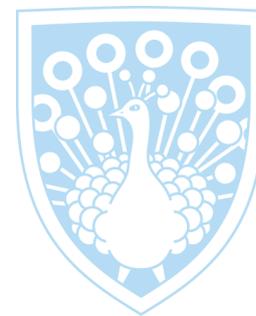


Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 183

Friday 9th May 2014



Dear parents,

Reception

We potted up our rapidly growing bean plants this week, which gave us a great opportunity to look at their developing roots. These climbing bean plants will be coming home into your care this week and will hopefully grow on to give you a pod or three for tea so that the children can observe the complete life cycle, supporting our topic work in class. The children have been exploring practical problems involving the language of adding and subtracting and we have learnt to read and write words with the /air/ spelling pattern, eg, hair, fair, pair. We all practised our skipping skills in PE on Tuesday and found that skipping to music, in a circle whilst holding a ribbon was really rather challenging but lots of fun! We are now really looking forward to our Maypole day in a couple of weeks; we have been listening to traditional country dance music and Mr Wadham kindly played his accordion for us in assembly.

Last week we welcomed lots of lovely grandparents into our classroom and the children enjoyed spending time with them and showing them round our indoor and outdoor classroom space. Thank you to all that were able to take part.

Years 1 & 2

Letters & Sounds – This week the Year One children have learnt different ways to spell the ‘sh’ sound. As there are so many alternative spellings the children would really benefit from some extra word spotting whilst reading with you at home. We discussed the t(ion) potion, ss(ion) mission, s(ian) Asian, c(ial) special, c(ian) magician! Year twos have continued their work with the prefixes ‘un’ and ‘dis’.

Guided Reading – Year Two children have really enjoyed working on their practice SATs papers this week and have brought home another leaflet and work booklet to continue for homework. We are aiming to complete the actual test on Monday so it would be useful if the homework was completed over the weekend!

R.E. – Continuing on from our exploration of the Christian baptism ceremony the children discussed with Mrs Tibbetts the Islamic naming ceremony and I’m sure they can give you many interesting details and facts.

Singing – Year Two children had an exciting morning this Thursday attending a singing workshop at The Carrdus School. We met with children from Christopher Rawlins School in Adderbury and sang our hearts out with songs and musical games. The morning culminated in a performance to the children of Carrdus School and their teachers.

You may have noticed a new face in the classroom. We are extremely happy to welcome Miss Lydia Righton, a PGCE student from Brookes University, who will be with us for the next eight weeks.

Years 3 & 4

It has been a great week in Years Three and Four where we have been looking at the structure of plays. To do this we are bringing together a short playlet based upon our study script; The Twits. We hope to present this in a forthcoming assembly, so watch out for the monkeys!

We have also been studying plants from the top down and the root up. Making detailed drawings has helped the children to really use their eyes when looking at our wonderful wild flowers.

Years 5 & 6

This week we have been learning about human evolution and how many millions of years old we are! We learnt that we are all very distantly (25 million years ago) related to primates and then we became `bipedal` (our favourite new word!) and grew larger brains!! Lucy Anthony remembered that one of our ancestors was called `Lucy` and Theo then like a shot remembered that it was because when the paleontologists discovered the bone which led to the discovery the Beatles song `Lucy in the sky with diamonds` was on the radio!!! Well I never! What a clever bunch we have!!!

Then we all had great fun re-enacting the evolution in small groups with each one of us taking a stage e.g. primate, homo habilis, homo erectus, homo sapien and even future man!!! The photographs they produced were a great reminder of the stages and very funny!!!

The Year Six children have all put so much hard work into their SAT preparation, it really is a testament to how mature and motivated they are. As we approach the SAT assessments next week they should feel proud of what they have all achieved and we all know that they will do their very best. Good luck Year Six's!

Stars of the Week:

Well done to all of our Stars of the Week. They have been working as hard as they can, showing positive attitudes towards their learning.

Reception:	Parker
Years 1 & 2:	Rosie
Years 3 & 4:	Eliza
Years 5 & 6:	Angus

Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion is Otterlie in Year 1. Otterlie is kind and gentle with consistently good manners to everyone in school, both adults and children alike. The children told us: *she is a very good friend; she always looks out for other people; she is thoughtful; she picks children up when they fall over; she is very kind.* Well done Otterlie – these are the sort of manners we love to see in school. Keep up the great work!

Athletics Festival at Chipping Norton School

On Wednesday 7th May, four Year Four children (Finlay, Freddie, Maddie & Matilda), four Year Five children (Alonso, Emily, Esme & Theo) and four Year Six children (Angus, Charlotte, Isabella & Toby) took part in the Chipping Norton Athletics competition. It was a fun experience and it tested us as it was bitterly cold. After a very exciting hour of sprinting (70m), middle distance (300m), long-jump and howler throwing it was time for the last race, the relay running. It was very exciting, we were all shouting like mad and we just managed to win. After that we were put into our lines and we waited anxiously until Mrs Phillips told us the results. It was amazing because we won the Year Four trophy, the Year Five trophy, the Year Six trophy AND the overall small schools' trophy! All in all a most exciting day for everyone!

