



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 205

Friday 5th December 2014



Christmas Fair

A very big thank you to all who donated, helped and supported the Christmas Fair last Saturday and of course to all those who came along and spent their money. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. We are very pleased to tell you that we exceeded last year's total and raised £939.03. A particular thank you goes to Angela, who worked very hard planning the whole event, and to Mrs Sam, who did such a magnificent job on the raffle.

The Christmas Connections Quiz: If you purchased a quiz sheet on Saturday at the Christmas Fair or before, please ensure you return this by Thursday 11th December to the office. Thank you and we hope you enjoyed working out all those anagrams, ditloids and cryptic clues!

Winter Sickness and Diarrhoea

Quite a lot of children have been off school recently with various strains of sickness and diarrhoea. This is fortunately not spreading too rapidly as parents have stuck to our policy regarding absence from school after illness. So as we don't all have a miserable Christmas, please ensure that you follow our school policy: ***if your child is unwell with sickness and/or diarrhoea, they should be kept off school for 48 hours after their last episode***, even if this means that they have to miss out on something they have been looking forward to. Thank you.

News from Reception

This week we have been busy getting ready to show you our Christmas play. The children have put lots of effort into learning the words and practising their star dance; we can't wait to show it all to you next week!

In Literacy this week we have learnt all about the Christmas story, with a focus on the characters and the setting. We have had fun using our knowledge of the story to build a new role play area, complete with dressing up clothes, stable animals, manger, straw, key words to read and a Christmas tree to decorate.

Our focus in Maths this week was on money; the children have been using lots of associated vocabulary and finding ways to recognise the different coins. We have talked about how we get money, where we keep it and what we can do with it. The children have had some great ideas of what to save up for! Perhaps you could let them raid your purse or wallet this weekend and see which coins they recognise or if they can find out how much you have.

Interest Table: This will be used to display some of the Christmas crafts that the children will be making in our joint craft morning which we will share with our friends in Pre-School on Tuesday morning.

Costume reminder: Just a gentle nudge in case anyone has forgotten... the children will need their costume in school on Monday, ready for the dress rehearsal. Please bring it in a plastic bag which clearly displays their name on the outside. They will need black/navy leggings or trousers, plimsolls or similar, plain, long sleeved, black/navy t-shirt with silver or gold tinsel sewn around the neck and wrists. The children have made their own stars which we will pin to the front of their shirts.

News from Years 1 & 2

Year 1 children have been learning the various spelling patterns of the long 'i' sound and have been dismayed to discover so many! See how many of these they can remember – ie, igh, i_e (split digraph), y, i. They have become confident at spotting them while reading but quite understandably find it very tricky to select the correct grapheme when writing. Year 2 children now have 5 rules to help them with spellings when adding the ed and ing suffixes. They have practised using these rules on a selection of base words and are becoming far more confident at selecting the correct option.

Our Christmas production is coming on well; the children are very excited and looking forward to showing you their hard work next week! Dress Rehearsal on Monday, so please make sure costumes are brought to school on Monday.

News from Years 3 & 4

Following on from our study based upon "The Greatest Gift", we asked the children to write about who or what might be their Guardian Angel. It was heart-warming to read their responses. Grandparents featured strongly and so they should! The standard of work from the class is high and they are really trying to push themselves forward.

Our new format for studying spellings is working well. The idea is to make learning of spellings relevant. The words chosen by myself are inspired by a government list but use the form or rule of words to produce a theme. The children choose a group of their own words that they decide need to be mastered. They are so committed to this study and highly competitive to maintain their own standards. Smashing!

Our Science is based on changing states. Not the melting of an ice cube or the boiling of a kettle for our children. We are mixing three compounds to produce a gas that compresses water and ... BOOM! To do this we are building our own Howitzers. The experiments will look at what we might study if we load and fire. I am encouraging them to write the experiment, just cannot wait.

We have been running problem workshops in Maths. I have been writing Maths teasers for some time and it has become a real challenge to stay ahead of the children. Year 3 sort of got Pythagoras which I think is pretty WOW. Others are rising to challenges set for much older age ranges and finding the theory and often the maths to go with it. A good week from this great bunch of children, now next week ...

