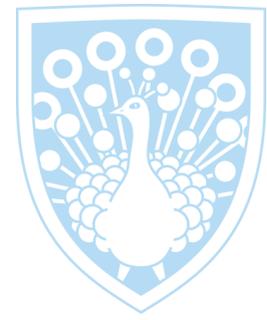




Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 178

Friday 21st March 2014



Dear parents,

News from the Classrooms....

Reception

This week the children had lots of fun using their addition and subtraction skills in maths. They used Numicon to explore different ways of making 10 and ladybird spots to partition the numbers 6, 7 and 8 into all of their bonds (eg, $6+0$, $5+1$, $4+2$, $3+3$, all = 6). Please try to have a go at this at home to reinforce the learning. Our sounds this week were /ur/ as in curl and fur and /ow/ as in cow and town.

On Thursday morning the children had a visit from PC Chris Jones. He came in to tell them a little bit more about what the Police do and the different ways that they help us. The children were very excited to be shown around his police car – he even put on the lights and sirens for them!

Please note that on Monday and Wednesday next week, all Reception Class staff will be carrying out their Paediatric First Aid Training (a statutory level of first aid for working within the Early Years) and so will not be in class. Mrs Armstrong, who has done a few days' supply for us before, will be teaching the children for these two days and she will be supported by Emma, Mrs Hall and Mr Miles (Mrs Miles' nephew, who is doing two weeks' work experience with us.)

Interest table: Next week the theme will be 'My Mum!' We would love your own ideas on this, a photo, your own drawing or painting, a collage, a sentence or story about your mummy, a hanging of things that remind you of your mummy... We look forward to seeing what you come up with!

Years 1 & 2

In English we have been practising punctuating sentences accurately using capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks and speech marks. Do help the children to look out for these in their reading. In Letters and Sounds, the children have been revising all the different grapheme representations for the /ai/ and /ee/ phoneme. In non "teacher speak" that means the different ways that we can write the /ai/ and /ee/ sounds! So, for example, rain, play, gate, eight, great, grey and baby all have the /ai/ sound but it is spelt in different ways. This is what makes spelling so very difficult! The children have also been practising spelling high frequency words. In maths, the children have put their minds to some very tricky problem solving. They have been working in pairs coming up with their own strategies and methods to work through open-ended and challenging tasks. In topic the children have been thinking about the similarities and differences between an Imam and a Vicar. I am sure they would enjoy discussing this with you...

Years 3 & 4

We have been writing poems 'from the heart' this week. We started by finding a place in the school grounds where each individual could feel comfortable. Using all our senses we took in the sights and sounds of the village. The children then set about writing a poem in free form or rhyme based upon their experience. The result has been a wonderful range of perception and writing. We can all be very proud of their work. Our Year 3 children were wonderful ambassadors for the school on Wednesday at the School Mini Olympics at Chipping Norton School. Well done - such effort and enjoyment, wonderful! PSHE has focused on the importance of valuing difference, what it means to be part of a team and the contributions that we all want to make to the life of the school.

Years 5 & 6

Year 5 & 6 haven't been in school much this week! On Monday the girls were invited to Tudor Hall for a whole morning of netball coaching. After lots of fun, games and key skills on their fantastic astro-turf courts, the children enjoyed a delicious lunch and hot-footed it back to school. We then went for a lovely sunny afternoon walk around Great Tew with Mrs Sellars, geocaching. We used the school iPads to search the official website (www.geocaching.com) to find the two village geocaches and then went to find one! (We won't spoil the secret – but it's in the Churchyard somewhere).

On Tuesday the Year 5's enjoyed a masterclass choir session with choir leader and singing teacher, Peter Hunt, courtesy of the Chipping Norton Music Festival, before a magnificent 'Albert Hall' worthy evening singing concert in front of parents.

Finally on Friday the Year 5's were again invited out to Tudor Hall for a fantastic Science day. The children had an "awesome" day. They took part in all sorts of science/technology based activities, including making a marble run to slow down a marble; visiting a thrilling Space Dome for a fact-filled tour of the universe; learning about gases and creating hydrogen explosions; meeting a range of creatures including a tarantula, a tree frog and a grumpy dwarf hedgehog; making volcanoes and rainbows in the science lab. The children loved their day - I overheard Emily telling her mummy, "That was just the best school trip ever!" I received so many compliments about the children's enthusiasm and wonderful manners. They were a credit to the school; I had a lovely day too and I was very proud of them.

Stars of the Week

A very well done to all of them:

Reception: Isabelle

Years 1 & 2: Martha

Years 3 & 4: Toby

Years 5 & 6: Herbie

Year 2 & 3 Mini-Olympics

On Wednesday Mr Wadham and I took the Year 2 and 3 children to Chipping Norton School to take part in the Mini-Olympics. The children formed mixed teams with children from other schools and then took part in a range of different activities, including speed jump, standing long-jump, hurdling and parachute games. They all had lots of fun and represented their school beautifully. Well done to all of the children and particularly to Reuben, who received a special medal for his speed-bounce skills and to Bella, Cosmo, Hector, Seb and Silvia, who were all awarded Sporting Champions.

A Fun-Filled Weekend

A reminder that lots is going on this weekend, as mentioned in last week's newsletter: a Science Fair at Oxford Brookes, Cogges Farm Spring Open Weekend and a Lambing Weekend at Earth Trust Little Wittenham. More details in last week's newsletter. There is also a Spring Fair at Middle Barton Sports and Social Club on Saturday from 2-4pm.

Safeguarding Request

We have strict procedures in place for the vetting of adults in school and all visitors to school have to be signed in at the office. Could I request, please, that outside normal drop-off and collection times, you report to the office if you need to drop something off or visit the school for any reason. Parents should not be using the door codes to access the school buildings. If you need access to the new building or the AJ building and the office is not attended, please ring on the bell and someone will let you in. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Moving House..... Removal Team Needed....

Theo, James and Louis have just moved house and have kindly donated their Play House (a bit like Butterfly Cottage) to the school. However we need a removal team to move it from its current location in the village to the school grounds! If you think you might be able to help, please could you talk to Mrs Platt or Miss Read. Thank you.

Enjoy the weekend everyone, and see you bright and early on Monday morning!

With best wishes.

Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates Coming Up

Date	Event	Notes
Thursday 3rd April	Easter Egg hunt Egg rolling competition	further details to follow
Friday 4th April 9am	Easter Service followed by Easter Bonnet parade Term finishes at midday	St Michael's Church
Tuesday 22nd April	Summer Term starts	
Mon 12th to Thurs 15th May	KS2 SATs week	Year 6 children taking statutory tests all week.
Thursday 22nd May	Sponsored Cow Hill Walk	
Monday 26th - Fri 30th May	Half Term	
Mon 16th - Fri 20th June	Whole School Book Week	
Tuesday 1st July 2pm & 6pm	KS2 production	
Wednesday 2nd July 6pm	KS2 production	
Tuesday 8th July – pm	Sports' Day	alternative day Tuesday 15 th July in case of bad weather
Tuesday 15th July - pm	Alternative Sports' Day	