



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 204

Friday 28th November 2014



Christmas Fair – Father Christmas Will be Dropping In!

We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow at the Fair. There'll be lots of fun for the whole family. Father Christmas, who is so busy at this time of the year, has made time in his hectic schedule to drop in and he will be here at 12 o'clock.

Sharing Assembly Lead by Year 5 & 6 children

It was nice to see lots of parents at this morning's assembly lead by the Year 5 and 6 children. They gave us all a guided tour of their week, helping to answer, for once and for all, that age old question: "What did you do at school today?"! Now perhaps you know why they are tired on Fridays! Well done to all of them and thank you to the staff for all that they do to bring learning alive for the children.

News from Reception

This week the children have been learning about the /l/ sound and name and how to form this letter using a nice tall, straight line. We have also been reading and spelling words with the /ll/ pattern, for example, sell, bell, doll, fill. The children are all making fantastic progress with their Letters and Sounds home books; please keep practising a few sounds and words each day when you read together. Staff will tick known sounds and words at school, please do not do this at home, or allow your child to draw on these sheets as it makes it difficult for us to see their progress. Many thanks.

In maths we have been exploring the practical language of addition and subtraction and finding all of the different ways to split a number whilst knowing that the total remains the same, for example, $6 = 0+6/5+1/4+2/3+3$.

We have had lots of fun making different bear caves and exploring lights and torches in dark places. We have written our own story, using the format of 'Can't you sleep, Little Bear' as our template.

All children brought home a letter about the play and their costumes on Wednesday. Please see a member of staff as soon as possible if you did not see it.

Interest Table: We are hoping for a heaving collection of different lights, torches, night lights, battery powered candles etc to enhance our topic work. Well done to Bertie for bringing in his wind up torch (+ any other additions since Wednesday!) Please remember to support your child in writing a short label for what they have brought.

News from Years 1 & 2

In their maths lessons the younger children have been learning about odd and even numbers, and the older ones have been learning that if they know how to add 10 or 20 to a number, they can easily work out how to add 11 or 21. In English, the children have been developing their sentence writing skills. The Year 1 children are using capital letters and full stops and remembering to check that their sentences make sense. The Year 2 children are writing sentences with subordinate clauses using if, because and when. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Blists Hill yesterday, coming back full of all they had seen and done. The day was a huge success and the children's beautiful manners were complimented by the museum staff on several occasions. This morning the children sat in rows in their classroom, just like they would have done 100 years ago (!) They rather enjoyed it and they were very keen to settle down to some high quality writing all about their day at Blists Hill.

News from Years 3 & 4

We have been studying the short story; The Greatest Gift. Never heard of it? A reasonably successful film was based upon it called "It's a Wonderful Life," a story showing of our worth to the world. Do we need a Guardian Angel to show us our worth? The children have been writing and telling us their ideas. There are some heart-warming views coming from the class.

The tricky subject of fractions has been the challenge in mathematics this week. We can understand a half of a pizza but now we are using chocolate bars to investigate more complicated fractions. Very interesting! We are starting to make our World War One Howitzers and have conducted an explosive experiment. We still need 35mm film canisters and kitchen roll tubes that should be a minimum of 40mm in diameter. Please help on this. If you would like to contribute a box of Alka Seltzers to the project, they would be most welcome!

It is wet and cold at 52° north! Make sure that your child comes in a warm coat, gloves and scarf and that they have their wellies with them.

News from Years 5 & 6

This week we have been considering the impact of bullying on children and have written a letter to a fictitious child who is suffering from bullying. The children wrote some very mature letters, full of compassion, support and useful suggestions, which showed a wonderful empathy and understanding for the issues. We are speeding through the maths curriculum – this week we have done: comparing fractions, improper fractions and calculating perimeter, area and volume – phew! In Gymnastics the children's sequences are developing really well; we took the school iPads to the Tew Centre for us to photograph our shapes and to see how we can improve further. The children are really looking forward to presenting their routines to you on the 10th at the Tew Centre!

Stars of the Week

Well done to the following children who are this week's stars. They have all been working hard, in the classrooms or on the sporting field.

Reception	Florence
Year 1 & 2	Oscar
Year 3 & 4	Ben
Year 5 & 6	Alonso

Good Manners' Champion

Our Good Manners' Champion this week is Phoebe in Year 6. Phoebe is a really positive member of her class, with beautiful manners to children and adults alike. She is mature and responsible, the sort of child that knows when she has got something wrong and is quick to put it right and make amends. Phoebe is a very good friend to others, being inclusive and particularly considerate to those who might be feeling left out. The children told us: *she is fun to play with; she includes other people in her games; she is funny and friendly and always really nice to me; she's my maths partner and she is patient and kind and always waits for me to catch up.* Well done Phoebe – you are a wonderful role model to the younger children. Keep it up!

Healthy Snack Policy

As part of the national fruit scheme a raw, unprocessed fruit or vegetable snack is provided free of charge for all children from Reception to Year 2. The children eat this enthusiastically, and often return for more. Our school policy is for the children to continue this good habit as they move into Year 3 and beyond, so if they wish to bring a break-time snack, this should be in line with that provided in Key Stage 1, i.e. a raw, unprocessed fruit or vegetable snack. Thank you.

Anti-Bullying Week

Last week was Anti-Bullying Week, which has been our assembly theme this week. All the children have been talking about what the word bullying means, why people might bully someone, what sort of behaviour counts as bullying behaviour and how this behaviour can make other people feel. We have had some mature and thoughtful discussion. The older children have been thinking about discrimination, particularly towards disabled children or children with special educational needs as this is the theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week.



Punctuality in the Mornings

Could I remind parents that the school day begins at 8.55am when registration takes place. Children should be in school well in advance of this, so that they are in the classroom, coats hung up, bags unpacked and settled, before registration takes place. Thank you.

Road Safety

A leaflet was sent home in book bags today, with ideas for teaching your child about Road Safety. Please do have a look at this; there are some useful tips about how to make your child more aware of the dangers of the road.

Carol Service at St Michael's Church – Saturday 14th December at 5pm

The annual village Carol Service will be held on Saturday 14th December at 5pm at St Michael's Church. This is always a wonderful service, packed with beautiful music and readings. The children will be singing a couple of songs in the service and we hope that as many families as possible will be able to come along. Please could you sign up on the noticeboard in the main cloakroom if you are planning to bring your children, so that we know which children to expect. Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow at the Christmas Fete, the official start of the Christmas season!

Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates for Your Diary

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Saturday 29 th November	Christmas Fair 11am-2pm	Letter has been sent home
Monday 8 th December	Reception/KS1 Dress Rehearsal	
Tuesday 9 th December	Reception/KS1 Christmas Production at 2 pm and 6pm	Further details to follow
Wednesday 10 th December	Year 5&6 to perform their gymnastics sequences	2.30pm at the Tew Centre
Saturday 13 th December – 5pm	Great Tew Village Carol Service	
Wednesday 17 th December	Whole School Trip to Pantomime	Beauty and the Beast Letter has been sent home.
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch & Children's Party	
Friday 19 th December – 9am	End of Term Christmas Service	St Michael's Church
Friday 19 th December – 2pm	End of Term – 2pm	