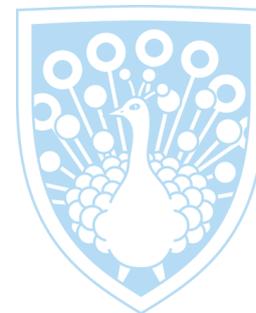


Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 175

Friday 14th February 2014



Dear parents,

News from the Classrooms....

Reception

This week we said a sad farewell to Miss Wallis and Miss Sole. The children enjoyed planning goodbye activities which included baking and making decorations and cards. The children all wrote lovely goodbye messages and cards for both of them.

In circle time this week we explored a variety of emotions and the children were encouraged to say how they felt and why. We talked about happy, sad, proud, tired, excited.... We looked at lots of different photos of children and sorted them into 'good day' and 'bad day' groups. The children are becoming excellent 'feelings detectives'!

Please look out for the half term homework letter that came home in book bags today and keep practising reading with your children every day.

Interest Table: After the half-term break the Interest Table topic will be 'My pancake....' This could be your favourite topping ingredient, a drawing of your dream pancake, a recipe, a photo of your family eating their pancakes, etc. Again, please encourage your child to write a label or caption to go on the table too. This topic will run for 2 weeks so please be prompt!

Years 1 & 2

Letters and Sounds in Year 1 this week has consolidated previous learning of the short /c/ sound represented as 'c', 'k', or 'ck'. Year 2 spelling has continued to investigate singular and plural spelling rules.

Our maths topic has moved on to look at data collection and representation in charts, block graphs and pictograms. We have then used our graphs to interpret the data we collected.

Highlight of the week was Chinese New Year (it came late for us!) Thanks to Mrs Heath we had some lovely decorations for our classroom and were all able to eat the stir-fry using our own set of chopsticks. We practised Chinese writing, made dancing dragons, painted or printed Chinese cherry blossom and coloured a dragon mask. Quote of the day – "Thank you Mrs Butler, that was the most fun day of year 2 so far!"

Please continue with an activity from the homework grid over the holidays and keep practising telling the time. Year 2's especially really need to know $\frac{1}{4}$ past, $\frac{1}{2}$ past and $\frac{1}{4}$ to!!! Good Luck!

Years 3 & 4

Year 3 & 4 have had a busy week. We completed our adventure stories with Miss Connor. We then said goodbye on Wednesday to Miss Connor by having a little party.

We spent time on Thursday looking at collective nouns and made our own posters to show these. Do you know what a group of crows, owls, penquins, unicorns and otters are? Ask the children, they may remember! We had a go at making some 3D art using our hands, some were more successful than others. We also learnt the history of Valentine's Day, although the children weren't keen on practising any of the old traditions.

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed teaching the children this year and would like to thank all the parents for their support. Although I won't be with them for two days a week as I have been up to now, I will still see them every Thursday morning. (Mrs Tibbetts)

Years 5 & 6

Despite the weather conspiring against us, for **every** P.E. session, Mrs Sellars (our P.E. teacher) has found inventive ways to ensure that we are able to do P.E. every week. KS2 have done indoor dance, orienteering and circuit training in the wettest weather... We won't let the weather stop us!

On Tuesday we were very excited to share our letters to The Queen and David Cameron with Mrs. Sutton in her special farewell assembly. As luck would have it Mr. Cameron's response came on House of Commons' headed notepaper on Tuesday morning (just in time!) and Clara turned into a magnificent Queen with Ladies-in-Waiting (great accent and handbag!) to read the Queen's letter to Mrs. Sutton. The day ended with Year 6 having their photographs taken with Mrs. Sutton; watch out for us all in the Banbury Guardian.

Our enterprise project is coming to an end and this week we have focused on marketing our electronic game products. We have written our presentations to parents, trying to include as many persuasive devices and memorable tricks as we can. We have sent our invitations out to parents to our forthcoming Dragon's Den, which will be held on Tuesday 25th February at 2 p.m. in the school hall. Anyone is welcome to come and be a "Dragon" and vote on the best game (please see attached invitation). We have stretched the school's budget and can reveal that the winners will be collected by limousine and whisked off to the Bahamas where they will be offered a multi-million pound contract on Sir Alan Sugar's private yacht - for the rest of us we will be continuing with lessons as usual!

