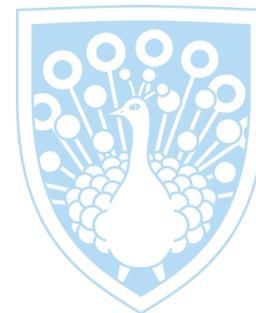


# Great Tew School Newsletter

## Issue 168

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013



Dear parents,

This has been a busy week in school as we get closer to Christmas and all the excitement that brings. The classrooms are festooned with tinsel and baubles, the school echoes with the sound of carols and the post-box is brimming with cards.

### Reception

The children have been being Shape Detectives this week, having fun exploring their classroom and the school grounds looking for different shapes. They have learnt about straight sides and curved sides and know what corners are. The children can recognise a range of shapes, including pentagons and hexagons. They also know that when you turn a shape around it will still be the same shape, even though it might look a little bit different. The children thoroughly enjoyed their stardom this week, though I am not sure they could have managed another performance! They are very much looking forward to our trip to the Panto to see Robin Hood next week and have been learning the story. If any of the children have any Robin Hood stories at home, they could bring them in on Monday to share with their friends.

Interest Table: last week's theme of "Christmas at my House" will continue.

### Years 1 & 2

The children have been working hard in maths, adding with coins. Please do practise doing some simple shopping sums at home if you have time, starting very simply with adding up items that cost 2p, 1p and 5p for example and then finding the change from 10p. In science the children have been learning about changing materials. They planned and carried out an investigation, based on "Which is the warmest place in our building?" using ice cubes to devise and carry out an experiment. Bella told me that the warmest place was next to the computer! The children's play, Prickly Hay, was a roaring success – more of that below.

### Years 3 & 4

In year 3 and 4 the children have been learning more about fractions, using smarties to help them understand some difficult concepts. They finished off writing their stories set in Victorian times. In science, the children have been playing with magnets and learning about where they would find or use magnets. They were particularly interested in the magnetic force around the earth and asked all sorts of challenging and thought-provoking questions.

### Years 5 & 6

The children have been learning more about fractions, decimals and percentages and how these three link together. In English, they finished off, edited and published their stories based on the novel Street Child. They are all now displayed in a class book, which I know you will enjoy reading. Please do come and have a look. The children particularly enjoyed thinking more about the story of the Nativity and then writing a modern day version of the story, "Nativity 2013" thinking about how the story might have gone had it been set in 2013 rather than two thousand odd years ago. These make entertaining and interesting reading. As a summing up of their term's work on the Victorian era, the children considered the quote from 'A Tale of Two Cities': "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." They had some interesting discussion, sharing their views and opinions about what life really was like during Victorian times.

### Stars of the Week

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

Reception:	Lucy
Year 1 & 2:	Hector
Year 3 & 4:	Maddie
Year 5 & 6:	Ella

## Christmas Feast

Mrs Butler, Ed Allen and his team of helpers are busy shopping and preparing, in readiness for our annual Christmas Feast on Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to help, either beforehand or on the day. We are all looking forward to our lunch!

## Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion was Polly in Year 5. Polly has a very positive attitude, which makes her an asset to her class. She is always enthusiastic and works hard to achieve the best she can, setting a very good example to other children. The children told us: *she is really gentle and kind; it doesn't matter who you are, she always lets you play in her games if you want to; she is a really genuine friend; she is very reliable and you know you can trust her; she doesn't take sides with people; she is very fair.* Well done Polly – keep up those lovely manners!

## Year 5 and 6 Go Orienteering

We all had a very enjoyable orienteering lesson on Wednesday led by Mrs Sellars, our PE teacher. The children raced around in pairs with a map to designated points on the cricket pitch, to collect a different stamp to stamp their card. The children were extremely excited and enthusiastic, especially Toby and Herbie (who had to wait patiently as they were the last timed group to go!) and we even lost a few of them in the fog, especially George and Omer!! The winning group was Alonso, Ludo and Angus with a very quick time. Although many of us had never done this before, we all begged Mrs Sellars to give us a more advanced lesson in the new year...this time with compasses. She also talked about a group she joined called the Thames Valley Orienteering group ([www.tvoc.org.uk](http://www.tvoc.org.uk)) which regularly holds family orienteering days in parks in Oxford, and told us about geocaching, which Herbie said he had done before and loved! Apparently there are quite a few in the area, which you can find on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

## Club News

**Football Club** – will be starting again on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January (not 26<sup>th</sup> as previously advised). Sign up slips are on the main notice-board.

