



Great Tew School Newsletter
Issue 189
Friday 27th June 2014



Dear parents,

What a busy week this has been, culminating in a lovely Celebration Assembly led by Mrs Butler's class, when the children shared some of the work they have been doing as part of their dinosaur topic.

Reception

This week the children have been learning all about the life cycle of the butterfly and should be able to tell you the key aspects of this and talk about how the process goes around and around from egg, to caterpillar, to cocoon to butterfly and back to egg...

In PE we have been busy practising the skills that we will need for sports day! So far the children have worked on relay races, skipping with a rope, standing long jump and hurdles, all things that you could get out in the garden and have a go at!

In maths this week we have been honing our addition skills and learning to recall doubling facts from memory (double 1/2/3/4/5/6/10).

The children spent time in Mrs Butler's class on Wednesday morning, finding out what life will be like in Year One. They all had a fab time; I popped in several times to see them and saw lots and lots of smiles!

Interest Table: Old Toys. This will be a 'look but don't touch' display if you wish to send in any special old toys. (Next week our friend Mrs Preece who listens to the children read on a Monday will be bringing in her collection of old toys to share with the children. She will be showing them lots of pictures and telling them about her childhood and the things that she played with.)

Please note that we do not formally set writing homework for children in reception class but we do feel that it is appropriate for them to write a short label for an item that they wish to display on the table and would be grateful for your co-operation in encouraging your child to do this. It is a good opportunity for them to practise their skills with you at home. Many thanks.

Years 1 & 2

English – Our non-fiction writing booklets are looking fantastic with completion scheduled for next week! The Year 2's have typed the bulk of their text and are gearing up to add word art titles and import google images.

Art & DT – If you were lucky enough to be able to come to our assembly today, you will have witnessed first hand our amazing dinosaur art work and vehicles. All children managed to successfully attach wheels and axles to their cars and gave them a test drive across the classroom floor.

Swimming – Wow, what amazing swimmers we all are. Mrs Massey our swimming instructor is full of praise for children in all our ability groups. They have worked hard, listened well and grown in confidence and ability. Some children need to bring a set of pyjamas to next weeks lesson – if your child is in the 2nd session for swimming they will need pyjamas (**not** a one piece), if unsure please come and see Mrs Butler or Miss Righton.

Miss Righton – sadly Miss Righton will be leaving us next week, Wednesday will be her last day. She has been a big success with the children and a fantastic member of our staff team. We wish her every success in her new teaching post down in the wilds of Abingdon!

Years 3 & 4

Play rehearsal, play rehearsal, play rehearsal. We have spent most of the week singing, acting, running forward, running backward. The children have responded wonderfully and they have really enjoyed rehearsing their parts and cannot wait for you to see them on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The dress rehearsal is on Monday and so children should have their costumes and props with them on Monday morning. Look out for some marvellous performances so do come along for the performances and enjoy. It's brilliant!

Years 5 & 6

Once again, we had beautiful weather (if not a little high on the pollen count for poor old Alonso, Clara, Phoebe and myself!) for our annual countryside day. Cornbury Park team up with the Countryside Day team to offer a few local schools the opportunity to learn about rural crafts, aspects of farming, dry stone walling, shooting! And most importantly training working dogs. Our favourite bit again was Murphy the dog and racing against him this year was Alonso – who actually managed to catch the ball before he did!! Not too sure how he did it, since Murphy has the speed of Usain Bolt! Gus was particularly good at identifying trees and nobody managed to get stuck climbing through the middle of the 600 year old hollow oak tree in the park!

On move-up morning (Wednesday) we did a swap with Chipping Norton Secondary School – our Year 6 children for their Science teachers, Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Sinclair. They came in to give us a hands-on fun lesson about lightning and we found out that it was caused by smaller-than-the-eye-can-see electrons rubbing together. We all had a go at being a proton, a neutron or an electron and attempted to make our own lightning on the playground. Then we took part in a series of activities designed to show us the push/pull energy in static electricity with balloons etc. Finally I was attached to a Van der Graaf generator to make my hair stand on end! An enLIGHTNING morning for all!!!

