



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 210

Friday 23rd January 2015



Reception

The children were fascinated by the ice hands that we explored on Monday! There were lots of wonderful ideas about where they might have come from and what they were made of. We have spent time investigating ice and thinking about how to make it and what happens to it when it melts. We have been writing captions in Literacy, thinking about how to tell people information about our ice hands.

In Maths we have been practising and extending our addition and subtraction skills and language. We have been trying to write down some simple sums and learning how to use the $+/-/=$ signs. We have used objects, our fingers and number lines to help us to find the answers.

Interest Table: My home. For this theme please bring in a photo, drawing, collage or painting of your home; these will form the basis for our Literacy and topic work next week. This theme will be displayed for two weeks but we will need photos from everybody if possible by Wednesday please.

Another reminder that general Show and Tell is not running this term so please remember to leave those toys at home, thank you. LP

Years 1 & 2

Traditional stories is our current theme in English for the next few weeks. We have read Little Red Riding Hood and also an alternative 'version' which the children were rather surprised by. The wolf is a caring, kind character and Little Red Riding Hood is spoilt and rude. We had great fun creating new dialogue for these characters and have practised writing speech in speech bubbles with Year 1 children and learn the correct use of speech marks with Year 2 children.

Our science investigation this week was, "How can we make very strong structures out of straw?" The room was full of straw as the children tried to discover how to build with it. We had great success with children being very inventive. They were also amazingly good at clearing up afterwards. SB

Years 3 & 4

The children never cease to amaze us. In concluding their work based upon the Rollright Stones they were asked to write a short poem. The results have been quite breathtaking. They listen, they observe, they read and some of their ideas are quite wonderful. Ask your children about their poem.

Maths continues with a focus on presentation which has not been all that it could be. The response from everyone has been quite marked. All ages and abilities have set their work out neatly and accurately and the children will tell you that they feel that their results improved; just like that!

Star of the Week

Star of the week is always a tough selection and so we are looking at the class from Monday through to Friday morning discussing, at various intervals, whom it should be. This week Henry was awarded Star of the Week for his general enthusiasm and sheer passion for learning and doing and....

Oliver was selected as School Good Manners' Champion. He is kind, helpful, well-meaning and just, 'Our Olly!' Well done and keep being you.

It was -3.0° on Friday morning as the children came in and they were not all wrapped up for the weather. Please can you check that they have everything each morning. TW

Years 5 & 6

In English this week we have been learning about modal verbs, such as: would, should, must, may be etc. They indicate degree of possibility. In Guided Reading some of us have started reading 'Iqbal', the true story of a child carpet worker in Pakistan. Did you know over 200 million children (aged 5-17 years) currently work in bonded labour in the world and over 60million are under 10? We were shocked and discussed why this might be happening. In maths, we've been learning about percentages; we used shopping catalogues and worked out discounts on items such as 40% off a £15.00 cushion. In our topic work we've been learning about Islam and Allah's 99 names. We also used our lovely calligraphy pens to do Islamic writing. The bad weather didn't stop us getting our PE fix! We did interval training to very loud top 10 hits in the hall – we worked up a sweat doing lunges, jacks, step-ups and skipping! By Phoebe and Emily Homework Hero is Eliza, who made a Herculean effort with her homework and did not one, not two but FIVE maths sheets!

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	Jimmy
Year 1 & 2	Jack
Year 3 & 4	Henry
Year 5 & 6	Scarlett C

Request for Leave of Absence

Attached you will find a letter going out today to parents of all the children in the eleven schools in the Chipping Norton Partnership of Schools. This letter concerns the position regarding requests for absence and has been written on behalf of all eleven headteachers. A copy will go out on Monday in Book Bags as well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support of these new attendance regulations and for ensuring that children come to school every day unless they are unwell. Our attendance has improved considerably since the measures were put in place and I am pleased to tell you that we currently have 33 children with 100% attendance.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Sainsbury's are starting their Active Kid vouchers again this year. Please collect as many as you can and pop them in the box in the Year 3/4 cloakroom. Every year we are lucky enough to obtain lots of exciting free playground and sports equipment, such as footballs, javelins and skipping ropes. Please help us to make this a bumper year! Thank you.

