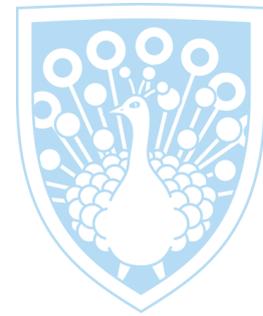




Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 163

Friday 8th November 2013



Reception

This week has been fireworks a go-go! The sights, sounds and movements have influenced the curriculum from our PE to our reading, writing, music and craft work. The children built their very own 'bonfire' in the garden and we gathered around it on Wednesday and shared hot chocolate with marshmallows with Pre-School! Please take a minute to look at our 'Through The Window' firework display in the classroom next week.

In our Letters and Sounds sessions we have looked at 'r' and 'h' and have continued to practise our sound blending skills. In Maths we have ordered numbers and explored number lines and firework counting songs.

Don't forget that next week is National Nursery rhyme week and we are looking forward to seeing your efforts in the dress-up day on Monday, so don't forget! Look out for Mrs Munson and Mrs Platt when you arrive... can you guess who they will be?!

Interest Table: Keeping with the nursery rhyme theme, please bring a book, a prop, or puppet. You could draw your favourite character or write out a nursery rhyme for us to read.

Year 1 & 2

In their English lessons, the children have been learning about the use of rhyme, repetition and rhythm. They have been hunting for the use of these features in stories that they have read and are now having a go at adapting these to create their own. I am sure they will enjoy looking for more stories that use rhyme and repetition in any of the books that you might have at home. In maths, the children have been working on subtraction by counting back from a number and some of the older children have been subtracting a small number from a two or three digit number. They have been doing gymnastics at the Tew Centre, creating balancing and travelling sequences and then working very precisely with a partner to mirror each other's sequences. In PSHE the children have been thinking about what they are good at and what they find tricky. Their reflective discussion was very interesting to listen to, showing great honesty and a perceptive maturity.

Year 3 & 4

The Year 3 and 4 children were all very happy to see both Miss Connor and Mrs Sam back on Monday. We have all missed them both while they have been away. In their maths lessons the children have been learning about 2-D shape; they had great fun yesterday playing Shape Detectives, using the properties of triangles to help them solve a series of mysterious crimes. They have learning more about teeth in their science lessons and over the last couple of days they have carried out a rather smelly experiment, using eggs to help them find out the effect of different drinks on your teeth. I am sure they will be delighted to tell you what they discovered – you may find some of them being a little less keen on fizzy drinks for a day or two! They are learning about inspirational leaders in RE and have been thinking about what we can learn from the story of the Good Samaritan.

Year 5 & 6

In maths the children have been doing data-handling, drawing and interpreting a range of graphs. They used Excel to construct their own bar charts using data about accidents in the mines and they chose a hobby or interest on which to collect data, creating tally charts and pictograms to represent this data. Clara represented her favourite clothes shops graphically and Theo and Gus created graphs to represent their collection of Star Wars Lego Men! On Friday the children continued our theme of Remembrance by thinking about what it might have been like as a soldier in the Second World War. They wrote some very moving diary accounts and letters home to their family and I was impressed by the mature way in which they approached this activity.

Stars of the Week

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

Reception:	Laura
Year 1 & 2:	Florence
Year 3 & 4:	George
Year 5 & 6:	Daniella

Rain and Mud!

The playground has been pretty soggy and muddy this week, but most children now have wellies so have been able to splash in the puddles. If your child still doesn't have wellies in school please could you make sure that they bring some in, to be kept in school every day. If they are green, you may want to "customise" them to make them a little easier for your children to find when they get muddled up!

Lunches

Last week we implemented a new system for lunches, designed to speed up lunch-times a little and to develop the sense of community. The children are now seated on mixed age tables, with Reception and Year 5/6 buddies sitting together and family groups on the same, or neighbouring, tables. It was lovely to hear their conversations and to see the older children supporting the younger ones with their lunches, helping them to open tricky packets and encouraging them to eat their sandwiches. The children were very excited about this new arrangement.