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:	Olivia
Years 1 & 2:	Rosie and Tilly
Years 3 & 4:	Jemima
Years 5 & 6:	Emily

Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion is Lucy in Reception. Lucy is always smiley and friendly to adults and children alike. She remembers to say please and thank you and is particularly good at holding the door open for other people and offering to help in the classroom. I often notice Lucy scuttling round at the end of the day tidying up – and this is something that doesn't always come naturally to children! The children told us: *Lucy has a unique style – she plays with everybody and she is a real individual so she is fun to be around; she is always happy; when people fall over she always says, "Are you OK?"; she's kind of nice to people; she always plays really sensible games and my friend and I have played with her quite a lot recently; she doesn't interrupt but just waits her turn until you are listening.* Well done Lucy – you do have lovely manners!

School Fete – Saturday 21st June

A very big thank you to all who helped behind the scenes before Saturday, to those who helped on the day and of course to everyone who attended on Saturday bringing plenty of money to spend. It was lovely to see so many of you there. The weather was great and it seemed as though everyone had lots of fun. I have heard nothing but glowing feedback and I know how hard everyone worked to make it the success that it was. It was lovely to have the spider monkeys visit and thanks go to Mim and Jamie Clubb for organising that; who knows what we might have next year!!! The total raised after expenses was a magnificent £1380.49!!! Please give yourselves a pat on the back as this was nearly double compared to last year's total of £730. A particular thank you goes to Wendy and Angela, who masterminded and organised the whole event.

Well done everyone; please put your thinking caps on for the next big fundraiser, the Christmas Fair!!!

School Uniform

You should all have received a letter home in book bags today, explaining that we have changed our system for the supply of uniform. Another letter is attached to the newsletter, in case it has gone astray.

Year 3 and 4 Violin Concert – Friday 4th July

During our 9am assembly on Friday 4th July the Year 3 and 4 children will be playing their violins to show you what they have been learning and how good they are. Please do come along and listen!

Nits – They're Back!

Please check and treat your child/ren's hair as the nits are back, in several classes. Thank you.

Sports' Day

We haven't had many volunteers to help out with Sports Day. If you are able to help by leading a team on the day, please let Angela know. Thanks for those who have offered gazebos; we are still after a few more, to provide a little shade in case it is very hot. If you would be happy to lend us yours, please would you let Angela know.

Mr Butler is Cycling to Spain

During the Summer holiday, David Butler will be cycling 1100 miles to Barcelona to raise money for two very worthy local charities, Lawrence Home Nursing Team and Katharine House Hospice. There are posters up around the school with more information but if you would like to support him and encourage his daunting ascent of the Pyrenees, please visit his fundraising site:

www.justgiving.com/Tourdebarca .

Informal Class Photographs

On Thursday morning, weather permitting, Julia Fairrie is coming in to take some informal class photographs in the school grounds.

Moving Up Morning

All the children enjoyed their mornings in their new classes and I heard lots of excited chat about what they had been doing. We were very pleased to welcome our new Reception children and also Eva's brother Louis, who will be joining us in Year Six in September.

Our class teachers and Teaching Assistants (TAs) in September will be:

Reception	Mrs Platt (class teacher) and Mrs Munson (TA) Mon, Tues, Weds am Miss Read (class teacher) and Mrs Hall (TA) Wed pm, Thurs, Fri
Year One & Two	Mrs Butler (class teacher) – full time Mrs Woodward (TA) Mon, Tues, Weds am Mr Butler (TA) Weds pm, Thurs, Fri
Year Three & Four	Mr Wadham (class teacher) – full time Mrs Sam (TA) – full time Mr Butler (TA) – Mon, Tues, Weds am
Year Five & Six	Mrs Catling (class teacher) - Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs am Mrs Tibbetts (class teacher) -Thurs pm, Fri Ms Furnivall (TA) Mon, Tues, Weds and Mrs Phillips (TA) Thurs and Fri

We are all looking forward to an exciting week next week, when the playground will be transformed into the river bank and the older children will be performing their production of Wind in the Willows.

Enjoy the weekend everyone.

Dates Coming Up

Date	Event	Notes
Tuesday 1 st July 2pm & 6pm	KS2 production	
Wednesday 2 nd July 6pm	KS2 production	
Friday 4 th July	Y3/4 violins playing in our Friday assembly	All welcome
Friday 4 th , Saturday 5 th & Sunday 6 th July	Cornbury Festival	
Tuesday 8 th July	Drama Workshop for Y5/6 children run by Chipping Norton School	
Tuesday 8 th July	Parents Evening - late	Sign up sheets to go up shortly
Thursday 10 th July	Parents Evening - early	Sign up sheets to go up shortly
Tuesday 15 th July – pm	Sports' Day	
Wednesday 16th 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	