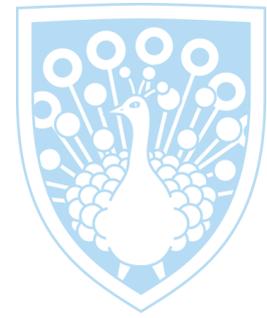




Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 166

Friday 29th November 2013



Dear parents,

The glitter has started appearing, the tinsel looms and by the time we return to school on Monday, December will be here!

Reception

This week we have had a lot of fun making story maps of 'Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?' and telling our own bear stories both inside and outside as we played in the bear caves and dens that we made. Next week in literacy we will be reading different versions of the nativity story, so if you have any Christmas story books at home we would love you to share them with us. Our maths work focused on using objects and number lines to find one more and one less than a given number and we did lots of number formation practice too. In Letters and Sounds this week we looked at how to read and write words with the /ck/ sound at the end, eg, duck, sick, sock, sack, neck, so please look out for this in your reading at home.

A note about **water** and drinking throughout the day: In Reception class we serve the children a drink of water at snack times and ensure that everyone drinks it all; the children also have free access to the water fountain in our classroom and are encouraged to use it frequently, except for during carpet times. Please support us in reinforcing this message at home and encourage your child to bring home an empty cup in their lunch box.

Interest Table: Thank you all for the fantastic contributions that we received this week; the children have had a great time exploring the different torches and lights in their dark cave! Isabelle's shine-through shadow book has been extremely popular and we have all waited in turn to have a go with Ben's spinning light! Please keep them coming as the light theme will run until the end of next week.

Please look out for the **pottery workshop letter** in book bags and return the slip by Monday if you would like your child to work with Tam Levene on Wednesday. Many thanks.

Years 1 & 2

In their English lessons the children have been studying non-fiction texts, looking at the different features – glossary, index, contents, photos, titles, headings, photos and captions and their use for the reader. They have read a range of books about castles and medieval life, making notes to use in their own non-fiction writing. In maths the children have been working on doubles and halves, and their homework is based on this for the weekend. Science has been fun this week! The children are learning about changing materials and they made ice cream in 5 minutes using, ice, salt, milk, icing sugar and vanilla essence. I wonder if you children can remember how this was done? With the Christmas performance drawing closer now, the children have been working very hard on their rehearsals. Mrs Butler is very impressed by all of the Year 2 children, who have learnt their words so efficiently.

Christmas Production - Are there any parents who would be able to video the KS1 Christmas production for us? We will then sell copies to parents who want them. Please speak to Mrs Butler if you can help.

Years 3 & 4

In literacy the children have been thinking more about the lives of poor Victorian children, wondering what their dreams and wishes might have been and how they would have differed from the dreams of children today. They have been working hard at rapid recall of their tables facts, with all of them trying hard to achieve their Turbo Tables' certificates. The children had a very interesting visit yesterday afternoon from the Salvation Army and learnt a lot about the organisation's work around the world. The Salvation Army works in 126 countries, providing a range of support and services for the sick, needy and elderly. They provide shelter and food for the homeless; they build schools, universities and Churches around the world; they provide a meeting place where the elderly and lonely can get together and have

something to eat. The Salvation Army are currently working alongside the Red Cross in the Philippines, supporting in a range of ways. The children learnt that the word "Army" means a collection of people working together with a common goal and that the Salvation Army was started by William Wilberforce in Victorian times.

Years 5 & 6

This week Year 5 and 6 have been sticking, threading, spraying and filling all sorts of craft goodies for their stall at the fete tomorrow...please bring your pennies and buy our beautifully home-made Christmas decorations from the children! We have also managed to fit in some learning too!...After planning our own stories based upon our class reading book `Street Child` we are now working on different elements of them; exciting and dramatic openings with adventurous adjectives and strong verbs to describe the characters. On Thursday we acted out key scenes of the story in pairs. Angus and Ludo really got into the workhouse scene, which we will write down on Monday, using what we have learnt about speech punctuation this week. In PE the children loved organising their own warm ups and ball skills practice. They finished with a big game of football, rosy cheeks and quite a few muddy knees! In Maths we have looked at symmetry and angles, which helped us when we looked at patterns by well-known Victorian artists, such as William Morris. We are saving the best 'til last and doing fractions, decimals and percentages next week!

