look for them on the window in the classroom! We have almost finished our full body portraits that we have been working on all term. We have combined a huge variety of skills and media; the children have decided to use the digital camera to take photos of their shoes and stick them on to complete the project!

Our sounds this week were /e/ and /u/. Please use your 'I know my sounds' booklet in your child's book bag to support their phonic work at home. Consolidate the sounds that they know and practise a few each day that they don't. We will monitor and tick these off at school and when you have **three** ticks on a sound you can colour them in. This is a great way to see the progress they make and to easily see the sounds that your child needs to focus on next.

**Miss Sole:** Part of Miss Sole's course involves her engaging with parents; you could really help her with this if you are able to spare a couple of minutes in the morning. Please feel free to ask her a question at drop off time or simply have a quick chat about the things that we have been doing in class. If she is unsure of the answer she will pass you over to a member of staff but it is this experience that she is keen to gain. Many thanks.

**Interest Table:** The children have had fun sharing their alliteration sentences with us this week and you have kept us amused with their ideas... Lucy's fantastic collection of 'l' objects, Thalia's extra-long sentence and 'Laura Leek' really show us the thought that you are putting in at home so thank you for all of your efforts once again. Sorry that I can't mention you all! The theme will continue for one week after half term.

## Year 1 & 2

The children have been working very hard on punctuating sentences this week, learning where they need to put a full stop so that their work makes sense. They have written recounts, thinking about how to make them interesting to the reader. In maths the children have been working on 2-D shape. Do spend some time shape-hunting this week; it is amazing how many the children will find. They have also been developing their understanding of positional language by working with the programmable Roamers and Beebots, designing sequences of instructions for them to follow. The children have been working hard on some historical art work with which to decorate their classroom – you will soon see medieval knights, castles and trebuchets adorning the walls.

## Year 3 & 4

The children have learnt more about the lives of poorer children in the Victorian times, by learning about children who were sent out to work as chimney sweeps. They have used this historical learning as a stimulus for some very imaginative and high quality descriptive writing. In maths they have been developing their skills at problem solving, and have very much enjoyed working with some interactive resources, getting them thinking about running a simple business. Their science work has been all about healthy eating and healthy lifestyles and they have produced some high quality writing persuading someone else to eat healthily.

## Year 5 & 6

The children have been studying 2-D shape in maths and have been learning all about the properties of quadrilaterals and triangles. They have applied this learning by using their ICT skills to create branching diagrams to sort and classify shapes. In their topic work the children have been learning about life in the factories in Victorian times. They have done some interesting maths work using data of factory accidents to create a range of graphs and tables. The children have been immersing themselves in their thesauruses to develop their vocabulary skills and this has helped them to produce

some very high quality persuasive writing. Thesauruses seem to be the latest must-have read in Year 5 and 6! In science the children have applied what they have been learning about liquids and gases to help them understand the complicated science behind Newcomen's very first engines designed to harness the power of steam.

## Stars of the Week

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

Reception:	Parker	
Year 1 & 2:	Phyllida	
Year 3 & 4:	Archie Grant	
Year 5 & 6:	(last week)	Isabella
	(this week)	Ludo

## Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion was Rosie in Year 1. Rosie always has a cheerful smile and likes to see the positive side of things. Today she was having great fun in the playground playing Upside Down World with Phyllida, making everybody else smile too! The children told us: *she is really good fun to play with in Breakfast Club; she is always smiling and giggling; she sits really well on the carpet and doesn't interrupt you; she listens carefully to the teacher; she makes things fun at playtimes.* The children certainly know what good manners is all about. Well done Rosie.

## Bag2School

Thank you to everyone who brought bags in this week, and particularly to those of you who trailed around your villages asking for donations from friends and neighbours. We had a HUGE collection in the hall on Wednesday and will let you know how much was raised as soon as we hear.

## Wellies & Warm, Waterproof Coats

Please could I remind you that all children should have a pair of wellies and a waterproof coat in school every day. For their health, happiness and wellbeing, we try to get the children outside at play times unless it is raining very hard, but we cannot do this if they don't have appropriate clothing.

## Have you any Wellies Looking for a Career Change?

As the weather gets wetter and colder, are you buying new wellies for your children? If so, Reception class would really love to give your old ones a new lease of life as winter planters in their garden! We are looking for children-sized brightly coloured or patterned wellies. The more the merrier as Mrs Miles is after some too! Many thanks!

## Hockey

Two teams of Year 4, 5 and 6 children took part in the hockey festival at Chipping Norton School on Wednesday afternoon. Despite a terrible forecast, the rain held off and we all enjoyed watching the children play in the sunshine. The girls' team played first. They played fantastically well, very energetically showing really good team work, and despite winning three of their four matches, they were very narrowly beaten into second place. It was a similar story for the boys, who played extremely well, putting up a particularly strong defence. Again, they won three of their four matches and came a very close second. We were very proud of all of them, particularly Angus who bravely took a knock to the head, and to our Sporting Champions, Charlotte, Kitty, Alonso and Freddie.

## Parents' Evenings

Just to let you know, our parents' evenings are coming up in the week beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Signing up sheets will go up on the notice board after half-term.

