



# Great Tew School Newsletter

## Issue 194

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014



Dear Parents

Term is in full swing now and I have enjoyed popping into the classrooms to see the children busy at work and really enjoying their learning. Staggered lunchtimes mean that all of the children have longer outside to play and they are making the best of this lovely Autumn weather.

## Reception

The reception children have had a very busy and tiring week settling into the routines of school. Their topic this term is "All About Me" and as part of this they have talked about themselves and what makes them the same as and different from other people. They have looked very carefully at their own faces to observe their eye and hair colour and have each painted their own paper-plate face, which you can see displayed in the classroom! The children have been hunting for objects that begin with the sound /s/ and /a/ and they have had a go at writing these letters too. Sound hunting is always a fun thing to do with your child at home. The children have also been recognising and ordering numbers and searching around the classroom for different numbers of items too.

### Interest Table:

The children have had lots of fun this week reading 'Pants!' by Giles Andreae and Nick Sharratt. They loved the story and were very keen to tell Mrs Platt and Miss Read about their favourite pants! As a follow-up to this, the Interest Table next week will be 'My Special Pants'. The children are invited to contribute to the interest table by bringing in a pair of pants with a name label or a simple sentence to tell us why their pants are special.

## Years 1 and 2

The Year 1 children are settling well into the year 1 and 2 routines and are working hard; they all look pretty tired today!

**Letters & Sounds** – Year 1 this term have been revising the Reception sounds and practising reading words with two consonants together either at the beginning or end of words.

Year 2 have tackled the /j/ sound looking at the different spellings, "ge", "gi", "gy" and "dge".

**English** – We have explained, dramatized and written our own patterned poems. Our own poems were about falling down a hole and being late for school!

**Maths** – Both year groups have practised counting in ones and tens. Year 2's have been counting in tens starting at different numbers, counting on and back over the 100's boundary.

**Topic** – Where Did That Racket Come From? Details of our current topic will shortly appear on the school website. This week we have experimented to discover how far different sounds travel. Our information was recorded on a table which is being transferred by the children into graph form on the computer. A busy week!

## Years 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 children are settling in really well to their new class. A big thank you to Year 4 children for their welcome for the new Year 3 children. They have been helpful, kind and supportive. Well done also to Year 3 who have changed gear and taken to the work very well.

We have started our Literacy project based upon Aidan Gibbons' short film called 'The Piano'. It is emotive and allows the children to use their imagination. It also helps to develop their thinking. We have spent a lot of time on Times Tables and above all, number bonds. Please parents, help your children to learn their 'TT' and play with the number bond game with them. They will tell you the rules.

Your Country needs you! The children have met Field Marshall, Lord Kitchener and have been discussing why the Great Tew Nine joined the army.

A very good start to the year and there is a positive feeling that we are moving forward all the time. Wonderful!

## Years 5 and 6

Year 6's kicked the term off with an action-packed high adrenaline trip. They attended the Junior Citizen Emergency Roadshow in Oxford, where they were put in a series of life-like danger scenarios which they had to work their way out of. We are sworn to secrecy and can't give anything away but Tilly said it was 'awesome and very lifelike' and Esme said it was 'scary and I didn't know what to do!' Overall the children were commended for their quick-thinking skills, however Phoebe, Omer, Tilly, Louie and Rhianna deserve a special mention for receiving the highest group score possible of 10/10 which has only been given 3 times this year, for their group work in the e-safety scenario and for not engaging in an online chat room. The message they learnt was 'I am the most important person'.

We would also like to thank Bloxham School profusely for coming to our rescue and lending us their mini bus and Mr Nick Irvine for driving us there for the morning, totally free of charge.

Observant children (and parents!) have noticed two new planters by the archway to the school office. These are a gift from our last Year 6 children, proudly planted up with seasonal pansies. It will be lovely to see them flowering. Look out for the other gift, a webcam nesting-box, being installed soon!

The Year 5 and 6 children have started reading some World War 1 poetry by famous poets. They shared their favourites, discussed how the poems made them feel and looked at how the author's choice of language was vital to the mood of the poem. Then on Thursday they did some role-play on the pitch to their favourite poems, getting into characters of soldiers and their loved ones. It was a beautiful sunny day and the children really enjoyed bringing the poems to life and felt much more empathy for the characters. The fantastic photographs capturing their expressions and body language then formed a stimulus to a story about life in the trenches.

