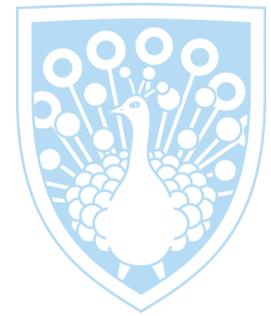




# Great Tew School Newsletter

## Issue 167

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013



Dear parents,

### Reception

On Wednesday this week we had a fantastic Christmassy time with our friends in Pre-School; there was glitter, music, glue and smiles in abundance! The children made an assortment of crafty things which they will bring home at the end of term to decorate the house! A big thank you to Tam Levene for her time and for her kind donation, which will go towards buying craft materials for the children to use in class.



In Letters and Sounds this week we practised writing lots of words with 2 letters, eg, up, in, at, on, am, it. The children also read words with the 'Best Friends' spelling patterns of /ss/, /ll/, /ff/ at the end of words like miss, kiss, hiss, fill, will, huff and puff.

Unfortunately we missed PE at the normal time this week due to our Christmas play rehearsals but we are really looking forward to showing our play to you and your families next week! A reminder that costumes kindly need to be in school on Monday please, in a clearly named bag. Children will also need to be back for the evening performance at between 5.30 and 5.45pm on Tuesday. Please let one of the Reception team know if this will be a problem or if you have any questions. If you have not already seen Angela to book your seats then please do catch her on Monday!

**Interest Table:** a new theme is starting on Monday and running until the end of term, 'Christmas in my house!' A photo, drawing, painting, decoration, a sentence or book would all be welcome, we would love to see and hear about some of the things that are special to you and your family.

## Years 1 & 2

In maths this week we have been coin detectives, looking at the colour, shape, numbers and designs of all coins. We have discussed their value including examples such as “How many 1ps are there in £1?” and “How many 2ps are there in 10p?” Year 2 children have extended this topic to add two and three numbers together to go shopping, with some children moving on to working out how much change they would receive from £1 or £2. Do practise this at home with the children – real life maths is the very best way for the children to rehearse what they have been doing in school and children need to have lots of practice at using money and calculating totals and change.

English has seen the continuation of our non-fiction writing about castles. Some of the Year 2s are composing their work on a computer and have been looking at how to insert WordArt to give bold and exciting titles.

We have of course been practising hard for the school play. Could I please ask that all Year 2s practise their words at home with an adult, making sure they speak slowly, clearly and at a good volume. Thank you.

## Years 3 & 4

This week we have been working very hard learning more about fractions and getting more practice at our mental maths. In literacy we have been developing our writing skills by producing imaginative diary accounts. We have also begun writing our own myths based on the story of Rama and Sita. In PE we have been working up at the pitches with Carol Hicks, developing our hockey skills. We have been working very hard on the finer details of our Victorian rooms and some of them now have fully functioning lighting! Today in violin we were playing along to Christmas songs (and Mrs Miles found it hard not to sing along too!)

## Years 5 & 6

The year 5 and 6 children have been working very hard at their creative story writing this week. They have been reading *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty and have this week been planning, and writing, their own new chapters based on the story. The children’s writing is coming on in leaps and bounds and what is lovely to see is the enjoyment they are getting from producing this high quality writing. In maths the children have been learning more about the relationship between decimals, fractions and percentages and today they have been learning how to calculate percentages in their head, without using a calculator to help them. Ask them to show you how they did it – they are getting quite good! Science today was interesting; the children planned their own experiment around evaporation. They had to think of a question they wanted to find the answer to, and then plan and carry out an investigation to find out the answer. I wonder if you know which evaporates faster, milk, water or lemonade?!

## Arrangements for Tuesday - Reception and Key Stage One Christmas Production

Reminder that the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be doing two performances of their Christmas production on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

Children in both classes will change into their costumes ready for the matinée in the afternoon, and at the end of the day they will go home in their costumes. They need to be back in school, **wearing their costume (complete with any accessories!)** between 5.30 and 5.45 for the evening performance. The children’s uniform will be sent home with them in a carrier bag when they go home at 3.15pm.

