



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 209

Friday 16th January 2015



Dear all,

Thank you for encouraging your children to carry their own bags and be a little more independent about their belongings this week. There has been quite a difference in the mornings and I've noticed lots of children coming in looking more organised and grown up. It's a small but very important start on the road to independence, so please do keep encouraging this.

The classrooms have been a buzz of activity this week; read on and find out more...

Reception

We have really got into our 'Materials' topic this week and have been exploring how things feel, smell, look and change. We have discussed questions such as, 'Is ice a good material for making windows?' Or, 'Can we make a useful bowl out of sand?' The children have enjoyed bringing in their items from home to show and tell and then put on the Interest Table; the written labels are great too. If you have not yet done this then please bring your items in on Monday as this theme will finish on Friday. A reminder that other items for show and tell are on hold for this term, thank you. In Maths we explored repeating patterns along with 2D and 3D shapes. The children have learnt the names for sphere (or Sophia!), cube, cuboid, cylinder, pyramid and cone. Please have a look out for things around you that are made of these shapes and practise their names.

We completed our Three Little Pigs work and are now all experts at telling this story! We have written our own book and made surprise lift the flap speech bubbles for different characters.

We have been looking at reading and writing words with /ch/sh/th/ and /ng/ sounds. For example, chin, fish, church, moth, this, there and king.

Interest Table: What is it made of? This theme continues until Friday. LP

Years 1 & 2

In letters and sounds this week the Year 1 children have practised reading and spelling words with the sound /OA/ spelt 'ow', 'o_e', 'o' and 'oe'! Year 2 children have investigated compound words, discussing the difference between syllables in a word and the make-up of a compound word.

We have eaten a lot in our English lessons this week but the outcome has been two lovely poems from each child, one about apples and the other about chocolate!

The children thoroughly enjoyed their science investigations this week. They had created questions they wanted to investigate concerning the properties of straw, sticks and bricks e.g. "What is the best material to keep us warm?" Once the questions were decided they devised an experiment to find out the answer, they listed all the equipment needed and sent me shopping! On the day of the investigations the classroom was filled with floating straw, melting ice cubes, crashing bricks, the whirring of my hairdryer, lots of book flapping and snapping twigs. The best part for me was the quizzical but happy faces of your children. SB

Years 3 & 4

This has been a happy and industrious week in the classroom. Children have seen three films on the Rollright Stones. They had to compare the commentary on two of the films and then write their script for the silent version. They all did very well and their English was interesting and engaging. It has been (the sometimes dreaded) 'Fractions Week!' Children often tend to shy from this part of Mathematics whilst making sure that they slice a pizza exactly so that their sibling does not get more than themselves ... In this case most if not all of the children grasped $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, etc. Well done all.

Apologies if your children are making what seem to be involuntary noises such as, meow, meow, or ruff, ruff, ruff, ruff but choral singing this week introduced the children to The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band! Get them to sing a bit of 'Jollity Farm' to you, you will smile!

Visit We would love to go to spend a couple of hours studying the Rollright Stones. The cost of a coach is substantial and I am wondering if any parents with the relevant police checks and insurance would be willing to help transport twenty seven children to this high ridge in the month of January. Please let me know if you are keen to support the children's learning in this way.

Finally I would like to wish a big 'congratulations' to two of our class:

Bella, who is the School Good Manners' Champion for her friendship and help and well, being nice. It is always a difficult job to choose this award as so many of our children are well mannered, helpful and nice to be around. This week we honour Bella, so 'thank you for being you.'

Adam, who tries hard at everything he does, is polite and has a wide circle of friends. He deserves to be 'Star of the Week.' I was so pleased that his Mum was there to see him receive his award. She looked like she had just won the 'World's Proudest Mum' in a room full of proud mums! Smashing.

