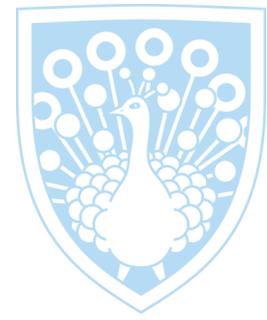




Great Tew School Newsletter
Issue 184
Friday 16th May 2014



Dear parents,

Reception

This week the children have had fun reading different versions of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We also listened to a version on our interactive whiteboard, complete with sound effects and animations that the children loved. We wrote a speech bubble for Mrs Platt's drawing of the Giant, that Laura thought looked like her daddy... Fee, fi, fo, fum...! Everyone drew their favourite part of the story and wrote a caption to say what was happening, look out for these next week, displayed on a giant beanstalk of our very own.

The children have explored number tracks, number lines and lots of counting in 2s. Please have a practice of this at home, grouping objects in 2s and saying, '2, 4, 6, 8...'

We hope that you enjoyed the bean plants that the children brought home on Wednesday; they will soon need a bigger pot and something to climb up.

Years 1 & 2

Year 2 children have been real stars this week. We have completed our reading and maths SATs tests and started the writing tasks. All the children have worked very hard and behaved in a mature and sensible way. The Year 1's quietly continued with normal lessons, showing great consideration for their year 2 friends. Tuesday was the highlight of the week. Our class trip to The Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock was a huge success. The children were extremely well behaved and were complimented by museum staff on both manners and the intelligent and probing questions they asked.

Years 3 & 4

The children have been working hard to prepare for their presentation of 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl. Understudies have worked hard to be 'ready' should the call come! This a thankless task if the person in the role turns up on the day fit and well! Thank you to all for your hard work.

We have been studying compass directions in mathematics which the children have enjoyed immensely. The hint that the Republic of South Africa may be in the south of that continent passed some by however!

We have spent some time working on positive behaviour in the classroom agreeing that complimenting someone helps to improve relationships and make for a happier learning environment. The children have responded well to this and we all look forward to a good second half to the term.

Years 5 & 6

This week we were a class of two halves!

Year 6's had their Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs). In order to give you a flavour of some of the gruelling questions the children were tested on, I have listed a sample from each paper below. Answers on a postcard please!

- Complete the passage with the correct article "It was.....enormous article".
- (Read to them) Spell 'crystal' 'anxious' 'honourable'.
- What sort of a noun is Justice?
- Multiply 15×12 mentally.
- What is the sum of $2\frac{3}{4}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$?
- $?x?x? = 105$
- $2a + 5b = 30$ when a is 15 what is b ?

We would really like to thank Pre-school who had to play very quietly indeed whilst we took our assessments in the ICT suite.

Year 5's undertook a project to design and create a new school prospectus. They wrote about the school timetable, important and exciting year events, topics we do, and drew a map of the school. The outcome was a beautifully presented, colourful and interesting prospectus which we will photocopy and give to all prospective parents and children.

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: Milo

Years 1 & 2: Sophie

Years 3 & 4: Sophie

Years 5 & 6: all of Year Six (for their fantastic, resilient, positive attitudes towards their SATs).

Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion is Seb in Year Two. Seb has consistently good manners to adults and is always good at looking you in the eye when he talks to you. He is mature and reflective, and when things go wrong he is able to talk about it. The children told us: *he is just a really kind friend; he always goes over to help people if they are hurt or falls over; he is a great friend because he includes people, he looks out for people and he is very thoughtful and nice to have around.* Well done Seb – these are just the sort of manners we love to have around school. Keep up the great work!

Celebrating Success Out of School

We have just received a phenomenal achievement: a Blue Peter Badge! We're thrilled with a Sport Badge and the traditional blue badge. Isabella got the sport badge for bringing a friend to cycle in Blenheim Palace to inspire people to take up cycling (and was very successful!) Kitty got the blue badge for writing a poem about the presenters: Lindsey, Barney and Radzi.

We are very thankful for this exciting achievement!

By Kitty and Isabella (Year 6)



Maypole Monday reminder!

