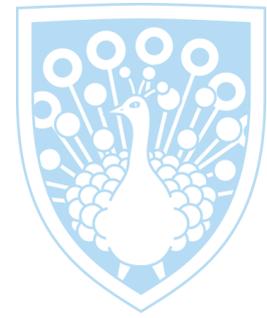




Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 173

Friday 31st January 2014



Dear parents,

News from the Classrooms....

Reception

In Letters and Sounds this week we consolidated our learning of sh/ch/th/ng in our reading and spelling of words. We are finding the /th/ sound as in 'this', 'that', 'them' and 'the', quite tricky so we have really focused on this (rather than /th/ in 'thick', 'thin' and 'think'). Everyone is really progressing with their key words and reading more and more words by sight which is adding pace and fluency to reading so keep practising!

In Maths this week we played lots of point scoring games and found different ways to record and keep track of our points, for example, using a tally or ticks.

In our circle times we have been thinking about different relationships, particularly friendships and the real meaning of the word friend. It would be helpful if you could support this by exploring situations that are fair/unfair with your child and finding opportunities that require turn-taking.

Interest table: The children are really into this topic so we have decided to let it run until the end of this half term. We have really enjoyed looking at photos of Louis' homes in New York and now Great Tew and comparing them... wow, what a difference! 'That's awesome!' commented one child!

Years 1 & 2

In Letters and Sounds this week Year 1 have been learning different spellings of the /ear/ sound – 'ere' (here, sphere) and 'eer' (reindeer) and the /are/ sound – 'are' (share) and 'ear' (bear). Year 2 have been learning the difference between singular and plural and the associated spelling rules of adding 's' or 'es'. In their English lessons, the children have been writing their own story map based on the story of Handa's Hen that they enjoyed so much last week. They have changed features of the story, such as the country, characters, locations, animals and sounds etc. The children have written their own class story called Dana's Donkey! We were all treated to a wonderful performance of Handa's Hen in our Star of the Week assembly this morning. With the help of their story map, the children were word-perfect in their re-telling (reminding Mrs Butler when she made a mistake!) and we all enjoyed listening to them. Sebastian, Ben and Adam were so keen on their story-telling that they re-told me their story of Dana's Donkey during a wet lunchtime in their classroom. Well done boys! In maths the children have been learning positional and directional maths and vocabulary. The children have used Beebots and roamers, programming them to negotiate courses and obstacles. In PE, the children are beginning to choreograph a dance to Handa's Surprise. I am looking forward to seeing it.

Years 3 & 4

The children have been working very hard, finishing off their water poetry, which they have really enjoyed. They are displayed in the classroom and hall for you to see, together with some very good water and wave paintings that they did earlier in the week. Here are a few for you to enjoy.

The Waves

*The hissing gigantic waves twirling twisting whistling
Violently thrashing onto the shore frightening tidal waves
The dangerous waves banged and boomed.*

*The gigantic waves mashing onto the angry sea
The mighty waves crashed onto the sea shore
They smashed everything in their path.*

By Archie L-W

Waves

*The waves bring fear
What can you hear?
They roll and rumble
They crash until they crumble*

*They viciously destroy anything in their path
Destruction makes them snigger and laugh
Their mean hearts are as dark as lead
Drowning their enemies until they're dead!*

By Millie

Or for something a little more soothing....

The Soft Wave

*The soft wave shines and shimmers
And when the sun sets the wave glimmers
Smoothly the wave settles down to sleep
Then it returns to the dark and the deep.*

*Gently the wave reappears
Stroking the shore as it nears
Can you see it calmly sway?
In the moonlight as it silently goes away.*

By Jemima

Years 5 & 6

Year 5 and 6's turned into budding entrepreneurs this week, with the start of their challenge to design and create an electronic game which they will market and pitch to `dragon investors` (parents!) at a forthcoming science fair! This week they choose their companies (groups), names and slogans, designed their games and concept boards and started to write instructions for their games. All the games are totally different, appealing to a wide variety of ages and children; including Morse Code Mayhem (a morse code game made by Herbie, Toby and Alonso or `BLEEPS` as their company is called), Funcise (a fun exercise game made by `ICKE` or Isabella, Clare, Kitty and Eva) and Lego Criminopoly (created by Bizzingboard or Omer, Gus and George). All of this was achieved with a considerable amount of discussion, decision making and compromising!

In Maths we have been looking at averages and used a formula on an Excel spreadsheet to average out the amount of time we spend on various leisure activities at home - I'm pleased to say the average for playing sport and playing outside was a lot higher than playing on computer games!

Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion is Ioan in Year 2. Ioan is smiley and friendly and he has consistently good manners to both adults and children. The children told us: *he is always smiling; he doesn't snatch things from you in the classroom; he doesn't get involved in any problems in the playground; he is very sensible at Chillin' Club – he plays quietly and doesn't get over excited; he always knows when to stop; he is good at saying sorry.* Well done Ioan; those good manners are so important. Keep up the great work!

Stars of the Week

This week we say well done to our following stars:

- Reception: Milo
- Years 1 & 2: Walter
- Years 3 & 4: Matilda
- Years 5 & 6: Omer

Assemblies This Week

It has been a busy week this week, with celebrations in many faiths and cultures. Sunday was the Jewish festival of Tu B'Shevat (sometimes known as the New Year for Trees.) The children enjoyed learning about the meaning behind this festival, which links back to the time when the Israelites first reached the Promised Land and began to make their homes and plant trees and fruit. Lots of the Year 1 children were rather taken by this special day for trees and disguised themselves as trees during their lunchtime play! Today is Chinese New Year and the younger children have been learning about some of the customs associated with this very special celebration. Monday was Holocaust Memorial Day and the older children spent some time thinking about why we remember the Holocaust and some of the lessons that we can take away and apply in our own lives.

The Year 5 and 6 children were asked to do a free response (art, poetry, writing – anything of their choice) to represent their feelings and emotions after a challenging discussion. This was Clara's immediate response:

Why?

Dear diary,

Today I witnessed two women and a young boy, walking glumly down the deserted street, quick as a flash, gone, disappeared. Put on to a train away from our lives, away from any life for that matter. How? How could someone? How could anyone deep down in their minds think that is right? How? Ma said that it's best I didn't know, didn't know where they were taken, didn't know why they would never come back....

There are many things hidden in this world, hidden in this town; many secrets that will never be mine to keep and this one will never be. It might be best if I didn't know... didn't know at all....

It's National Bug Busting Day!

Headlice seem to feature regularly in our weekly newsletter! They are still with us this term and won't go away until everyone wages battle on them. Please could I urge all parents to have a look at the advice contained on the NHS website <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/Pages/Treatment.aspx> or the Bug Busting page <http://www.chc.org/homedir/whatisbugbusting.cfm>. As today is National Bug Busting Day (!) please could everyone wet-comb their child/ren's hair very carefully this weekend, using a specially designed nit comb, which will remove both eggs (nits) and the lice themselves. This needs to be repeated on days 5, 9 and 13 in order to be really successful at eradicating them. Thank you everyone – together we can ban the bugs!

Club Update

All clubs will be running as usual this week.

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 everyone, and see you next week.

With best wishes.

Mrs Lucy Miles