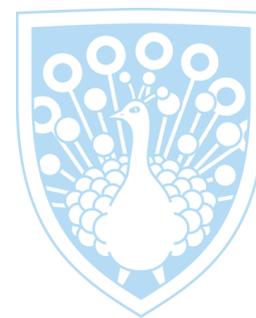


Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 181

Friday 25th April 2014



Dear parents,

The children have come back to school well rested and refreshed and have all been working hard this week at the start of what is always an action-packed and fun-filled term.

Reception

We have kick-started our Summer Term topic of growing plants by reading an information text called 'My Bean Diary'. The children have begun finding out about what plants need to grow and how a bean germinates, sending down a root and pushing up a shoot to find the light. Everyone has had the chance to plant their own bean and we are looking forward to watching them grow!

In Letters and Sounds we have focused on matching upper and lower case letters and have been practising both the sounds and names for each letter (abc/ABC).

The children have been exploring practical problems involving sharing and doubling in maths, for example, 12 beans shared equally between 2 gardeners, how many each? What if another gardener came along? If there is a bean left over, what shall we do with it?

We learned about St George on Wednesday and, after noting his shield in the picture, the children all designed their own shield. It was divided into 4 and each section had to represent something important to them. We had a variety of things depicted, from cups of tea to pets and family members, Hello Kitty lunchboxes and pieces of jewellery.

Also, the children were fantastic at swimming today. They coped well with all the changing and listened attentively to the instructions poolside despite the distractions of the water and the echoing surroundings. Everybody got in to the water and completed at least 2 widths.

Interest Table: Signs of Spring; we are looking forward to your offerings of flowers, photos, paintings, collage, collection of words, pictures of baby animals...

Don't forget: Monday morning is Grandparents' Day. They may drop in any time between 9.30 and 11.30 and must report to the school office on arrival please. A kind reminder that we are not able to accommodate parents or siblings at this session. This information has been sent home via a letter and a note in your yellow diaries.

Years 1 & 2

English – Letters and sounds for Year One included “rn” and “wr”, looking at both reading and spelling words containing these graphemes. Year Two children completed their work on apostrophes. We have started to look at fantasy stories discussing various settings and characters so it would really help the children's writing if they could search through books at home to gather additional ideas.

Maths – Both year groups have been practising counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. The Year One children have been starting to count in 10's from any number and the Year Two children have been using their counting skills to help with multiplication calculations.

Topic – Do you know who Mary Anning is and what she was famous for? If not ask your child! We have launched our new topic – Jurassic Forest - and feedback from the children appears to be positive and extremely enthusiastic.

Years 3 & 4

We are all Twits! Years 3 and 4 have started to read 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl. Using the book as a resource we are studying punctuation, the use of speech in writing and how to build a storyline. In maths we have been rounding and estimating numbers. Science found us identifying the flora within the school grounds. The children have really engaged with this, researching the native trees of Britain. We will go on to see which plants are native to our village and which are foreign implants!

Years 5 & 6

This week year 5 and 6 have been doing lots. In maths we have been looking at the difference between ratio (comparing part to part) and proportion (comparing part to whole) and scaling up and down proportions of ingredients to make larger or smaller quantities. We then went outside and became ratio investigators, looking for comparisons in our environment. Gus, George and Ludo found that for every bench in the reception amphitheatre we could sit 15 infants, they then worked out we would need 7 benches to seat the whole school. Angus counted that there was a ratio of 14 tables to 26 chairs and then worked out the formula $t \times 1.85 = c$. Polly worked out a ratio of 5 petals to 1 bud, and then worked out that there must be 50 petals on the 10 buds on the plant! In R.E. we have begun looking at creation stories from across the world including an Aboriginal creation story and a Chinese creation story. We also had a healthy discussion on where we think it all began, which resulted in the 'what came first, the chicken or the egg' argument.

Today we had a visit from Sarah Lean as part of the Chipping Norton Literacy Festival. The children really enjoyed this and asked lots of very interesting questions. Lots of the children have taken home one of Sarah's books to read.

Stars of the Week:

Well done to all of our Stars of the Week. They have all been displaying positive, "I can" attitudes towards their learning.

