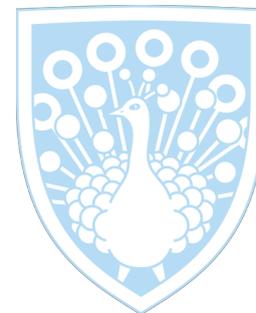


Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 165

Friday 22nd November 2013



Dear parents,

Another week over, and December is getting ever nearer! Though I definitely don't enjoy hearing Christmas carols when I visit the supermarket, there is something just lovely about hearing the children practising their Christmas songs – always guaranteed to put a smile on my face and a spring in my step!

Reception

The Reception children have been exploring measures this week, making side by side comparisons and using vocabulary to describe different lengths, such as short, shorter, shortest, long, longer, longest. We read 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear?' and later the children worked together to create their own bear cave, complete with different sized lamps just like in the story. This will link into our topic of light and dark that continues next week as we look for sources of light and talk about how lights are used to help us to celebrate things like Christmas, birthdays, Divali, new year and bonfire night. It would be lovely if any of the children have a torch that they would like to bring in and use in our dark bear cave.

We also read labels and instructions to show us how to plant spring bulbs in our pots in the garden; we are looking forward to seeing the first green shoots in the coming months.

This week we focused on the formation of the letters l and j.

A letter about our exciting Christmas play 'Prickly Hay' was sent home this week, if you did not find it or have any questions, please pop in a see a member of the Reception team. More information will follow soon.

Interest table: for the next two weeks the theme is light sources, for example, torches, keyring lights, candles, disco lights, battery operated decoration lights, such as fairy lights... Please make sure that your contributions are named; we look forward to seeing what you can find!

Year 1 & 2

The children have been looking at different spelling patterns, with the younger children learning the 'oo' sound and the different ways of spelling it and the older children learning the rules for adding 'ed' to a word. The children have finished, and edited, their dragon hunt stories and I am very much looking forward to reading them all. In science the children have been learning about changing materials. They baked cakes and discussed the changes in the materials from solid to liquid to solid and how the heat made the process irreversible. I'm not sure I can think of a better way of learning about irreversible changes and wish my science lessons at school had been that much fun! Maths has been doubling and halving this week. The children have started practising for their play and have introduced the dances and the songs. With Mrs Stewart as chief choreographer, it looks sure to be fun! The children have the words to learn off by heart for Monday, so please do help them with this if you can.

Year 3 & 4

This week the children have been thinking more about Victorian homes and learning about the invention of the lightbulb. As a cross-curricular link between history, science and technology, they have enjoyed designing their own Victorian rooms, which they are going to decorate and furnish in Victorian style, complete with fully functioning lights. I am looking forward to seeing their finished results. In maths, the children are becoming more confident with different written methods of multiplication.

Year 5 & 6

As part of their maths work on measurements Year 5 and 6 have been investigating Leonardo de Vinci's theory on body measurements, 'Vetruvian Man'. The children paired up and helped measure each other's head, palm, forearm, arm span, foot and body length to see if there were any exact correlations. Isabella and Clara had the closest to 'perfect' (!) and Herbie, our 'Vetruvian Man' kindly allowed Toby to draw around him and measure him for our class display! On Tuesday we were visited by Mr Bee from the Oxford Geology society to give us a hands-on talk on rocks, fossils and the earth! The children got to test various rocks to see what they were made from and then took part in an activity on the playground to demonstrate how volcanoes are caused. Mr Bee was very impressed with the class, especially with Lucy, our resident palaeontologist and expert fossil collector, who knew most of the answers!

Stars of the Week

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

Reception:	Ben
Year 1 & 2:	Tilly
Year 3 & 4:	Blythe
Year 5 & 6:	Rhianna

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is George in Year 3. George is always helpful and co-operative in the classroom, he settles down without disturbing other children and he can be relied on to follow instructions the first time. The children told us: *he doesn't get cross with other children; he is always in a good mood; it's nice sitting on his table at lunch time; he doesn't make people hurt on the inside; he is fun to play with; he doesn't take sides.* Well done George, you do indeed have lovely manners. Keep up the good work!

