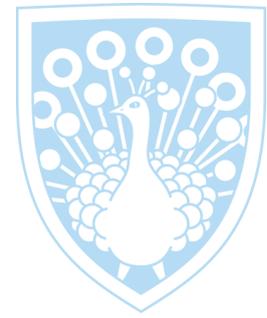


# Great Tew School Newsletter

## Issue 176

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014



Dear parents,

## News from the Classrooms....

### Reception

This week the children have been learning the sounds /oa/ and /igh/. They have been learning to recognise coins in maths and have been paying for items by making amounts with 1p and 2p coins. The children have been busy setting up and playing in their new role-play area, which is a Post Office. If you have any unwanted envelopes, jiffy bags etc, I am sure the children would enjoy putting them to good use. On Tuesday, Mrs Zibarras, Louis' mummy, came in to talk to the children about their life in New York and how it compared to life in Great Tew. The children really enjoyed looking at some pictures of Louis' home in New York! Thank you to Mrs Zibarras for helping the children to understand how life in a big city is so different from life in Great Tew!

### Years 1 & 2

In Maths we have been working on data handling, making charts and using information to make block graphs and pictograms. Year 2 children have taken this work a little further and they have been interpreting the information on a range of different graphs.

In English, the children worked in groups to produce a performance of a poem of their choice from a selection of patterned poems. They used props, voice actions and sound to bring their performances to life. The children enjoyed doing this and their performances developed as they grew more confident at working in a group. In science, the children are learning about the variation between humans throughout the world - skin, eye, hair, colour, height etc. They are beginning to learn about the human life cycle – the children talked in detail about this topic that they found fascinating, asking many in-depth questions.

### Years 3 & 4

This the first week of a new world for Years 3 & 4, with Mr Wadham joining us full time. We are continuing the 'water' theme this term but from a different viewpoint. The class are following a raindrop from Great Tew to Southend-on-Sea. We started by looking at the springhead that has formed at the foot of the school bank, following it underground until it flowed into the hammer ponds below the Falkland Arms. Here we sketched the scene, where we discovered a new view at every glance. We are also reading *The Wind in the Willows* and watching excerpts of Terry Jones' wonderful film based upon the book. The class are very engaged in this topic and are adding new and different points of view at every turn. The children feel that they have had a fabulous, exciting and extraordinary week. We are all very pleased to have Mr Wadham with us – I know how much he has enjoyed his week with the Year 3 and 4 children.

### Years 5 & 6

On Tuesday afternoon seven companies competed to become the winner of the best electronic game in front of a large group of discerning 'dragons' or parents...the pitches were persuasive, confident and often hilarious! Feedback from the parents was very positive with comments such as "professional and enthusiastic presentation", "educational, exciting and fun game" and "when can I buy one?"

Although all were worthy winners, the reward of a £50 note each (tissues) was awarded to the winners "Bleeps" (Alonso, Herbie and Toby) for their brilliant "Morse Mayhem" game, an electronic game for two players based on deciphering a morse code using a buzzer. Well done boys! Remember us at Great Tew when

you are Captains of Industry! Once the excitement had calmed down, we got stuck into a few lessons of subtraction and probability, and investigated the probability of throwing `heads` on a coin and of a pin landing up when dropped.

The children have been talking about anthropomorphism (I had to have that explained to me too!) and the children wrote some interesting diary entries today, giving animals human characteristics.

## Stars of the Week

This week we say well done to our following stars:

**Reception:** Ludo

**Years 1 & 2:** Sebastian S

**Years 3 & 4:** Charlie

**Years 5 & 6:** Polly

## Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion was George in Year 6. George is a very thoughtful member of his class and he is someone whose caring nature makes him very popular with children throughout the school. George always thinks of other people before himself and he is quick to support other children. The children told us: *he never has to be told off; I have never known him get involved in disagreements or arguments with his friends; he is very good at following instructions; he always looks out for other children in the playground; he doesn't mind who he plays with; he is very thoughtful.* These are such important qualities, which will take George a long way in life. Well done George, and keep up the good work.

## PC Chris Jones – Personal Safety Talk

On Monday, PC Chris came to talk to children from Year 1 to Year 6 about Personal Safety - how to keep themselves safe when they are out and about. The children took part in a quiz, with some very difficult questions that really made them think. The key messages for the children were:

- To listen to their body signals and to get themselves away from situations that made them feel uncomfortable as quickly as they could;
- To make sure that parents and carers always know where they are, and to let them know if their plans change.