**Thursday Dance Club** – will be starting again on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January

**Friday Dance Club** – will be starting again on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**Textiles Club** – will be starting again on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

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

## Good as New

A very big thank you goes to Isabella and Lucia's grandpa, Herman Heijink, who responded to the Reception children's plea for someone to refurbish their dolls' house. He has transformed their old dolls' house into something fit for a king and queen, sanding it down and re-papering all of the rooms so that it looks as good as (quite possibly better than) new. It must have taken hours of time and a lot of tender loving care and I know that the children are going to be delighted when they see it on Monday morning.

## Robin Hood at the Oxford Playhouse – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

On Tuesday the whole school is off to the Oxford Playhouse to the pantomime version of Robin Hood. The performance starts at 10am so coaches will need to leave promptly at 8.45am. Please could children arrive at school at 8.30 so that they can be registered before getting on the coach. Thank you.

## **End of Term Arrangements – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

The end of term Carol Service takes place in St Michael's Church on Thursday at 9am. Children should be brought directly to Church in the morning. After the service we will walk the children back to school for the remainder of the morning. Children should be collected for the end of term at midday.

### **Parking!**

We still have a number of people parking inconsiderately and dangerously at drop-off and collection time, and it is only a matter of time before someone is badly hurt crossing the road. Though it is a small road, it is a busy junction with some fast traffic passing through the village and it is essential that everyone does their part to keep the children safe. It is an offence to park within ten metres of a junction. The parking map, issued last term and on the noticeboards, is attached to this newsletter. Our Police Community Support Officer, Chris Jones, will be attending the school during drop-off and collection times with the traffic enforcement team, who may issue tickets or remove dangerously parked vehicles.

***please be considerate – please park safely – please help us to look after your children***

### **Reception and Key Stage One Christmas Production of “Prickly Hay”**

The new classroom was transformed this week into a stable, complete with cow and horse! The reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children did three performances of their Christmas production, Prickly Hay, to packed and rapturous audiences on Monday and Tuesday. It was lovely to see the children having so much fun; they performed with confidence and enthusiasm and impressed us all with their acting, their singing and of course their dancing! You will appreciate how much work putting on a production like this takes; it is experiences such as this that create lasting memories for the children and that do so much in developing confidence and self-esteem. All of the staff in these two classes gave up a lot of their time at this very busy time of year to ensure that the show was the triumph that it was. I would like to say a very big thank you to all of the staff involved, who worked so hard preparing and rehearsing with the children and, of course, who transformed the classroom into a magnificent stable. Thanks also go to Mrs Stewart, the chief choreographer, who had the children doing things I'm not sure they thought they were capable of, and to Mr and Mrs Scott (parents of Jemima in Year 3) who very kindly organised, and donated, the stage lighting for us. But the final thank you must go to the children, who, with their wonderful, heart-felt performance, reminded us what Christmas is really about.

If anyone has taken any particularly good photographs of the play we would be grateful if you could email them to the office so that we can add them to our collection. Thank you.

### **Head Lice**

The head-lice are still with us in Year 3 and 4, with several children scratching their heads continuously. As you will be aware, we can only get rid of them if everyone checks their child's hair regularly and treats either with an insecticidal lotion or with wet-combing (“bug-busting”). Head lice are not pleasant for the children – please help us to get rid of them and put an end to all the scratching! Further information on “bug-busting” can be found through the charity ‘Community Hygiene Concern’ on their website at [http://www.chc.org/homedir/parent\\_info.cfm](http://www.chc.org/homedir/parent_info.cfm)

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

We are all looking forward to tomorrow's village Carol Service at St Michael's Church. We have quite a few children signed up to sing, and we hope that there will be lots of you there. It would be lovely if the children could wear something Christmassy!

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>
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	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Textiles Club Starts	<i>Children from Year 4-6</i>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Thursday Dance Club starts	<i>Children from Year 1-6</i>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday Dance Club starts	<i>pre-school &amp; reception children only</i>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Arsenal Soccer Schools starts	<i>Children from Reception – Year 6</i>