



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 195

Friday 19th September 2014



Dear Parents

School has been busy this week, and the older children came back full of excitement after their long day at the Imperial War Museum. More of that below.

Reception

We had a fantastic first PE lesson this week. Everyone got themselves changed into their kits and back again and we even managed to have enough time left over for the lesson! We played lots of games, practised responding to the whistle and had fun with the parachute.

In 'Letters and Sounds' this week we have been practising our careful listening skills with sound games and have worked on the sounds and correct formation for /p/ and /t/.

We are having a wonderful time trying to guess whose pants are whose on the Interest Table and we are looking forward to more appearing this week! We have used the letter /p/ to talk about perfect, patterned, posh, pink, patchwork pants! Look out for our washing line that we made together this week with marbling ink effects.

The children have all begun taking home reading scheme books this week; please feel free to continue helping yourself to story/picture books from the book corner to read alongside these but please just pop them back before you take another. Many thanks.

Interest Table: 'My special pants' theme continues for another week.

Years 1 and 2

Another busy week in the Year 1 and 2 classroom with Year 1s rising to the new challenges and routines of Key Stage 1.

Letters and sounds this week for Year 1 has consolidated the graphemes and phonemes covered in reception, moving on to reading and spelling 'tricky words' which do not follow a phonetic pattern. Year 2s have investigated, read and spelt words with the 's' phoneme spelt c before e, i and y.

The children completed their poetry studies with a very descriptive poem about the moon, Year 2 children have copied theirs out into a final neat and illustrated version and Mr Butler is compiling a poetry anthology for us. We have already moved onto our new topic of fiction stories with familiar settings. It would be very helpful if when you are sharing books with your children you could discuss with them the setting of the story, who the main characters are and encourage them to predict a possible outcome to the plot before you reach the end of the story.

Place value has been the focus of our maths again this week, most Year 1s focusing on numbers 10-20 and the value of each digit, with some progressing using numbers to 100. Year 2s have been looking at place value of 2 and 3 digit numbers reinforcing the importance of zero as a place holder e.g. 702 = 7 hundreds, 0 tens and 2 units.

Our science challenge this week was 'How can you make a simple telephone?' It was lovely to see the delight on the children's faces when they were testing their phones and realised they actually worked! They were excited to feel the vibrations caused by sound on the string and pots and quickly realised that the string had to be taut for the sound vibrations to travel. Without prompting, many pairs tried taking their phone strings around corners and playing Chinese Whispers to see how quietly they could speak with their partner still hearing the message.

Years 3 and 4

Our study of people in the First World War took us on an odyssey to The Imperial War Museum in London. Thank you to all parents who scooped their children up and had them here for seven thirty in the morning! Our children were a great credit to the school. It was a long journey rewarded by this wonderful museum. The displays, exhibits and explanations were just the stuff we needed. Thanks to Mrs Catling who organised this trip for the children and to all of the staff who gave so much time and passion to the day. A special mention to Mr Stewart who helped out on the day, thank you.

We are going to be constructing working models of howitzers in the next two weeks. We need 35mm film canisters and the cardboard tubes from kitchen towel rolls. Can you help by sending them in? I will be asking in various chemists and photo shops in Northamptonshire. Can parents see what they can find in the Cotswolds?

Children have joined their reading groups and generally read well. When you listen to your child at home, it is important to support their comprehension of the text by talking to them about what they have read and asking them questions. This is an important aspect of reading and will help us in our ongoing work.

Years 5 and 6

On Saturday 13th September four keen mathematicians from Year 5 and 6, Max Watt, Finlay Beggin, Toby Kitchen and Jamie Levene went to Tudor Hall to take part in a Maths morning. The boys thoroughly enjoyed playing with cards, matchsticks and solving a series of brain teasers and challenges! One of their most challenging tasks was to count to 3! You will have to ask them to explain more, but none of them (Mrs Miles included) were very good at it!!

Lots of good luck to Jemima Scott who is doing a nerve-wrecking singing audition in Oxford this Sunday for Shrek the Musical. We have heard her in class and she sings beautifully.

Please could all children bring in a freshly filled water bottle to school every day. With the sunny weather we have been enjoying, it is really important that the children have plenty of water to drink, particularly during PE lessons when we are up at the pitches.