Turning it off is not the answer! – Internet Safety Training

Wednesday 27th November at 7pm – all parents, carers and teachers welcome

Smartphones, PC's, laptops, tablets and games devices are everywhere and form a mainly positive part of our children's lives. As parents, carers and teachers we did not grow up in this digital age – we are "digital immigrants". As in the physical world we all care about the safety of our young ones – come along and learn how to make them as safe as possible in the virtual world. In 90 minutes we'll look at what kids are doing on line, the dangers they are exposed to (specifically cyber bullying and grooming – distasteful yet vital topics to discuss) and then look at some practical steps that you can take to make a real difference.

Al Kitchen is an experienced IT Professional, Director at Microsoft and father of 3 boys at Great Tew. The materials and presentation have been created in association with the NSPCC, CEOP and Microsoft. Al will also be talking to years 1-6 during the day – using age appropriate material, aligned to the national curriculum.

Please come along on Wednesday 27th November at 7pm to listen to Al Kitchen. This is a talk not to be missed by anyone with children.

Can you Help?

The Reception class are after some large white sheets, if anyone has any that they no longer need. Thank you.

Do You Need a Project to Keep You Busy?! Are You Handy With a Paintbrush?

The staff and children in Reception are hoping to find a kind soul that may be interested in giving their wooden dolls' house a bit of TLC! It needs a coat of paint and a couple of joints strengthening if anyone fancies taking this project on... If you think you can help, please have a word with Mrs Platt or Miss Read.

Christmas Fair

Thank you very much again for the wonderful items brought in for the tombola. We would now like to make up the Christmas hamper for the raffle, therefore could we please ask that the items for the hamper are brought in to school as soon as possible. Thanks to those who have already brought in theirs. Please don't forget 'the Pirates Treasure' map, squares are £1 each and the winning square wins the buried treasure. The map is now in the main school cloakroom, please give your £1 to Angela in the office.

We would still be grateful for books, bric a brac items, unwanted presents for the new to you stall etc.

Anti-Bullying Week

This week has been National Anti-Bullying Week and in our assemblies we have been thinking about the difference between “inside hurt” and “outside hurt” . We can fix “outside hurt” with plasters or bandages and it will gradually heal and get better, but sometimes “inside hurt” can last a very long time and we can’t make it better with bandages. We have thought about the things that people say or do that can hurt our feelings and make us feel sad or left out. The older children have been thinking a little bit more about the meaning of the word bullying. They understand that bullying is fundamentally a case of very bad manners to other people. They agree that people with really good manners to others wouldn’t say or do things that make other people feel sad or left out. Next week, during his Internet Safety talks, Al Kitchen will be talking to the children a little bit about the increasingly important issue of bullying in cyber-space, or cyber-bullying.

This morning, the Year 5 and 6 children wrote some haiku poems on the theme of bullying. I was incredibly impressed by their powerful ideas. Here is one written by Herbie in Year 5:

*The bully watches,
targets, strikes like an arrow.
The monster hurts you.*

*He’s a cruel bully.
Evil, a deadly devil.
He will strike again.*

We all agreed we wouldn’t want this person in our school!

Head Lice – Let’s Stop Them Spreading....

Please could I remind parents that children with long hair (anything longer than shoulder length) should always have it tied back when they come to school in the morning. Thank you.

Dance Party – Dancing into the Small Hours!

Lots of you came along on Saturday evening to what was a really fantastic evening of fine food, fine wine and funky dancing. It was a really good opportunity for people to get to know one another away from the school playground, whilst making some money for the school.

A very big thank you goes to Rachael and John Mitchinson, who once again opened up their home to the school and made us all feel so welcome and to DJ Kelly Scott, (Jemima’s daddy) who kept everyone dancing into the small hours. Al Kitchen very kindly lent us his marquee and a huge team of parents gave hours of their time setting up, decorating, ferrying, shopping, cooking and preparing. Thank you to everyone involved and a particularly big thank you to Sarah Heath and Kerry Rees, whose idea this was and who put the whole thing together. We all had a really enjoyable evening, and are delighted, as a bonus, to have raised about £300 to go towards resources for the children.

Teacher Training

On Monday, all of the teachers will be out on a course (**NOT** on a horse, as one of the children I taught many years ago mistakenly thought I had said and reported back to his mother!), learning new and exciting ways of teaching writing. The teaching Assistants will be here as usual, as will I, and there will be a supply teacher in all of the classes.

Enjoy the weekend everyone, and look forward to seeing you next week.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Notes
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 Details in newsletter.</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	<i>Children should be collected at midday.</i>
Mon 6 th January	Term Starts	