Look after the children over the week-end and return them safe to us on Monday morning, registration 8.55 am, with coats, hats, scarves, gloves etc. It is January and some children are still coming in without coats. My Mum was told by our GP, 'Keep their loins warm Mrs Wad, keep their loins warm!' TW

Years 5 & 6

*On Monday morning Mrs Catling divided us into two groups based on our birthday month. One group had to make laws for the second group which included making us move and lose our possessions. Mrs Catling wanted us to feel how people living in Lebanon feel, which is what our new book is based upon. We have been reading 'Oranges in No Man's Land' by Elizabeth Laird. It's about a girl and her family living in Beirut. Their house was bombed and her father was in the army but her mother stayed behind. Ayesha's staying with her gran in a flat with hundreds of other families whose houses were bombed too. **By Omer and Louie***

On Wednesday we got stuck into a fab maths investigation based on subtracting fractions with a different denominator – there were sudden shrieks of exclamation as children found pattern upon pattern. Omer and Alonso were particularly resilient and enthusiastic with this challenge. RC

I will end on excerpts from two children's descriptions of their delicious Christmas dinners:

*Walking in to the kitchen to collect my bucks fizz and smelling the rich, whipped creamed potatoes made my mouth water. Taking a sip of the orange juice and feeling the grip of the bubbles, I felt I was in another world. We were all chatting loudly but if you listened carefully you could hear the pans clanking together like thunder. I stuck my head into the kitchen to get a whiff of the pigs in blankets, the crispy and sizzling sausages. I couldn't wait...by the time dinner was ready my mouth was salivating. **By Blythe***

*The floorboards creaking, the stove crackling, time racing, chasing into the sunlight sky. Stockings bulging as time screeched past. **By Tilly***

Stars of the Week

Well done to the following children, who are this week's stars. They have all been working hard and impressing their teachers.

Reception	Maeve
Year 1 & 2	Lucia
Year 3 & 4	Adam
Year 5 & 6	Polly

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Bella in Year 3. Bella has beautiful manners to everyone in school and she is a genuinely good friend to all of the other children, someone who always looks out for other people. The children told us: *Bella makes our class happy; we can laugh with her and she is really good fun; she doesn't argue even when she has different ideas; Bella laughs and smiles a lot in the playground and classroom; she has lots of really good ideas in the School Council meetings – when I look at her she's always really concentrating and listening to the discussions.* Well done Bella; we all agree that you deserve that shiny cup! Keep up those lovely manners.

Safeguarding (Child Protection)

Schools are obliged to keep parents informed about Safeguarding. All our staff are trained in safeguarding but Mrs Miles is the official safeguarding designated person and has received specific training for this role. Anyone with concerns about a child's welfare should always contact Mrs Miles or, in her absence, Mrs Butler. In all schools the Chair of Governors is the person to contact where there are any safeguarding concerns relating to the headteacher.

You can be confident that all child protection information is kept confidential and only shared with other professionals where needed to keep the child or other children safe.

The school's policy on Safeguarding is available to any parent on request. Please ask in the office.

Gate to Pre-School and Reception

A reminder that the gate to Pre-School and Reception should be kept locked and bolted at all times of day, even during collection and drop-off periods. This is for the safety of all of the children. Thank you.

Bag2School

Bag2School sacks should be coming home at the beginning of February. Please start clearing out those unwanted items now and ask your friends, families and neighbours to do so too. Help us to make this best collection yet!! All the following are wanted:

- 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

Term Dates for 2015-16

These are still being finalised at the moment, but I can confirm that the first day of the Autumn Term will be Wednesday 2nd September.

I wish you all a very happy weekend and look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates for Your Diary

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Wednesday 28 th January	U11 Netball Festival at Chipping Norton School	Letters have gone home.
Monday 2 nd February	Y6 children to IMPS – Horton Hospital	
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th Feb	Half Term	
Thursday 26 th February	Bag2Schools Collection	Bags will go home in early February
Friday 27 th February	Swimming starts for Year 3 & 4 children	Letter to follow
Monday 2 nd – Friday 6 th March	Y6 Residential Trip to Yenworthy Lodge	
Friday 13 th March	Science Day for Y5 children at Tudor Hall	Letter will be sent home – lunch will be provided
Wednesday 18 th March	Netball Festival at Tudor Hall for Y5 girls	Letter will be sent home – lunch will be provided
Wednesday 25 th March	Y5/6 trip to Ashmolean Museum and Central Oxford Mosque	Letter will be sent home