## Stars of the Week

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

Reception:	Thalia
Year 1 & 2:	Annabelle
Year 3 & 4:	Oliver
Year 5 & 6:	Lucy

## Christmas Feast

Just a reminder, that reply slips with money, cash please, for the Christmas Feast need to be in the office by Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Please also let us know if your child/children are vegetarian or have any other special dietary requirements. Thank you.

## Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion was Freddie in Year 4. Freddie is always smiley and friendly and he is a good role model for the other children in his class, knowing when he needs to listen and concentrate and when it's OK for him to be having fun with his friends. The children told us: *he is always fun to play with; he doesn't get involved in trouble; he is polite to other children; he is good to work with because he helps me; he is always in a good mood; he has a big smile.* Well done Freddie – keep up those lovely manners!

## Christmas Fair

Thank you to all those who donated some wonderful prizes for the raffle, tombola, books and cakes etc, those who turned out on Saturday to visit the Christmas Fair and particularly to those who gave up their time to help on the stalls. We were very lucky to have Father Christmas take time in his very busy schedule to visit us and give out presents to the children who visited him.

A quote from a parent with two children in school:

*"Today was fantastic and I wanted to say how much we all enjoyed it. Child 1 said, 'It was the best Christmas Fair EVER!' All the tables looked amazing and there was a real buzz around the School. I think everyone feels really Christmassy now."*

We are very pleased to let you know that the total raised from the Fair, after expenses, was £806.13.

Once again many, many thanks to all involved. Angela and Wendy

I would like to add to this by saying a very big thank you to everyone involved in making Saturday's Christmas Fair so much fun, but particularly to Angela and Wendy. Angela has been involved in running the Christmas Fair for some (well quite a few in fact!) years now and she knows how important an event such as this is in the life of the school. Wendy very kindly volunteered her support, and between them they put on an event that was everything a School Christmas Fair should be: a lovely way of bringing people together to raise money for the school, great fun for the children and the perfect start to the Christmas season. Thank you to both of them – they made a winning team!

## Club News

Some clubs will not be running next week due to the Reception and Key Stage One production. Please see below for details of when the clubs are finishing this term.

**Chillin' Club** – this club this term has run for 6 weeks making a total of £12 payable per child. Please see Mrs Butler.

**Thursday Dance Club** – this club will be running again next term for children in Years 1 to 6. We do, however, need a minimum of 10 children for this club to run, and it is important that payment is made in advance, by cheques payable to Oxfordshire County Council. A letter is attached to the newsletter or you can ask Angela for a copy.

**Football Club** – will be starting again on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Sign up slips are on the main notice-board.

More club news to follow.

Day	Club	wb 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	wb 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Tuesday	Chillin' Club	Club not running	Yes – Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Tuesday	Chess Club	Club not running	Yes – Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Tuesday	Recorder Club	Club not running	Yes – Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Wednesday	Textiles Club	Yes – Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Club not running
Thursday	Arsenal Soccer Schools	Club not running	Club not running
Thursday	Dance Club	Yes – Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Club not running
Friday	Dance Club	Club not running	Club not running

## **Christmas Post!**

Our very smart Christmas Post Box is now in the hall, ready to receive the mountains of Christmas post. If your children wish to bring cards in to school to give to their friends and teachers, please could the cards be posted in the post box in the hall. We will appoint some older children to do the much coveted job of delivering the cards each day! It is important that the card has the child's full name and class, so it is delivered to the right person!

## **Carol Service at St Michael's Church – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm**

Quite a few children are now signed up to come along and sing at the village carol service next Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> December. We hope to see lots and lots of families there at this special traditional service, which is always very popular. If you haven't already done so, please could you sign up on one of the lists (which you will find on the main notice board in the Year 3 and 4 cloakroom, by Reception and outside the Year 1 and 2 cloakroom). Thank you.

Enjoy your weekend everyone and see you next week.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lucy Miles

# Dates for your Diary

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception & KS1 Christmas production Dress Rehearsal (pm)	
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception & KS1 Christmas production Performances at 2.30 and 6pm	<i>Please see newsletter for further details</i>
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> December	5pm Village Carol Service at St Michael's Church	<i>Please sign up on the noticeboard</i>
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 new classroom</i>
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> December	9am - Christmas Service at St Michael's Church	
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term - midday	<i>Children should be collected at midday.</i>
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Term Starts	