Mrs Sheila Phillips

Those of you who know her will be very sad to hear that Mrs Phillips, one of our wonderful Teaching Assistants, will be leaving us at Easter for a new venture. Mrs Phillips has been at Great Tew for eight years, and both her boys Benjamin and William were at school here. She has worked in all of the classes, most recently with the older children in the Year 5 and 6 class, but most of her time has been spent working with Mrs Butler in the Year 1 and 2 class. Mrs Phillips is a very talented Teaching Assistant but she has also given a huge amount to the school in other ways too, as a governor and as Chair of the Supporters' Club. Mrs Phillips has the highest expectations of the children and she has been a committed, loyal and energetic member of staff. We are all very sad that Sheila is leaving us but wish her the very best in her new venture.

Morning Hockey Club - for children in Years 3 to 6

This will be starting again after Half Term, on Thursday 26th February. The club will be run by Carol Hicks and will run for 5 weeks, at a cost of £3 per week. Children should arrive at school at 8am, ready changed into their PE kit. Please sign up in the Year 3 /4 cloakroom if you would like your child/ren to attend.

Swimming Gala

On Wednesday Esme, Polly, Tilly, Emily, Gethin, Finlay, Toby and Louie accompanied by Mrs Sellars and with the help of transport from Ms Furnivall, went to Chipping Norton Leisure Centre for the Partnership Swimming Gala. This was a team relay event where 2 boys and 2 girls swam in the different relays with everyone swimming 2 races and the float relay. The schools were divided in to 3 sections depending on how many students are in the school and Great Tew were part of the small schools' group along with Middle Barton, Great Rollright and Chadlington. The children all showed great team work and support of one another and their very good behaviour was commented on by one of the organisers. Well done to all of them for winning the small schools trophy. RS

London Irish Tickets for Schools

London Irish Rugby Club are running their Tickets for Schools scheme for their match against Newcastle Falcons on Saturday 6th February. Further details on the attached flier/order form or see Angela.

Choir

I will be starting Choir on Thursday lunchtimes from 12.30-1.00pm, with the help of Mrs Taylor (and possibly Mr Nash on the piano). Choir will be open, initially, to children from Year 3 to Year 6, at a cost of £1 per week. There will be a sign up sheet on the Year 3/4 notice board.

Parish Meeting – a Request from Local Residents

Last week was the Great Tew Parish Meeting and one of the items of discussion was parking along New Road. Residents are concerned by the number of parents who park along New Road and allow their children to get out of the car onto the road. This road can be busy and as you know, there is no speed limit. I myself was nearly hit when I came out of the field onto the road to be met by a very fast overtaking car on the wrong side of the road.

Please use the car park wherever possible and teach your children to get out of the car onto the curb not the road.

Thank you for parking much more safely around the triangle – this has made crossing the roads to school considerably safer for the children.

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Oliver in Year 4. Oliver shows good manners to all of us in school and he thinks carefully about those around him. The children told us: *Oliver has good manners at football club - he always plays nicely and passes to other people; he says please and thank you at breakfast club; Oliver is working really hard in class and gets on without bothering people; when we have a spelling test he helps me (!) Oliver lets people play in his games; I sit on Oliver's maths table and when I can't figure out a sum he helps me by showing me how to do it; he's got better at spelling by working hard.* Well done Oliver – keep showing us those lovely manners!

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

Alice's Art Shed - Half-Term Art Classes Run By Alice Clark (Rose's Mummy)

Monday 16th Feb - 10.30am to 3.30pm A one-day course for 6 years upwards. £50.

Tuesday 17th Feb - 9.30am to 12.30pm A half-day course for Reception/Year 1. £30. Based on the Hungry Caterpillar!

A fun environment in which to make new friends and perfect for those wanting to stretch their imaginations and learn valuable new skills. Children will need a packed lunch, old clothes for messy art and craft and outdoor weather kit.

Spaces are limited. To book your place, please fill out a **booking form** on www.alicesartshed.co.uk

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