



# Great Tew School Newsletter

## Issue 214

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015



### Reception

This week the children have been very engaged in our Chinese New Year topic. They have learnt lots of facts about the importance of colour, food, music and dance in the celebrations. The children had fun making their own Chinese music and we even used long fabric to re-enact a fabulous dragon dance. We have spent time playing in our Chinese restaurant, taking orders, writing lists and invitations and having a go at writing Chinese symbols. On Wednesday we joined up with our friends in Pre-School for a Chinese feast of noodles, stir-fry, prawn crackers and lychees. Yummy! We talked about how the celebrations take place all over the world, not just in China and the children also found China on the globe.

Everyone was very pleased to learn how to say 'Happy New Year' in Chinese; challenge your children to remember!

**Interest table:** all things Chinese please!

### Years 1 & 2

Letters and Sounds for Year 1 this week has focused on the /ur/ sound. We recapped the sound and grapheme from reception – 'ur' and learnt a new grapheme 'ir'. Year 2 have started to work on plurals focusing on words where 's' is added and those ending in 'y' where the 'y' is removed and replaced by 'ies' – baby – babies.

Maths has been challenging for the Year 2 children as we have begun to focus on division and the relationship between that and multiplication. Any practice you could do at home would be very helpful. Year 1 children have revisited doubles, increasing their knowledge of doubles up to 20!

We started our new topic based on adventurers and explorers – the children came up with an amazingly comprehensive list of equipment that would be useful to take with you on an expedition.

### Years 3 & 4

A return to class has seen us continue our journey around the world, looking this time, at life in Japan. Among the amazing things that we have found out is that it is illegal there to host late night dances! We extend this work into some descriptive writing next week entitled; 'Where I would like to live?' Relax parents; no-one seems to have chosen Milton Keynes ...yet!

The children presented their gymnastic routines at the Tew Centre this week. The pupils in the three houses teamed to design and execute their own routines. It was a wonderful experience as they brought strength, control and finesse to their work. Thank you to the parents who came to watch, I know that they were impressed.

We have extended the ethics of gymnastics into PHSE this week. Boys, in particular, have been discussing how to be strong and yet controlled in their play both together and with others. We will be returning to this in the coming weeks.

D&T is coming on well, but we still need cereal packets to complete the work. Our Chief Deconstructor, Loic is keenly awaiting boxes each morning so that he can delicately take them apart, trim them and prepare the card for use. I bet he loves opening Dairy Lea Slices!

Ioan thoroughly deserves being selected as our Star of the Week. He has been working really hard to rise to the challenges of life in Year 3, showing determination and a very positive attitude. Mrs Sam and I really thought that he deserved recognition for this. Well done Ioan!

## Years 5 & 6

There has been a frenzied, excitable atmosphere in the class as the Year 6 children prepare for their week of outdoor adventure in Yenworthy and bags have been packed, unpacked and packed again! The children are ready to face their fears and pit themselves against nature!

In other news....We have finished our Scratch programme animations on the Islamic praying routine, complete with sounds and speech bubbles! In Literacy, we wrote a story based on our class reading book 'Oranges in No-Man's Land.' We particularly focussed on paragraphing, well chosen adjectives and fronted adverbials to give our description depth and detail. In maths, some of us investigated a method of multiplication called Napier's Bones (after John Napier) and worked out how it would help us to do long multiplication. Others investigated book bar codes and found a pattern in the numbers if you multiply them.

## World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday, asking all the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. A letter has been sent home in Book Bags.

## Welcome Back to Miss Connor

We were all very pleased to see Miss Connor again this week, after a year away on maternity leave looking after her baby Benji. I know how happy the children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 are to have Miss Connor teaching them again. We have missed her.

## 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	Skye
Year 1 & 2	Lucy
Year 3 & 4	Ioan
Year 5 & 6	Tilly

## Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Aliena in Reception. Aliena has a cheerful sunny disposition and she is particularly good at including other children in her games, both in the classroom and in the playground. The children told us: *Aliena is good at including other children in games; she is smiley and cheerful; she is good at tidying the classroom; she plays nice games in the playground; she is always happy to play with different children; she is kind – she asked me if I was alright in the playground (Year 6); she's very thoughtful and always like to play octopus! She's my buddy and I think she's really sweet and always happy.* Well done Aliena – you make other people feel happy with that lovely smile!

## Bags2School

Thank you! We had a huge collection of bags at the school gate on Thursday morning. The driver looked a little less than thrilled when he saw the huge pile of bags stacked up under the climbing frame waiting for him when he arrived! – but he cheered up no end when a team of wonderful year 5 and 6 children rallied round to help him. Thank you to everyone for all that sorting out and tidying you must have done – and for chivvying your friends, families and neighbours too!

## Bad Weather – Information re School Closure

In the case of bad weather, we will of course endeavour to keep the school open if at all possible. However, in the event that we do have to close the school, we will let you know via a text message and will put information on the school website at <http://www.greattewschool.co.uk/>. We will also inform BBC Radio Oxford VHF/FM 95.2 and will contact the county council, who will post information on their website <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures>.

I will be away in Devon with Ms Furnivall and the Year 6 children next week so will not see you for a few days. Please do speak to Mrs Butler if you have any questions or concerns while I am away.

With best wishes to everyone, Mrs Lucy Miles

# Dates for Your Diary

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Residential Trip to Yenworthy Lodge	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day	Come dressed as your favourite book character
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30pm	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Dance Festival for Year 1 children	Chipping Norton School Letter will be sent home
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening 4.30-6.30pm	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Day for Y5 children at Tudor Hall	Letter will be sent home – lunch will be provided
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Chipping Norton Music Festival Y5&6 – afternoon workshop at Chipping Norton School	Letter will be sent home Finishes at 5.45pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Netball Festival at Tudor Hall for Y5 girls	Letter will be sent home
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Schoolympics for Year 2&3 children – 1.15-3.30	Chipping Norton School Letter to follow
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/6 trip to Ashmolean Museum and Central Oxford Mosque	Letter to follow
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Egg rolling and easter egg hunt - pm	
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term Easter Service – 9am	St Michael & All Angels Great Tew
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term at 2pm	Easter Arrangements to follow