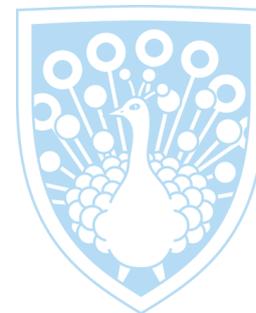


# Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 171

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014



Dear parents,

## News from the Classrooms....

### Reception

This week in Reception we have been having fun with 'The Three Little Pigs'. We have been acting the story out and making up our own versions! The children are also learning about the 'Story Teller's Chair' and having a go at telling stories to their friends. Our letters this week were /y/z/qu/ and we have investigated the use of /zz/ at the end of words such as buzz and fizz. Please keep practising those 'Tricky Words': to, the, no and go at home for quick recognition and don't forget to write a little sentence to go with your Interest Table objects. In maths this week we have learnt about combining objects to add them together and taking them away; the children have seen and had a go at writing simple addition and subtraction sentences such as  $6 + 4 = 10$ . The children have been wondering where all this rain is coming from; they have learnt about the Water Cycle and have created a beautiful collage to illustrate it which you will see in the classroom on Monday.

**Interest Table:** My Home - a big thank you to Ben and Laura for their lovely pictures already; we are looking forward to lots more!

### Years 1 & 2

Letters and Sounds – Year 1 children have learnt alternative spellings of the /ow/ sound and the /oy/ sound: 'ow' (cow), 'ou' (about, shout), 'oi' (soil) and 'oy' (toy, boy). Year 2 children have continued their work and investigations of compound words. In our topic we have been making breads from around the world (Focaccia and Naan). We had lots of fun and the end products were delicious! Huge thanks to Mrs de-Jong who spent most of the morning helping us along with Royce's brother Alexander. We have also been learning about the Islamic faith, discussing the life of the prophet Muhammed and the 99 names of Allah.

### Years 3 & 4

This week children have been writing their own cinquain poems and gathering ideas to write their own water poems. In science we are continuing with magnets and springs, and in maths we are revising sequencing of numbers. The children enjoyed their first swimming lesson of the year this morning, and were very excited to spend a few minutes in one of the new Chipping Norton School science labs after their swim. The children were very much hoping that I would turn on the gas and get the Bunsen Burners going!

### Years 5 & 6

Year 5 and 6 started the week by playing lots of electronic games (it's a hard life but someone has to do it!)...all in the course of research for their evaluation on what makes a great game. George thought his game was good for all members of the family, no matter what age, whereas Charlotte thought hers was probably more suited to a boy but overall it was well thought out with exciting graphics. The afternoon ended with a discussion about the pros and cons of computer games and how much time is appropriate for different ages. This afternoon the children were set a challenge: Can you create a circuit where the bulbs don't all go out if one of them is broken? The children came up with some imaginative solutions to the problem, beginning to explore the differences between series and parallel circuits. We also started learning some of the rules and positions of netball, on our new Monday afternoon slot. Despite the drizzle, we were determined to finish our game. Herbie was the referee (you don't argue with him!) and Lucy, amongst others, scored a great goal in the last minutes. The class are really looking forward to their upcoming tournament...details to follow.

## Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Ludo in Reception. Ludo is very good at saying good morning and he knows how important it is to stop and listen if someone is talking to him. He always listens very carefully in assemblies and sets a good example to the children sitting near him. The children told us: *He helps others; he asks other children if they are okay; he makes sure other children are included when playing his games; he is polite and thoughtful; and he always says please and thank you.* Well done Ludo. Keep up those lovely manners.