Christmas Cards

Apologies for the incorrect payment information on your order forms. Cheques should be made out to Oxfordshire County Council NOT the school, as it says on the form. The last date for ordering Christmas Cards is Wednesday 13th November, so please make sure that all orders and payments are with us in the office before that date. Thank you.

Individual School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday to take photographs of individual children and sibling groups. Please make sure children come to school sparkling on Thursday with tidy hair and clean school sweatshirts!

Notice Board

If you would like to put up a notice on the main school notice board, please could we ask you to take this to the office so that we can put them up for you. As you will see the board is very full and we do need space for school information. Thank you.

Christmas Fair

Please look out for letter about the Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November, which is being sent home today, Friday.

Flapjacks for Children in Need

The School Council will be making flapjacks next week to sell in aid of Children in Need on Friday 15th November. The children have decided on a price of £1 per flapjack and they will be selling them at break time. If your child would like a flapjack, please make sure they bring the money to school with them on Friday. If there are any left over the children will sell them in the playground after school.

Parents' Evenings

A reminder that parents' evenings are taking place next week. If you haven't yet made an appointment, please do so by signing up on the Notice Board in the Year 1 and 2 cloakroom. Thank you.

Non-Uniform Days for Christmas Fair

We are holding two non-uniform days for children on Friday 15th and Friday 22nd November. Children can come to school wearing their own clothes, in return for bringing in an item for the Tombola or the raffle. Thank you.

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to buy your tickets for the Dance Party next Saturday 16th November! Angela is selling them in the office or you will be able to buy them in the playground after school. Enjoy the weekend everyone, and look forward to seeing you next week. Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Notes
Tues 12 th November	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm	<i>Sign up sheets will go up in the Y3/4 cloakroom after Half-Term.</i>
Thurs 14 th November	Parents' Evening 3.30pm-6pm	<i>Sign up sheets will go up in the Y3/4 cloakroom after Half-Term.</i>
Thurs 14 th November	Individual School Photos	<i>Individuals and sibling groups</i>
Thurs 14 th November	Dennis Victory Dance Workshop Y5 & Y6	<i>Event organised through Chipping Norton Partnership of Schools</i>
Fri 15 th November	Non-uniform day for the Christmas Fair	<i>Children can come in wearing their home clothes, in return for bringing in an item for the tombola or raffle</i>
Fri 15 th November	Children in Need Day	<i>Home-made Flapjacks being sold by the School Council at playtime for £1</i>
Sat 16 th November	Dance Party for parents, staff and friends	<i>Tickets cost £20 and are available in the office</i>
Fri 22 nd November	Non-uniform day for the Christmas Fair	<i>Children can come in wearing their home clothes, in return for bringing in an item for the tombola or raffle</i>
Weds 27 th 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 information to follow</i>
Sat 30 th November	Christmas Fair 11am-2pm	
Mon 9 th December	Reception & KS1 Christmas production Dress Rehearsal	
Tues 10 th December	Reception & KS1 Christmas production Performances at 2.30 and 6pm	<i>Further details to follow</i>
Sat 14 th December	5pm Carol Service at St Michael's Church	
Tues 17 th December	Whole school trip to Oxford Playhouse	<i>Christmas Pantomime - Robin Hood</i>
Weds 18 th December	Christmas Feast	<i>Christmas lunch for whole school in hall</i>
Thurs 19 th December	9am - Christmas Service at St Michael's Church	
Thurs 19 th December	End of term – midday	<i>Children should be collected at midday.</i>
Mon 6 th January	Term Starts	

WANTED! SOMEONE LIKE YOU!!

Do you like to make a difference? Are you a decision maker? Have you got the odd day to spare? Yes? People like you are needed by the County Council to sit on school appeal panels! So, if you are interested in taking active part in school admissions and exclusions we would love to hear from you. To find out more please contact Sheila Sturgeon, Education Appeals, Oxfordshire County Council. 01865 810180 or e mail: schoolappeals@oxfordshire.gov.uk