News from Years 5 & 6

This week Year 5 and 6 have been creating our own multi-media western front scenes with paint, pastels, newspaper, paper, tissue paper and pencils and then placing a single 3-D hand-made poppy in the foreground – they are all so detailed, different and very effective – we shall be displaying them. To get us in the Christmas swing we have also been creating our Christmas jokes and games on a computer programming program called "Scratch". Children have been working in pairs to create a background and make their character appear, move, talk, even dance with a variety of computer instructions. In Maths we have been working with various formulas to calculate the area of quadrilaterals, triangles, parallelograms and composite shapes.

In English we have been getting to grips with the thorny issue of possessive apostrophes – what they are doing, where they should be and why!!! I think we will still need a little more work on this!

Clubs

Day	Club	Finishing Date	Starting Date
Tuesday pm	Chillin' Club	Tuesday 16 th December	tba
Thursday am	Hockey morning club	Thursday 11 th December	This club will not run next term
Thursday pm	Arsenal Soccer	Last session 4 th December	Starts 8 th January-26 th March - £44 per child
Thursday pm	Mark Andrews Football	Last session 11 th December	Starts 8 th January
Friday pm	Dance	Now finished for the term	Friday 9 th January

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	Tom
Year 1 & 2	Sophia
Year 3 & 4	Bella
Year 5 & 6	Max

Good Manners' Champion

Our Good Manners' Champion this week is Jimmy in Reception. Jimmy is lovely to have around school; he is friendly and cheerful and always enjoys stopping to have a chat with one of the staff on duty. The children told us: *if Jimmy wants to play with us in our game, he always asks really nicely; he is very kind to me and to other children and he looks out for everyone; he asks children to zip up his coat very politely, saying please and thankyou; he likes chatting to the older children about the games he is playing in the playground; I like playing hide and seek with him.* Well done Jimmy; keep up those lovely manners.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club will continue next term with Mr Butler. It will run every day, from 8am to 8.40am at a cost of £4 per child per day. If you would like to register your child please complete the attached form and return it to school with payment.

Warriner Farm Shop

The Warriner School Farm Shop have fresh cuts of beef, frozen pork, lamb, bacon, sausagemeat, chipolatas, honey and delicious home-baked cakes. They also offer a selection of gift items produced by local artisans. They will be selling Christmas Gammons at the shop as usual this year. These gammons will be bone-in and sell at £12.65 per kilo. Availability is limited so if you are interested in ordering one, please contact Bev James on 01295 721471 by the end of this week. The Farm Shop is open every Saturday morning from 9am to 1pm.

Improved Punctuality in the Mornings – Thank you

There has been a noticeable improvement in punctuality this week. Please could I remind you that **registration is at 8.55 and not 9.00 and that children who arrive in the classroom after 8.55am are late**. Children should be in school well in advance of 8.55am, so that they are in the classroom, coats hung up, bags unpacked and settled, before registration takes place. Thank you.

Collection at the End of the Day – 3.15pm

If your child is being collected by someone else at the end of the day, it is very important that we are informed. Please make sure that you tell your child's teacher when you drop them off in the morning. Alternatively, you can leave a message with Angela.

Carol Service at St Michael's Church – Saturday 13th December at 5pm

The annual village Carol Service will be held on Saturday 13th 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 carols in the service and we hope that as many families as possible will be able to come along. It would be nice if the children could wear something Christmassy. Please sign up on one of the lists, either in the Year 3&4 cloakroom or the Year 1&2 cloakroom.

Carols and Christingles Service

The annual Carols and Christingles Service, to which all families are invited, takes place at St John's Church, Little Tew on Sunday 21st December at 3 pm. Drinks and mince pies will be served after the service, with a collection for "Crisis at Christmas".

Wishing you all a happy weekend. I wonder how many sightings of Father Christmas there will be?!

Best wishes,

Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates for Your Diary

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Monday 8 th December	Reception/KS1 Dress Rehearsal	
Tuesday 9 th December	Reception/KS1 Christmas Production at 2 pm and 6pm	Letter sent home
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	All welcome- please sign up on the lists
Wednesday 17 th December	Whole School Trip to Pantomime	Beauty and the Beast All children will have packed lunch (provided by Limes Farm if your child normally has a hot lunch).
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch & Children's Party	Children to come in Christmas party clothes Children's disco in the afternoon.
Friday 19 th December – 9am	End of Term Christmas Service	St Michael's Church
Friday 19 th December – 2pm	End of Term – 2pm	