Stars of the Week

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

Reception:	Oscar
Year 1 & 2:	Jack
Year 3 & 4:	Harry
Year 5 & 6:	Clara

Father Christmas Will Be Visiting the Christmas Fair!

We are delighted that Father Christmas has agreed to spare some time in his busy schedule to nip in to the Christmas Fair tomorrow. Mrs Platt and Mrs Munson are going to be helping Santa in his grotto, and I know that they are hoping to see as many of the children as possible.

Reception and Key Stage One Christmas Production

The Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be doing two performances of their Christmas production on Tuesday 10th December, with a matinee at 2.30pm and an evening performance at 6pm. Due to space restrictions, seats are initially limited to 2 seats per family per performance. Please let Angela know how many seats you would like and if there are seats left over, they will be re-allocated to those hoping for more. Thank you.

A Very Lucky Escape – and a Timely Reminder To Us All

Many of you will have heard that three little boys in our school, Toby, Seb and Bertie Kitchen, together with their au-pair Magda, had a very lucky escape on Thursday when their car rolled and went into a ditch on the way to school. The children were incredibly brave and, miraculously, they all escaped with just a few cuts and bruises. I feel sure that someone up there was certainly looking out for them all. I know you will join with me in breathing a collective sigh of relief and wishing them all well. When I spoke to Al this morning he said that if the boys hadn't been strapped in properly it might have been a very different story and he wanted me to pass on this timely reminder about the importance of seatbelts and car seats, even for the shortest of journeys.

Carol Service at St Michael's Church – Saturday 14th December at 5pm

The annual village Carol Service will be held on Saturday 14th December at 5pm at St Michael's Church. This is always a wonderful service, packed with beautiful music and readings. The children will be singing a couple of songs in the service, led by Mrs Platt, and we hope that as many families as possible will be able to come along. Please could you sign up on the noticeboard in the main cloakroom if you are planning to bring your children, so that Mrs Platt knows which children to expect. Thank you.

Internet Safety Training for Children and Parents

On Wednesday AI Kitchen came in to school to deliver four sessions of internet safety training, three for the children and one for the parents. The key focus of all of the children's sessions, which were delivered at an age-appropriate level, was to understand how to keep themselves as safe when using the internet as they are so good at doing in real life, extending the "Stranger Danger" message into cyberspace. The children watched age-appropriate videos and learnt about things such as:

- not giving away personal details
- keeping passwords private
- what to do if you feel uneasy
- not "chatting" to people you don't know
- using privacy settings to make sure only your real friends can see your site
- remembering that photos should pass the "Sunday Lunch Test" (the older children will explain!)
- not emailing with people that you don't know in the real world
- not agreeing to meet up with people that you don't know
- using a nickname if you use a gaming site
- never sending your picture to someone you don't know

The sessions were incredibly informative and thought provoking, making the children aware of the potential dangers without making them fearful. The children responded very well and showed a real understanding of the fact that they have a responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

In the evening AI delivered a further session for parents. This could hardly be described as uplifting but presented the facts clearly and effectively, giving everyone there a better understanding of some of the simple things that can be done by parents to keep children safe.

The following are two very informative websites, packed with information for both children and parents.

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<http://ceop.police.uk/>

I would like to thank AI for giving up the entire day to work with children, staff and parents. The internet is a wonderful thing, providing so many opportunities for the children, but it is really important that right from this early age the children are aware of the dangers and learn how to use it safely and appropriately. AI's messages were clear and helpful, giving us all something to think about.

I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow at the Christmas Fair. Come along, have some fun and celebrate the start of the Christmas season!

Best wishes,

Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Notes
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	
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	