At the beginning of the week an art gallery came to our class when we were treated to a talk about World War One artists, their background and some of their work from Mr Irvine, Silvia's (Yr.4) daddy. The children were fascinated by the way different artists depicted different aspects of the war and the artists' use of images and strong colours. Many children particularly loved Christopher Nevinson's futuristic art and spent a long time discussing the messages he was giving about war. To the children's delight we were then able to look at the original, life size paintings in the art gallery at the Imperial War Museum. The children were staggered by the size and vibrancy of them in real life and noticed many things we were unable to see from the copies we had seen in class.

Bright and early at 7.30 a.m. Key Stage 2 left bound for the newly revamped Imperial War Museum in London. After a short stop at Oxford Services, we arrived in central London and en route to the Museum saw lots of famous sights: the busy and diverse Bayswater Road, the Hoover Building, Hyde Park, Marble Arch, Buckingham Palace, Lambeth Bridge, MI5, the Channel 4 building, the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Lambeth Palace and the London Eye!! Once at the Museum we divided into our two classes and spent the day visiting the following exhibitions: the World War I art galleries with original life-size paintings!, the exciting and interactive World War One gallery complete with realistic trench and snipers!, the Horrible History gallery with spy holes and splat the rat! And finally the atrium with tanks, jeeps, rockets and machine guns!! I often caught the children wide-eyed in wonder or surprise and a lot of memories have stuck with them. Emily loved the Horrible History gallery with its disguises and Toby loved the Levinson paintings and impressed several onlookers with his enthusiasm and observations! Finally Finlay and Jamie also loved car spotting through Chelsea on the way home and saw several Lamborghinis, Maseratis and Ferraris!!

In other news our very first Homework Hero is Blythe for amazing maths and an eye-catching and interesting poster! Well done Blythe!

Stars of the Week

Well done to all of the following children. They have been working hard and concentrating to do their very best in class.

Reception:	Lila Rigg
Year 1 & 2:	Olivia Chesterton
Year 3 & 4:	Archie Leigh-Wood
Year 5 & 6:	Jennifer Aylett

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Gethin in Year 5. Gethin is someone who shows genuine consideration for other people, children and staff alike, and he is a really positive member of his class and of the whole school. Gethin was delighted to be chosen as Good Manners' Champion, being quite rightly very proud of himself. The children told us: *he is always smiling; he is really good at concentrating, even when other people are chatting, and he always gets on really well with his work; he loves singing and he always skips around the playground making other people feel happy!* Well done Gethin – you DO have lovely manners and you are a really positive role model for the younger children. Keep it up!

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).

Licensing and Installation of the Rev Virginia Thomas

On Wednesday 24th September at 7.30pm there is a service of Licensing and Installation for the new Priest-in-Charge and Vicar Designate of the Benefice of Great Tew with Little Tew and Heythrop. The Service takes place in St Michael's Church and will be led by the Bishop of Dorchester and the Archdeacon of Dorchester. A small group of older children are coming along to sing at the service.

Netball Club

Due to the success of our before school hockey club, we are considering running a before school netball club on a Tuesday morning, for children in Year 3 to Year 6. If your child would be interested in coming along, between 8.00am and 8.40am please sign them up on the noticeboard and if there is enough interest we will advise a start date. The cost would be £3 per week, payable half-termly in advance. The children who have been doing hockey are thoroughly enjoying it and it is a fantastic way to wake up brains and start the day.

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 th Sept
Tuesday	Netball Club TO BE CONFIRMED	8.00-8.50am	Mrs Sellars	Children from Y3-Y6	£3 per week DEPENDING ON DEMAND.
Thursday	Hockey Club	8am–8.50am	Carol Hicks	Children from Y4 to Y6	£3 per week to be paid in advance. Starts 11 th Sept
Thursday	Arsenal Soccer Schools	3.30-4.30pm	Arsenal Soccer Schools	Reception to Year2	£4 per week Starts 11 th 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 th 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

You should today have received an invitation to the party to celebrate the opening of our new classroom and sports pitch. The time has been pushed back to 7.30pm so that those that wish can go along to the Chipping Norton School open evening and come along afterwards. Please reply to Angela as soon as possible to let us know if you are able to come. Thank you.

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

Best wishes, Mrs Lucy Miles