- Reception:** Oscar
- Years 1 & 2:** Cosmo
- Years 3 & 4:** Victoria
- Years 5 & 6:** Charlotte

Chipping Norton Literary Festival

There are some tickets still available for this weekend's fabulous events for children. All tickets are £2 unless stated. Ring the Box Office on 01608 642350 or buy on the day.

SATURDAY

John Dougherty introduces "Stinkbomb and Ketchup-Face". 7 years upwards, boys and girls, 9.30am, Parish Rooms

John's new title was very favourably reviewed in The Telegraph and the event is guaranteed to be a bundle of laughs.

Holly Smale – "Geek Girl". 1.30pm, 13+ years girls, Parish Rooms.

"Geek Girl" was the debut novel of 2013 and has just won the Waterstone's Teen Book of the Year. Holly is an inspirational and amazing speaker and definitely not to be missed.

Tom Percival - Create a Picture Book, 3.30pm, 5+ years boys and girls, Parish Rooms

Illustrator extraordinaire, Tom, will be recreating a picture book based on his bestselling title "Herman's Letters". During the morning he will be putting together a live window display in Jaffe and Neale.

SUNDAY

Beast Quest. 12.30pm, The Theatre, £8.50 per ticket

Calling all Beast Quest fans, Wizard Aduro needs your help to defeat the Beast Nanook. An amazing show with lots of goodies on offer.

Drawing with Lydia Monks. 1.30pm, Parish Rooms, 5 years + boys and girls.

Lydia will show you how she brings some of your favourite books to life from mermaids to horses, princesses to wizards.

Introducing Our New Parent Support Adviser

I am very pleased to tell you that Mrs Amanda Munson is our school's new trained Parent Support Advisor. Amanda has a huge wealth of experience having brought up three children of her own, now aged between 11 and 23 years. Amanda's role is to offer advice on a range of family matters including health and emotional issues, parenting advice and education issues. Amanda will be available to meet with parents on Wednesday afternoons, from 1pm until 3pm. Although she may not have all the answers, she knows where to go to find them and she will be able to direct you to people who will be able to help. Amanda is very approachable and you can talk to her in complete confidence.

To make an appointment to see Amanda on a Wednesday morning please telephone the school office on 01608 683642. A flyer telling you more is attached to this newsletter.

Bag2Schools

Please don't forget to look out your old unwanted clothes etc for the Bag2Schools collection day on Friday 9th May. Since January 2012 the Great Tew School Bag2school donations have raised £1,106.

Assembly – what are we thinking about?

In assemblies we have been thinking a little more about Easter, and why Christians remember Jesus as the light of the world. We have thought about the meaning of this expression and the children have carefully considered some of the different ways in which they could be a shining light in the world, someone who brightens up the lives of other people. We will be thinking more about this in coming weeks.

Pitch Update – Good News!

You will be pleased to hear that the fencing contractor is due to start installing the sports pitch fencing on Monday 28th April; weather permitting it should be finished by the end of the week. The all-weather surface will be laid shortly after the fence is installed.

Tea for Tew – Cornbury Festival – Ingredients Needed Please!

Our team of 'Tea for Tew' bakers are ready to make a start at producing some delicious cakes to be sold at the school's tea tent at the Cornbury Festival.

They would love to get started on making Victoria sponges. Please could they have **caster sugar** and **butter**...

Butter is being sold currently at a cost price of 98p per pack at Sainsbury's. Hurry while stocks last!!!!

An ingredients 'wish list' will be posted on noticeboards in due course. Many thanks for your continued support.

Tea for Tew – Cornbury Festival – Match Funding

Great Tew School Trust is a registered charity and can therefore benefit from corporate match funding. If there are any parents' whose employers match fund their participation in charitable events, the school would be most grateful for your involvement. Many thanks.

Visit from Sarah Lean

On the 25th of April, bestselling author of A Dog Called Homeless, Sarah Lean came to visit Great Tew Primary. She talked to KS2 children about her books and how she got her ideas for them. She also did some drama with us about one of her characters in her book Hero. She told us that some of the inspiration for her stories came from her two dogs Coco and Harry.