Don't forget that next Monday (19th May) is our maypole day. Each class will have a session with the maypole man during the day and then we will all come together at 2.30 to perform our dances. Families are invited to make their way up to the new pitch at 2.30 to watch. Once the performances are finished, the children will return to class to get ready to go home and will then be collected as usual.

We would like to invite the children to come to school on Monday dressed in traditional maypole attire but **please don't rush out to buy something new!** For girls, a white t-shirt, skirt and a scarf or ribbons in their hair. For boys, shorts, white t-shirt and scarf round their neck. Please ensure that children wear plimsolls or trainers suitable for dance and not strappy sandals.

We look forward to seeing you at 2.30 on Monday and keep fingers crossed that the rain keeps away!

Change of Date

Please note the change of date for one of our Parent Evenings in July.

School Fete

An idea for a balloon race at the school fete has been suggested. However to make this a success in raising funds, we would need a sponsor. If anyone works for a Company that would like to sponsor a balloon race, we are looking at sponsorship of approximately £200. Please let Angela in the office know if anyone can help with this fundraiser. There would be a charge for buying a balloon and all balloons would be let go at the same time with the one travelling the furthest winning a prize for the purchaser. All balloons are biodegradable. Thank you.

Good Bye Again!

Yesterday, we said a second fond farewell to Charlie and Toby Howel, their parents Louise and Andy and their little sister Katie. After a false start over Easter, they were finally able to move house today. We will miss them all enormously and wish them all the very best in their new home and their new school.

Sports' Pitch Update – please help us to save our £10,000 National Lottery Grant

Many of you will have noticed that our very smart green all-weather Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) surface has now been laid on the pitch.

Please do help us to save our £10,000 lottery grant by using the pitch as much as you can over the next couple of weeks.

If you would like to use the pitch this weekend, please email Viv Bennett v_bennett@btconnect.com or telephone her on 07825 020969.

Tennis Taster Sessions – Open to Children Not at Great Tew

Attached to the newsletter you will find details of a day of FREE mini-tennis taster sessions being held on Saturday 24th May on the new sports' pitch. Classes will be 45 minutes long, organised by age group. Everyone is welcome to come along - both beginners and children who already play mini-tennis. Rackets and equipment will be provided. If you have friends or relations who might like to come along too, please pass on the details.

Boot Camp with Mrs Sellars!

On Tuesday morning, from 9am to 10am, Mrs Sellars will be running Cardio-Vascular Fitness Circuit training for adults on the new pitch. Everyone is welcome and no experience is necessary. Please make sure that you bring plenty of water and wear appropriate trainers. There is a sign-up sheet on the noticeboard.

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

The office has been full of eggs, sugar, marg, lemons etc and our team of 'Tea for Tew' bakers have been busy baking this week. A very big thank you to all of you who have been so generous and brought in bags and bags of ingredients.

The ingredients needed urgently now, for our gluten-free cakes, are **oranges, polenta, glace cherries and ground almonds.**

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.

Cow Hill Walk – Thursday 22nd May

This year we would like to add another dimension to our annual Cow Hill Walk and picnic. On her recent visit to Cambodia, Wendy Sandford, mother of Freddie in Year 4, visited a school in the village of Treak. Many of the children there have to walk several miles to school every day, and, this being one of the poorest regions of Cambodia, they have to carry their water from the well to their homes. We would like to raise the children's awareness of the lives of children in parts of the world where the basics such as water are so hard to come by. Each class will take part in a water "relay", with the children taking it in turns to carry their bucket of water for a part of our walk! I wonder how much water will reach Cow Hill! We are going to ask all participants (parents and children!) to make a voluntary contribution of £1 to take part and all the money raised will go towards buying a water filter for a family (approx. £35 each) or even a well (approx. £120). We hope that this will be a fun way to learn a very important lesson, and might encourage us ALL to value the water we run from the tap every day!

We will be leaving school at approximately 10am and it would be wonderful if parents could join us for both the picnic and the walk. A letter with further details will come home on Monday. We regret that no dogs may be brought along.

I hope you all enjoy a happy and sunny weekend,

With best wishes,

Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates Coming Up

Date	Event	Notes
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
Tuesday 8th July	Parents Evening - late	Further details to follow
Thursday 10th July	Parents Evening - early	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	