## Stars of the Week

The following children have made a fantastic start to the year, and have been working hard to do their very best.

<b>Reception:</b>	all 15 of our new Reception children, for having such a positive start to school
<b>Year 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Ludo Sears
<b>Year 3 &amp; 4:</b>	Harry Holmes
<b>Year 5 &amp; 6:</b>	Emily Leigh-Wood

## Good Manners' Champion

I am delighted to tell you that Holly Spencer-Pratt, in Year 4, is our first Good Manners' Champion of the year. Those of you who were there at our assembly this morning will have seen evidence of her good manners for yourselves; Holly was so surprised to be chosen and beamed with quiet pride at her success. Holly really does have beautiful manners – she is kind to EVERYONE in school but has been a wonderful friend and support this week to the new Year 3 children in her class, really helping them to settle in to the new routines. The children told us: *"she never leaves anyone out; she always looks out to see if everyone is OK at playtimes and she helps them if they have hurt themselves; she always has a huge smile on her face; she never gets cross!"* Well done Holly – we all think you make a fantastic Good Manners' Champion.

## Friday Assemblies

On Friday mornings at 9am we have our Celebration assembly, to which all parents are invited. Star of the Week and Good Manners' Champion will be announced, together with the week's house points. Sometimes (but not every week) there will be contributions from the children.

## NITS in Year 1 & 2!

Head lice are back, this time in Year 1 & 2. To ensure that we eradicate them before they spread further, please make sure that you check your child's hair very carefully over the weekend and treat as necessary.

## Change of Time at End of Term – IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

In line with attendance requirements, we are changing our end of term arrangements. School will finish at 3.15pm as normal at half-terms (ie the end of Term 1, Term 3 and Term 5) and will finish at 2pm at the end of term (ie Term 2, Term 4 and Term 6).

## Key Stage 2 Summer Production – Wind in the Willows

We now have further copies of our Summer production for sale for £3 in the office. A huge thank you to Peter Collins for filming the show on both evenings and for editing the footage, to create a very special memento of that wonderful production.

## KS2 Trip to Imperial War Museum

Please remember that on Tuesday all of the children in Years 3-6 will be visiting the Imperial War Museum in London and will need to be at school by 7.20 a.m. ready to leave at 7.30. All children should be provided with a healthy snack (fruit or vegetable only) for break time please, as well as their packed lunch and a bottle of water in a disposable bag. If you haven't yet returned your consent form please could you bring it in on Monday. Thank you.

## Textiles Club

We are considering running Textiles Club again this year, but can only do so if we have an extra pair of hands to help out. The club would be run by Sarah Taylor (who has been running it with Charlotte Woodward for the last couple of years). If you have the skills required and this sounds like something you would enjoy please let Angela know. You would need to be able to commit to every Wednesday afternoon from 3.15pm to 4.30pm. Thank you.

## Clubs

The clubs currently running this term are:

Day	Club	Time	Run By	Open To	Further Details
Tuesday	Chillin' Club	3.15-4.30pm	Mrs Butler	Children from Reception to Y6	£2 per week. Starts 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Thursday	Hockey Club	8am-8.50am	Carol Hicks	Children from Y4 to Y6	£3 per week to be paid in advance. Starts 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Thursday	Arsenal Soccer Schools	3.30-4.30pm	Arsenal Soccer Schools	Reception to Year2	£4 per week Starts 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept On the new pitch
Thursday	Football Club	3.20-4.20pm	Mark Andrews Football Academy	Children from Y3 to Y6	£3.50 per week Starts 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept On the green
Friday	Dance	3.30-4.00pm	Madeleine Headley-Ford	Children from Reception to Y2	£5 per week.

## Party to Celebrate the Opening of the New Building – Change of Date

Due to unavoidable circumstances the date has had to be changed from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7pm. Further details will follow.

Enjoy the weekend everyone and look forward to seeing you next week.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Lucy Miles