## Stars of the Week

This week we say well done to our following stars:

Reception: Louis  
Years 1 & 2: Royce  
Years 3 & 4: Isabella  
Years 5 & 6: Gus

## Congratulations to Angela

I know that you will all join with me in congratulating Angela, who is imminently due to receive her Long Service Award from Oxfordshire County Council. Angela has been working at Great Tew for every one of those 25 years (in fact it's now 26) and knows the school better, I think, than any of us do! Angela's family have had links with the school for many years now. She came to the school herself, as did her mother, father, auntie, sister, children, nephew, nieces and cousins. Angela's grandmother, Leontine Gertrude Clifton attended the school from about 1891 to 1898 and planted the big cedar tree outside the new classroom in 1897, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Angela tells me that the girls planted the one by the new classroom, and the boys planted the one by the climbing frame! Angela hasn't always been in the office. She started here as a midday supervisor, when there were about 20 children in the school, and then became a lunch server, before working in the office, becoming a Teaching Assistant and then coming back to the office again. Angela is a fount of knowledge; she has seen countless families pass through the school and remembers every one of the children fondly. She is a much loved and valued member of staff, 100% loyal to the school and she certainly keeps me organised! I know you will all join me in congratulating Angela and will agree that she has earned her vouchers!

## Family Focus at Chipping Norton School

Attached to the newsletter is the Family Focus flyer from Chipping Norton School. These are family learning sessions, linked to the school's Performing Arts and Science specialisms. If you haven't done so before, please do try to sign up for one of these sessions. They are always great fun and get booked up quickly. Brief details are listed below. The flyer is attached, and Angela has copies in the office.

Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6-7pm	Dance
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6-7pm	Music Keyboard
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6-7pm	No Fear Shakespeare
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6-7pm	Trampoline Taster
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6-8pm	Family First Aid
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6-7.30	Astronomy

## 'Active Kids' is back

Active Kids vouchers are available to collect from all Sainsbury's stores, petrol stations and when ordering groceries online between Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May so please get collecting! Please put your vouchers in the collection box in the Year 3 & 4 cloakroom. In previous years we have managed to raise enough vouchers for football posts, cooking equipment and lots and lots of playground sports equipment. These items really do make a difference to the children, so please do remember to pick up the vouchers and let's see if we can do even better than last year. Thank you for your support.

## Would You Like to Help?

Frances Beckford, who has been coming to read with the children for 7 years now, is off on a tour of India at the beginning of February. As part of this tour she will be visiting some schools, interested to see how they differ from Great Tew! She has been asked to take along some stationery which is always needed by the children and teachers. If you or your children would like to help out, please could they bring in a pencil, pen, rubber or crayons. She will be carrying them in her suitcase so just one item per child would be fantastic. We know that these items will be very gratefully received by children who don't have quite as much as we do. Items would need to be in school by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you.

## Clubs

All clubs are due to run as usual this week.

## Great Tew Golden Ticket

You may have been told by your children that we have this week started a Golden Ticket system to encourage even more of the behaviour we like to see from the children. The children receive little sticky circles in the playground and around school for things like: being kind to another child, lining up quickly after playtime, volunteering to tidy away the games, playing nicely, encouraging other children, holding doors open etc, etc, etc. They collect their stickers on a card and when they reach 50 they will be awarded a Golden Ticket – treat to be revealed! The children have responded very well to this; I have never had so many children volunteering to pick up litter and I know that some of them have brought their cards home to show you. Long may this continue!

## Swimming

Please can we remind parents that all boys need speedo style shorts for swimming. Board shorts cannot be worn in lessons. All children also need a swimming hat and if you want them to wear swimming goggles we need you to write us a letter requesting this. Thank you.

## Bad Weather – Information re School Closure

In the case of bad weather, we will of course endeavour to keep the school open if at all possible. However, in the event that we do have to close the school, we will let you know via a text message and will put information on the school website at <http://www.greattewschool.co.uk/> . We will also inform BBC Radio Oxford VHF/FM 95.2 and will contact the county council, who will post information on their website <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures> .

Enjoy the weekend (hope you've got your wellies!) and see you next week.

With best wishes.

Mrs Lucy Miles

## Coming Up This Week

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Year 6 trip to Horton Hospital

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

Swimming Gala at Chipping Norton School