## Teaching Assistant News

After about eight years at Great Tew, Mrs Phillips, a very experienced and dedicated Teaching Assistant, has decided for personal reasons that she would like to work part-time, with effect from January. We are currently advertising on the Oxfordshire County Council website for a part-time teaching assistant to work alongside Mrs Phillips in the Year 1 and 2 class. : <http://jobs.oxfordshire.gov.uk/teaching-assistants-great-tew-primary-school-teaching-assistant/27614.job> The closing date for applications is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations go to Esme Jefferson in Year 5, who has been invited to the final judging of the Oxfordshire County Council Firework Poster Competition. She will be going to County Hall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November to meet the judging panel and have a look around a fire engine and we all very much hope that her wonderful poster will be chosen as one of the two winning entries. Well done Esme!

## **Breakfast Club**

Sign-up sheets for next term's Breakfast Club are attached, for those of you that are interested. If you would like to register your child please complete these and email them to the office on [office.2104@great-tew.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2104@great-tew.oxon.sch.uk) or to Oxford Active on [dominicwhite@oxfordactive.co.uk](mailto:dominicwhite@oxfordactive.co.uk). Alternatively email the office with the days you require and I will pass the information on to Oxford Active. Cheques can be brought in after Half-Term. Thank you.

## **Club News**

We have some exciting new after-school clubs coming up after half term – Creative Dance and Drama for Reception children on a Friday after school, Chess Club run by Nicola Moore on a Tuesday after school and Recorder Club run by Mrs Platt also on a Tuesday after school. If you would like your child to take part, please sign up on the lists on the notice board by the hall (Chess and Recorder) and by Pre-School (Dance).

## **Recorder Club – Further Information**

Recorder Club will be starting on Tuesday after the half term break. If you would like to join please sign the sheet in the main school cloakroom on Monday. It is open to children from Years 2 to Year 6 and runs from 3.30 to 4.30, including a snack and a drink. The cost will be £2 per session. Children may come across to my room, via the garden door and wait quietly on the carpet while I see my own class out to their parents. I have plenty of spare recorders so if you don't have your own to begin with just turn up but it will be necessary to purchase a recorder so that you can practise at home! If you want to go and buy one in advance, I recommend an Aulos or Yamaha descant recorder as you really do get what you pay for in terms of tuning and quality! I look forward to seeing you there!

## **Great Tew in the News**

Alonso Barbour (Year 5) and Gethin Collins (Year 4) took part in a very exciting workshop run by staff at Chipping Norton School, where they designed and created their own Vibro-Bugs. The local press came along to see what the excitement was about, and we are delighted to tell you that both boys feature in yesterday's edition of the Banbury Guardian.

## **And Great Tew May Be in the News Again....!**

On Saturday the BBC were filming in Chipping Norton market for a programme coming up later on in the Autumn with Adam Henson (from BBC Countryfile) and Nigel Slater. The programme will be called Nigel and Adam's Farm Kitchen. On Saturday Adam was selling flour and oats grown at Dorn Farm, with all money taken going to Children in Need. Eva Silvester came along to buy jumbo oats on behalf of Great Tew and was filmed talking to Adam about the School Council's plan to bake flapjacks to sell in aid of Children in Need. Thanks to Mrs Silvester, we have all the ingredients to get baking after half-term and I know the children hope to raise lots of money for this very good cause.

## **Pitch Update**

We had hoped to be using our new sports pitch this term, but unfortunately a construction joint in the roof has not sealed as well as we had hoped and water has been able to enter the classroom beneath. Our contractor has responded and is currently fixing the problem. We apologise for the inconvenience this has caused and hope to have the Year 1 and 2 classroom repaired over half-term. Over the next few weeks we will be installing the perimeter fence, which will allow us to use the pitch. Unfortunately the rubber surface will now not be able to be laid until Spring 2014 but we will be making valuable use of this amazing space in the meantime. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Peter Collins, who will be happy to help.

With very best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy half-term.

# Dates for your Diary

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	After school Chess Club starts	Y2-Y6 - £2 per week <i>Please sign up on list in Y3/4 cloakroom.</i>
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	After school Recorder Club starts	Y2-Y6 - £2 per week <i>Please sign up on list in Y3/4 cloakroom.</i>
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	After school Dance Theatre Club starts	<i>Pre-School and Reception children only Please sign up outside pre-school</i>
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm	<i>Sign up sheets will go up in the Y3/4 cloakroom after Half-Term.</i>
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening 3.30pm-6pm	<i>Sign up sheets will go up in the Y3/4 cloakroom after Half-Term.</i>
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual School Photos	<i>Individuals and sibling groups</i>
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Dennis Victory Dance Workshop Y5 & Y6	<i>Event organised through Chipping Norton Partnership of Schools</i>
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Dance Party for parents, staff and friends	<i>Tickets cost £20 and are available in the office</i>
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> November	CEOP Internet Safety Advice for children and parents Delivered by Al Kitchen	<i>3 workshops for children during the day 1 workshop for parents – 7pm Further advice to follow</i>
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Fayre 11am-2pm	
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception & KS1 Christmas production Dress Rehearsal	
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception & KS1 Christmas production Performances at 2.30 and 6pm	<i>Further details to follow</i>
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> December	5pm Carol Service at St Michael's Church	
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school trip to Oxford Playhouse	<i>Christmas Pantomime - Robin Hood</i>
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Feast	<i>Christmas lunch for whole school in hall</i>
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> December	9am - Christmas Service at St Michael's Church	
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term	
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Term Starts	