Personal safety and being aware of strangers are always difficult things to talk to children about; we want the children to have enough knowledge about what to do in difficult situations, without making them fearful. Please make sure that you talk to your children, regularly, about the different situations they might find themselves in, and how they should react. PC Chris had the children thinking about questions like:

- What to do if a car driver stops when you are walking down the road and starts to talk to you;
- What to do if you think that someone might be following you;
- What to do if an adult or child asks you to help them look for their dog;
- What to do if you are out with your friends and your plans change.

PC Chris also talked to the older children about pen-knives, which some of them have at home. He made sure they understood that they should only use their pen-knives at home under supervision, and why they should never leave them in their pockets. If your child does have a pen-knife, please make sure that it is always kept at home, and never brought to school or taken out with them in their pockets by mistake.

Through PC Chris' informal quiz-style presentation, the tone of the morning managed to remain light-hearted and fun, but with some very important issues being raised and discussed.

## Mrs Sutton

The following is from a card received from Mrs Sutton after her retirement. She asked me to pass this on for all parents to see.

*Dear All,*

*As you know I was not looking forward to retiring, but I can't thank you all: staff, parents, ex parents, governors and ex governors, enough, for making my retirement so enjoyable. I know that so much thought, hard work and preparation went into everything that you all did. I was totally overwhelmed with the presents and generosity. I loved the meal and assembly... even a letter from David Cameron and the Queen!! You really had thought of everything. The memory book will keep my memories alive. I will miss you all and wish you all the best for the future. I am now looking forward to my trip to London, and I will wear my new jewellery to afternoon tea.*

*With love from Mary.*

I know you will be pleased to see this lovely article, published in the Banbury Guardian on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Thursday, February 13, 2014 www.banburyguardian.co.uk

### YOUR PICTURES: School news



## Fitting send off for popular teaching assistant

Staff at a village primary school have spoken highly of a caring teaching assistant with 'a great sense of humour' after she retired yesterday (Wednesday). Mary Sutton started at Great Tew Primary School in 1989 when the school only had 21 pupils and one teacher. She was

given a warm send off at the school on Tuesday and the pupils even received a letter from the Queen and Prime Minister David Cameron. Rebecca Catling, Year Five and Six teacher, said: "We have had so many nice comments about Mary by past pupils and teachers. Everyone loves her."

## **Hi-5 Netball Festival at Chipping Norton School**

On Wednesday, five boys (Alonso, George, Herbie, Omer and Theo) and six girls (Charlotte, Clara, Ella, Isabella, Kitty, Lucy and Scarlett) represented Great Tew in the Hi-5 netball festival. They played four matches, with the girls' team playing for the first half in every match and the boys' team playing for the second half. The children played extremely well, demonstrating very good teamwork, and they were pleased to come third overall. Well done to all of the children who represented their school so well.

## **Save the Date**

Our next Bag2Schools day is Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Please put this date in your diaries and start looking out your old unwanted clothes, shoes etc.

## **Reception Class Sand Kitchen.....Can You Help?**

This 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.

## **Table Top Sale**

We are planning a 'Table Top Sale' on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March in school, (outside if weather permitting), for selling your unwanted "good as new" clothes, toys, books, bric a brac etc. Setting up may begin at 2.30 pm ready for pick up time at 3.15 pm.

If you are interested in booking a table please let Angela know by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March which will give us time to know whether it will be feasible to go ahead with this fundraiser. Tables will cost £10 each with all proceeds going to the school. If you know of anyone, friend, family member etc who would like a table, please ask them to contact the office or you can book for them.

We do ask that any items you do not manage to sell are taken away with you and not put into our rubbish bins or left at school.

We hope this fundraiser will appeal to you and we get a lot of tables booked. If this turns out to be a success we will hopefully hold another one during the summer months.

## **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>.

I am very pleased that I will be heading off on Monday morning to deepest Wales, taking the Year Six children on their school journey to Kilvrough. I look forward to seeing you all on our return.

With best wishes.

Mrs Lucy Miles

## Dates Coming Up

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|---|---|
| Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> March | Year 6 Residential Visit to Kilvrough                                       |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March                | Year 1 Dance Festival at Chipping Norton School (further details to follow) |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March                 | Green School Bus visiting school  |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March                   | Year 5 and 6 Girls' netball at Tudor Hall                                   |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March                   | Table top sale – if enough interest   |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March                | Year 2 & 3 Schoolympics   |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March                   | Year 5 Science Day at Tudor Hall  |