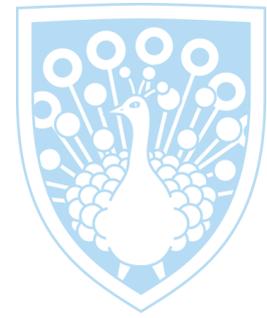




Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 169

Friday 20th December 2013



Dear parents,

Here we are again, at the end of another very busy term. The Christmas holidays are here at last, and after a very happy week of Christmas excitement in school, I think all of us are just about ready for a break!

The Christmas Feast

On Wednesday, Mrs Butler's classroom was transformed into a magnificent dining hall, thanks to Mrs Butler and her team of volunteers and helpers including Mr Butler, Miss Butler and lots of the Year 6 children. Thanks to the culinary skills and hard work of Ed Allen and his team of helpers, the children and staff were treated to a really delicious Christmas lunch of turkey and all the trimmings, including the ever-popular sprouts and Ed's award winning gravy! He has a secret recipe which he **MAY** be prepared to divulge! Ed has been working away behind the scenes for a few weeks now, conjuring up this veritable feast and enlisting the very willing support of lots of parents. Every time I asked him if there was anything he needed or anything that we could help with, I was greeted with Ed's very calm, "No, everything is all under control!" sort of response and indeed it obviously was! As if by magic, at the allotted time of midday, there was lunch on the table, greeted by a hungry hoard of children and staff. A very big thank you to Ed, who volunteered to take on the organisation of the Christmas lunch from Rachel Mitchinson, who has organised it so efficiently for the last few years. Thank you also to all of the parents who so generously volunteered their time (and their ovens) by cooking or ferrying or by serving and washing up on the day. The Christmas Feast is a wonderful Great Tew tradition, a really special way of bringing parents and children together, and it was lovely to be able to hold it this year in our spacious new classroom, with the ovens and sinks making the logistics just a little bit simpler! After lunch everyone was entertained by the Staff Band, playing all those sing-along-favourite Christmas Carols! It's "Britain's Got Talent" for us next year I think! The afternoon finished with lots of party games and dancing, all organised by Mrs Butler.



On Wednesday we enjoyed our traditional Christmas feast courtesy of Mr Allen and many helpful parents (Mrs Allen, Mr Leigh-Wood, Mrs Woodgate, Mrs Sandford, Mrs Spencer-Pratt, and Mrs Heath). Ludo's favourite part of lunch was Pigs in Blankets and at the massive party afterwards (arranged by Mrs Butler), Jemima won the favourite Musical Chairs, followed closely by Gus! By Year 5 and 6

Robin Hood

On Tuesday we went to the Pantomime 'Robin Hood' in Oxford. A loud and good time was had by all. The sheriff was evil (boo, hiss). Robin was heroic (cheers!) and Marion was beautiful! (Ahhh!). Scarlett particularly loved Robin's dramatic entrance on a zip-wire from the ceiling. By Year 5 and 6

Christmas Carol Singing at Sainsbury's

Many thanks to all those parents and children who turned out to sing carols and raise money for the school at Sainsbury's last weekend. It was a fun way to spend an hour (or two, for some of those particularly enthusiastic singers!) bringing a little Christmas spirit and good cheer to brighten up the weekend supermarket trip. A fabulous £358.37 was raised. Well done and thank you to everyone involved and particularly to Michelle Adams who organised it all.

Village Carol Service at St Michael's Church

It was lovely to see so many families at Saturday's Village Carol Service. The children that came along all looked wonderful, sparking in their Christmas gear and festive jumpers and they sang beautifully, receiving lots and lots of compliments.

Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion was Isabella in Year 6. Isabella is full of sparkle; she always has a smile on her face, and she is full of compliments and good cheer. The children told us: *she is a very kind buddy and she is always nice to all of the younger children; she is a loyal friend; she doesn't let me down; she is a good role model; she includes everyone in her games; she doesn't mind who plays with her; she looks out for people who aren't included.* Well done Isabella – I think we all agree that you have lovely manners.

Goodbye...

We say goodbye this term to Ms Burns, who has been a Teaching Assistant at Great Tew for the last five years, most recently in the Year 5 and 6 class. With her sense of humour and her positive outlook, Marina brings a ray of sunshine to the staff room and we will miss her sense of fun. We all wish Marina the very best and hope that she will stay in touch with us.

New Teaching Assistants

We are pleased to tell you that we have two new Teaching Assistants starting with us in January, Mrs Alison Hall, who will be working primarily in Year 1 and 2, alongside Mrs Phillips, and also with the Reception class on Wednesday afternoons and Ms Jo Furnivall, who will be working alongside Mrs Sutton, primarily with the Year 5 and 6 children. We look forward to welcoming them to our school.

Christmas Homework

The Christmas holidays are always busy, jam-packed with parties and trips to relatives and we have therefore decided not to set the children any formal homework to do over Christmas. It is, however, very important that the children keep up with their reading during the holidays and we would ask that you support us in this by listening to them read, reading to them and by signing their Reading Record. Older children should also be practising their times tables. 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>.

Christingle Service at St John's, Little Tew

For your information, The Christingle Service at St John's Church, Little Tew is this Sunday at 3 pm. Everyone is very welcome.

Please note that there is **NO** Christmas morning service at Great Tew Church this year but there is Midnight Mass as normal.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will be running next term as usual, starting on Monday 6th January. If you would like your child/children to go to Breakfast Club, please register them online at <http://www.activeafterschoolclubs.co.uk/search/?county=3&clubvenue=null> by clicking on "Register Online".

Back to School

School re-opens for the new term on Monday 6th January.



The poster for Great Tew Breakfast Club features a blue background. At the top, the text 'Great Tew' is written in a stylized font, with 'Great' in orange and 'Tew' in purple. Below this, 'Breakfast Club' is written in white on an orange rounded rectangle. The central image shows a white bowl of cereal with a spoon and a stack of three golden-brown scones. To the left of the food, the text '£4.00 Per Session' is written in white on an orange circle. At the bottom left, there is a blue square icon of a computer monitor with a mouse cursor. At the bottom right, a purple rounded rectangle contains the text 'Register Online www.oxfordactive.co.uk' and 'To Book Phone 01865 594 325' in white.

With best wishes to everyone for a very merry Christmas and for health and happiness in 2014.

Mrs Lucy Miles