By Emily in Year 5

Celebrating Success Out of School

On Sunday 4th May I competed in the Gymnastic Club Championship at Abingdon gym hall. I went on four pieces which were floor, beam, bars and vault. Unfortunately there were two accidents on the beam where two girls fell off but they were very brave and carried on. At the end of the competition they announced who got the medals and trophies. I got 3 gold medals for floor, beam and bars and one silver for vault! I also got a massive trophy for the best gymnast of the year! I had a really good time and I will never forget it!

By Esme Jefferson

Friday Assemblies

From next week our Friday Celebration assemblies will be held at 9am on Friday mornings. Certificates will be awarded, work may be shared and everyone is welcome to attend. We hope that they will give you a taste of

what goes on in school from week to week. The assemblies will be held in the new classroom immediately after registration on Friday mornings.

Start of the Day

A reminder that the school day begins at 8.55am and that children should all be in school and ready for the day by then. Children arriving after 8.55am are marked late in the register. Whilst parents are welcome in the classrooms in the morning, if they wish to support their child with their morning work or talk to the teachers, please could we remind you that the fifteen minutes before registration is a quiet time for children to be getting on with morning work, making corrections, learning spellings or reading quietly. A calm start to the day is really important for the children and the teachers, setting the tone for the rest of the day. Please make sure that you have left the classrooms **by five to nine at the very latest**, so that the day can begin and the learning can commence! Thank you.

Developing Independence...

Lots of children came to school yesterday with no coats, so that they had to shelter under bushes or borrow coats in order to stay dry at lunchtime. The standard response from most of them, when asked, was "My mummy/daddy didn't put it in the car!" Please could I ask that you support us in developing the children's independence by encouraging them to be responsible for what they need for school each day – and to carry it for themselves too! We will all reap the benefits!

Saying Goodbye

This week we said a rather sudden goodbye to Herbie and Maude Eason, who moved to Kent on Wednesday. With their sense of fun and their cheeky smiles, they have both been wonderful members of our school and good friends to many, and they will both be missed by us all. We wish them lots of luck and happiness in their new school, who are lucky to have them.

Sports' Pitch

What excitement as the children were let onto the pitch at break today. They were thrilled to have this new space to play on, whether to kick/throw/catch a ball, to skip, to balance, to run, to stilt or just to "hang-out"! It is lovely to see the children with a really good space to play and let off steam - Grandmother's Footsteps seemed to be the game to play at lunchtime! Lots and lots of children and parents turned up for cookies and a kickabout on the pitch after school today; what a nice way to end the week and thanks to Viv Bennett for those delicious cookies! The football coaches were really pleased to be able to use it yesterday for their after school club – it made a big difference to the way they were able to teach the children. A huge thank you goes to EVERYONE involved in bringing us our pitch. Whilst the wait has been frustrating, it is already clear how much difference it will make to the children and it really is a fantastic new facility for the school.

Tea for Tew – Cornbury Festival –Please Check the Ingredients Wish Lists!

The office has been full of eggs, sugar, marg, lemons etc this week and our team of 'Tea for Tew' bakers have been able to get started. A very bit thank you to all of you who have already brought in ingredients.

If you haven't already done so, please look out for the Wish Lists on the noticeboards as there is a lot still needed. With some 160 cakes to be baked that's quite a lot of marg and sugar! 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.

With best wishes, Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates Coming Up

Date	Event	Notes
Mon 12th to Thurs 15th May	KS2 SATs' week	Year 6 children taking statutory tests all week.
Tuesday 13th May	Yrs 1 & 2 trip to Woodstock Museum	Letter sent home
Monday 19th 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 22nd May	Sponsored Cow Hill Walk	
Monday 26th - Fri 30th May	Half Term	
Thursday 5th June & Thursday 12th June	Non uniform days in exchange for items for the tombola for summer fete	Further details to follow
Mon 16th - Fri 20th June	Whole School Book Week	Further details to follow
Wednesday 18th June	Travelling Books Book Fair	Further details to follow
Saturday 21st June	Annual School Fete 11-1 pm	Further details to follow
Wednesday 25th June	Moving up Morning	Further details to follow
Tuesday 1st July 2pm & 6pm	KS2 production	
Wednesday 2nd July 6pm	KS2 production	
Friday 4th, Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th July	Cornbury Festival	Further details to follow
Thursday 10th July	Parents Evening - early	Further details to follow
Monday 14th July	Parents Evening - late	Further details to follow
Tuesday 15th July – pm	Sports' Day	
Wednesday 16th July - pm	Alternative Sports' Day	If weather bad on Tuesday
Friday 18th July	End of term service Term finishes at midday	St Michael's Church
Tuesday 2nd September	Inset Day	Children not in school
Wednesday 3rd September	School re-opens for Autumn term	