Sarah has always been interested in animals. At nine years of age she really wanted a pet cat, but her parents disagreed with her. One Saturday morning her mum burnt the bacon and left the back door open to get the smoke out of the kitchen. In walked a Siamese cat, so Sarah fed it and it left. Then the cat started turning up wherever she went. Her parents got used to the cat, but soon they would go on holiday and Sarah couldn't bear to leave it. Her dad went to talk to the owners, and they said that the cat was unhappy with them and they eventually let her keep it. This was another inspiration for her books.

Then we asked Sarah some questions:

Q: Do you have a favourite dog out of Coco and Harry?

A: No.

Q: Has your dog Coco ever been your hero like one of the characters in your books?

A: Not yet!

Q: What gave you your inspiration?

A: The animals I knew as a child, animals have always interested me.

Q: Where do you do your writing?

A: At home beside the window. I do lots of thinking when I walk my dogs. I also think animals bring out certain characteristics of the characters in my books.

Q: Do you have a favourite book?

A: No, I can't choose between them!

Q: Are your stories based on real experience?

A: They are not based on my life, although I do think about situations from my own life, how I felt then and what my emotions were.

Q: How often do you re-write a story?

A: One story I wrote 70 different versions of it!

We really enjoyed our visit with Sarah Lean. Her other books include, A Dog Called Homeless, A Horse For Angel, The Forever Whale and Hero. She showed us lots of tips for writing and even suggested a website, which we will hopefully use soon.

School Parent Governors

You should have received your information letter about becoming a Parent School Governor. If you didn't receive yours please check your child/children's bags. Please do take some time to consider whether you have some time to spare and would like to play a part in the continuing development of the school; do contact either Peter Collins or Mrs Miles if you would like to find out more. Please remember all nominations need to be in the school office by **9.00 a.m. on Thursday 1st May**.

Friday Assembly

On Friday 2nd May at 2.30pm, the Year 5 and 6 children will be delivering a short assembly as part of our Friday Celebration Assembly. This will be a culmination of the “Horrible History” work that they did last term. All parents and governors are warmly welcome.

I hope you all have a happy weekend and look forward to seeing you next week.

With best wishes,

Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates Coming Up

Date	Event	Notes
Friday 25 th to Sunday 27 th April	Chipping Norton Literary Festival	See the website http://www.chiplitfest.com/
Friday 2 nd May at 2.30pm	Celebration Assembly/ Year 5& 6 Horrible History presentation	All parents and governors are welcome
Friday 9 th May	Bag2Schools Collection	Further details to follow
Mon 12 th to Thurs 15 th May	KS2 SATs' week	Year 6 children taking statutory tests all week.
Monday 19 th May	Maypole Dancing Day Whole School Display at 2.30pm.	Parents invited to come along and watch at approx. 2.30pm. Further details to follow.
Thursday 22 nd May	Sponsored Cow Hill Walk	
Monday 26 th - Fri 30 th May	Half Term	
Thursday 5 th June & Thursday 12 th June	Non uniform days in exchange for items for the tombola for summer fete	Further details to follow
Mon 16 th - Fri 20 th June	Whole School Book Week	
Wednesday 18 th June	Travelling Books Book Fair	Further details to follow
Saturday 21 st June	Annual School Fete 11-1 pm	Further details to follow
Wednesday 25 th June	Moving up Morning	Further details to follow
Tuesday 1 st July 2pm & 6pm	KS2 production	
Wednesday 2 nd July 6pm	KS2 production	
Friday 4 th , Saturday 5 th & Sunday 6 th July	Cornbury Festival	Further details to follow
Thursday 10 th July	Parents Evening - early	Further details to follow
Monday 14 th July	Parents Evening - late	Further details to follow
Tuesday 15 th July – pm	Sports' Day	
Wednesday 16 th July - pm	Alternative Sports' Day	If weather bad on Tuesday
Friday 18 th July	End of term service Term finishes at midday	St Michael's Church
Tuesday 2 nd September	Inset Day	Children not in school
Wednesday 3 rd September	School re-opens for Autumn term	