



# Great Tew School Newsletter

## Issue 207

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014



Dear all,

This time next week, the turkey will be eaten, the presents unwrapped and the Boxing Day sales in full swing! It's been a long term, and the children are ready for a break, even though it doesn't to me feel quite crisp enough for Christmas to be imminent. This morning's Carol Service in the Church was a lovely way to end the term and put us in the Christmas spirit, with some beautiful singing, reading and reciting from all of the children and thank you to Ginny Thomas for welcoming us and warming up the Church for us so that we didn't need our thermals after all! I would like to clarify that the request for parents not to clap after readings and prayers came from the school and NOT from Ginny; it was simply a way to ensure a flow to the service, which was designed to tell the Christmas story and was certainly not meant to take away from our appreciation of the children. I was very proud of the children this morning and, judging by the applause at the end, I know that you were too. I have been asked by Ginny to draw everyone's attention to the Family Carols and Christingles Service at St John's Church, Little Tew this Sunday at 3pm. Everyone is very warmly welcome to this service, which I know is always very special. Please do go along if you can.

## Farewell to Mrs Tibbetts

We are all sad to say farewell today to Mrs Tibbetts, who has been at Great Tew since she qualified as a teacher about eight years ago. Mrs Tibbetts has taught in all of the classes, most recently in Years 3&4 and Years 5&6. She is a much valued colleague, very much a team player, someone who brings a burst of energy (and a certain amount of style!) when she arrives on a Thursday morning. We will all miss Una's sense of fun and the staff room will be a quieter place without her! The children said goodbye to Mrs Tibbetts again in an assembly this afternoon and we sent her away with a rendition of one of their favourite songs "Alouette, Gentile Alouette", which I am still singing now. A big thank you to Una for all her years of commitment to the school; we all wish her well but know that it won't be long before we see her again.

## Christmas Feast and Disco



A huge thank you to Ed and Andrea Allen, Mrs Butler and all the parents and friends who helped to make yesterday's feast so magical. A huge amount of organisation and preparation went on behind the scenes and Ed, as usual, took it all in his stride! The Year 1 and 2 classroom was transformed and we all enjoyed the most delicious Christmas lunch. Everything was cooked to perfection by a team of volunteers, not a soggy sprout in sight, and all the plates were scraped clean! Thank you to all of them. This is such a special tradition, one which means so much to the children and staff and one which I know the children will remember for many years to come. Thanks too to the band, Mr Butler and Miss Segal and their fine accompanists, who ensured we all had a jolly good sing along after lunch! The afternoon was finished off with

a disco for all the children in the hall, thanks to Kelly and Gemma Scott. The music was cranked up, the lights sparkled and the children danced their socks off, causing a fair amount of hot air to pour from the windows! There was not a wallflower in sight and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A big thank you to Mr and Mrs Scott, and to everyone who made yesterday such fun for the children.

## Beauty and the Beast

Wednesday's trip to the panto was great fun. Angela had booked us the best seats in the house, and Mr Wadham was well and truly singled out by the pantomime dame! (Mr Butler had a VERY lucky escape!) The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, cheering, jeering and applauding until they were hoarse; I am not sure the cast could have asked for a more enthusiastic audience.

## A Message From Reception

The spare clothing box is a bit sparse at the moment. If you have any tights and socks, jogging bottoms/shorts for spare PE kit and boys pants (girls' pants not needed right now!) the Reception staff would be able to find a home for them. Please may we politely ask that if your child borrows clothes from our spare clothing box, they are returned promptly and washed so that we always have a good supply. Many thanks.

This week the children have been enjoying the Christmas celebrations, making and writing their own Christmas cards and listening to a wide variety of Christmas stories. We all had a great time at the pantomime on Wednesday; we sat in the front row with the stage at our feet which brought the action (and pretend snow storm) very close to us! All of the children behaved extremely well and looked after each other which Mrs Platt was very proud of!

It seems a long way off but here are a few notes about next term, which you may like to talk about over the holiday: we will be looking at the wide variety of different homes that people live in and encouraging the children to think about and describe their own home and school and their special features. We will be using the story of The Three Little Pigs as a topic starter and the children will be making junk model homes.

## Bag2School

If you are having a post-Christmas clear out, please do remember to put things aside for our Bag2School collection on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Bags will go home during the first couple of weeks in February and the following items are accepted:

- Men's, ladies' and children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags, hats, bags, belts, scarves, ties and jewellery
- Soft toys

## Christmas Connections Quiz

The winners of the tricky Christmas Connections Quiz were Tan and the Fulker family, who scored an impressive 84/100. Tan is obviously not just a dab hand with a mop and a duster! Well done to all of them and thanks to those who bought and submitted their Quiz sheet. Answer sheets are available from Angela if you would like one.

## Club Starting Dates

| Day         | Club                  | Starting Date   |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|
| Tuesday pm  | Chillin' Club         | Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January - £2 per week                        |
| Thursday am | Hockey morning club   | This club will not run next term                                      |
| Thursday pm | Arsenal Soccer        | Starts 8 <sup>th</sup> January-26 <sup>th</sup> March - £44 per child |
| Thursday pm | Mark Andrews Football | Starts 8 <sup>th</sup> January  |
| Friday pm   | Dance                 | Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January  |

## Start of Term

A reminder that we have an Inset (Teacher Training) Day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, so term begins for children on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

All that remains is for me to thank you for all that you do to support us in school, everything from providing costumes, hearing your children read and helping them with their homework, to ensuring that the children turn up for school every day bright and early and keen and eager to learn. Your ongoing support is invaluable and helps us to ensure the best possible educational experiences for your children. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2015.

## Dates for Your Diary

| <b>DATE</b>                            | <b>EVENT</b>   | <b>NOTES</b>  |
|--|--|---|
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December – 3pm | Family Carols and Christingles Service at St John's Church, Little Tew | All families are invited.<br>Drinks and mince pies will be served after the service, with a collection for "Crisis at Christmas". |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January        | First day of term for children.  |   |