Library Re-vamp

For the last six weeks, three girls from Year 6, Ella, Lucy & Charlotte, have tirelessly sorted alphabetically, categorised and tidied the library. They will be taking Yr 3 and 4 children on a tour around the library to show them very soon. Please help them to keep the library tidy by returning any books carefully.

Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion was Blythe in Year 4. Blythe has not been at our school for very long, but she has already become well known for her good manners and her smiley face. The children told us: *she always plays games that are fun; she looks out for people who are not included and asks them to come and play; she plays with the boys and the girls; she is enthusiastic; she always listens really well in the classroom; she tries her hardest.* Well done Blythe; we are very happy to have you in our school, especially with those lovely manners! Keep up the good work!

Stars of the Week

This week we say well done to our following stars:

- Reception:** Zac
- Years 1 & 2:** Henry
- Years 3 & 4:** Freddie
- Years 5 & 6:** Scarlett

Goodbyes and Farewells

This week we have said lots of goodbyes and farewell to some very dear friends. Miss Sole, who has been in Reception on a student placement, left us on Wednesday to go on to her next placement looking after triplets! We have thoroughly enjoyed having her with us and know that she will go on to have a very successful career working with children. Miss Connor also left us to go on Maternity Leave on Wednesday, as she will be having her third baby at the end of April. We wish her and her family the very best and look forward to seeing her and her new arrival very soon. We also said goodbye to Miss Wallis today. Miss Wallis' children Peter, Loulou and Robert all came to Great Tew, but she is now leaving us to work a little nearer to her new home. Miss Wallis has been a fantastic Teaching Assistant in our school, calm, gentle and nurturing but with the highest expectations of the children. She has been a wonderful colleague and friend and we will all miss her.

Mrs Sutton – Congratulations from the Queen and David Cameron!

Mrs Sutton retired this week after 26 years at Great Tew. She has been a wonderful colleague and those of you who came along to her retirement assembly know very well what the children thought of her. The children in Year 5 and 6 think so highly of her that they wrote to the Queen and David Cameron to tell them so! Just in the nick of time, we received letters back from both of them, which were read to Mrs Sutton as part of her assembly. I will make sure that you see copies of the letters written by the children together with the replies we received. Mrs Sutton has given years of dedicated service to the school, and has supported numerous children and their families, some of them even parents themselves with children at the school! I know I speak from everyone when I say thank you to Mary, for all that she has given to the school. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Old Pots and Pans?.....Can You Help?

Next term the Reception class are going to be adding a 'Sand Kitchen' to their outdoor area and are hoping for lots of donations to help them with this! We would love any old pots and pans, sieves and colanders whisks, bowls, jugs, cutlery, serving spoons, trays, etc (obviously no sharp objects or breakables please!). We would also appreciate a roll of bamboo or wicker style garden screen if any is going spare! Please see Mrs Platt or drop any donations into the office, many thanks.

Parents' Evenings

A reminder that Parents' Evenings are taking place the week after Half-Term, on Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th February. If you haven't already done so, please make sure that you sign up for an appointment.

Clubs

Please could we ask you to let the office know in the morning, if your child will not be staying for a club that they regularly attend. For safety reasons, it is very important that the staff running the club know who they should be expecting.

The School Day – a reminder about drop off and collection times

Please could I remind parents and carers that children should be dropped off at school in the mornings **between 8.40am and 8.55am, ready in class to start the day at 8.55am.** The teachers are busy in the mornings, photocopying and preparing lessons for the day so please make sure that the children are not brought to the classrooms until 8.40am at the earliest. Whilst it is lovely that the children are keen to get to school there is no-one in the classroom to supervise them until 8.40am. A reminder, too, that **children should be collected promptly at 3.15pm.** If you are going to be late for any reason, please make sure that the office knows.

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> .

Wishing you all a very happy Half-Term, and hoping that when we return after our break the rain might have stopped!

With best wishes.

Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates Coming Up

Monday 24 th February	PC Chris Jones visiting the children
Tuesday 25 th February	School Nurse visit - Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights
Tuesday 25 th February	Parents' Evening (please sign up on main notice board)
Wednesday 26 th February	Netball Festival at Chipping Norton School
Thursday 27 th February	Parents' Evening (please sign up on main notice board)
Monday 3 rd March	Year 6 Residential Visit to Kilvrough
Wednesday 12 th March	Year 1 Dance Festival at Chipping Norton School (further details to follow)
Thursday 13 th March	Green School Bus visiting school