



# Great Tew School Newsletter

## Issue 217

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015



### “Solar Breakfast”

What a wonderful occasion so many of us were able to celebrate this morning, and thank you to Mark Woodgate, who prompted me into action a couple of weeks ago. All anyone could talk about when they arrived at school was the state of the clouds and when or if they might part to let us see a glimpse of the sun. Luck (or something else) was on our side and we really did have a magnificent view of the eclipse. The children (and adults) were thrilled by the sight, and experience, of the sun growing smaller, the sky darkening and the temperature dropping. Year 3 and 4 children logged the light levels and temperature (the sound of the birdsong was trickier with all that excited chattering!) and this is what they found.

#### Temperature

9.15am	10.0°C
9.31am (max coverage)	7.5°C
9.40am	9.5°C

#### Light

9.00am	1200 lumens
9.25am	1000 lumens
9.31am (max coverage)	960 lumens

A very big thank you to Ed and Andrea Allen who very kindly produced 150 bacon rolls for us to add to the sense of occasion. I had been thinking of something a little simpler, but oh no, bacon rolls it was to be (!) and no sooner had we discussed it than the shopping was done and the bacon prepared. Very delicious the rolls were too, and as usual, the Allens took it all in their stride! Thank you to everyone else who helped out, especially Mr Butler.



We hope that this is an experience that will stay with the children for many years to come. Have a look at these pictures from the BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-31985857>

## Reception

This week the children have been thinking about the things that make their mum really special and sharing the things that make them think of mum. A lovely speaking and listening activity that everyone has enjoyed! Our Homes topic has continued; the children have been using the computer, information books and story books to explore what it is like to live in a very cold climate. They have considered the temperature, landscape, colours, the animals that might live there, what they eat and how they use their camouflage. We have played with cold landscape small worlds and found lots of cold places on our globe. This theme has continued into our literacy work, where the children have been reading non-fiction books and talking about their features. The children then used these features to create their own animal information books, including front covers, a diagram with labels, a picture with a caption and an alphabetical index!

In maths we have investigated the 'story' of different numbers to 10 (finding all of the ways to make each number as a total, eg, 'The story of 10' = 5+5/4+6/3+7/10+0...)

**Interest Table:** The theme of 'My Mum' will continue until Thursday next week.

## Years 1 & 2

Letters and sounds this week for Year 1 has focused on reading and spelling high frequency words such as 'any' i.e. many and looking for ways to remember them. We also looked at different spellings of the /air/ phoneme 'ear' (pear), 'are' (dare). Year 2's are looking to see how by adding 'y' to the end of a word it becomes an adjective – 'haze' – hazy. In English we are working towards writing a story with an underwater setting based on the story 'Dougal's Deep Sea Diary'; today's planning session went well!

You may have been told all about our artistic explorations over the past 2 weeks looking at paint texture and painting with brushes, sticks and spreaders to make different marks. The children have learnt about primary colours and experimented mixing them to make secondary colours. They have also explored making tints of a primary colour by adding white, which we developed to create pictures of the sea! Some fabulous work – watch this space.

## Years 3 & 4

This has been a wonderful week for our children. Taking part in the Schoolympics at Chipping Norton School, rehearsing our Passion Play and ending with someone stealing part of the sun for a time!

Our comprehension work has been based upon the Spiderwick Chronicles and the children have shown a clear understanding of this very complicated text. We have been running some maths workshops to boost small group of children, with emphasis on division in particular. Science has focused (pun intended) on the Friday eclipse of the sun. We demonstrated the nature of an eclipse and the possible impact upon the earth. The children then developed their own experiments that were conducted on the day. Years 2 & 3 children competed in the CNPS Schoolympics. Our school were divided into two groups and represented France and Denmark. The effort and commitment was there, more importantly, their teamwork and sportsmanship were a credit to us all, well done.

**Please note there will be no swimming or violin lessons next week.**

## Limes Farm

Today I had a visit from Gemma at Limes Farm and one of the points of discussion was next term's menu. Gemma was keen to receive feedback, which I gave her, as did Mrs Sam and Nicky, our server. However, I was keen to involve the children too, so the older children were given the opportunity to give some feedback and to tell Gemma what they would like to see more of on the menu and what they were not so keen on. Emily and Eliza came along to chat to Gemma during their lunch time and told her these were the things they particularly wanted on the menu:

- Spaghetti Bolognese
- BBQ pulled pork
- Home-made sausage rolls
- Sausages and mash
- Lamb burgers
- Toad in the hole
- Tacos
- Chocolate mousse
- Lemon drizzle cake
- Eton Mess

I have just received next term's menus and, hey presto, these things are all there! I hope that Eliza and Emily might today have learnt the power of taking action! They should be very pleased with what they have been able to achieve.

I am aware that there have been problems this term with the ordering system. Changes have been made and further information will be sent out on Monday.

**What's that picture all about?**  
**What is the artist telling me?**  
**What do I see in it?**  
**Could I do that?**

Aspinall-Zibarras Productions (try saying that with your mouth full of biscuit) - Ben and Louis' mothers would like to help you answer those questions at an Art Explorer Club!

Friday afternoons in the Summer Term starting Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
3:30 - 4:30pm at Great Tew School  
Open to all children – numbers will be limited  
Course of 10 sessions - £20

Bit of a snack and a chat.  
Look at a famous picture.  
Talk about it.  
Have a go at your own picture in the same style.

## Clubs for Next Term

These will be confirmed early next week.

## Easter Raffle

A very big thank you to those who have sent in prizes for the Easter raffle. This will be drawn after the Easter Bonnet Parade on Friday morning in the playground. Please could we ask that you return any sold tickets (with the money) or unsold tickets to the office by Wednesday next week. Thank you again.

## Farewell

Today we were all very sad to say goodbye to Silvia Irvine. Silvia has been with us since Reception and her brothers Archie and Arthur were here too. We are all going to miss Silvia very much - her cheerful nature and genuine enthusiasm make her a lovely person to have around school, someone who has the ability to lift people's spirits. We wish Silvia well in her new school and know that she will stay in touch with us all.

Please note that term finishes at **2pm** on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

With best wishes,

Mrs Lucy Miles

## Dates for Your Diary

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/6 trip to Ashmolean Museum and Central Oxford Mosque	Letter sent home
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Egg-rolling and Easter Egg Hunt	Letter about Easter arrangements has been sent home
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Church service at 9 a.m.	
	Easter Bonnet Parade from Church to School followed by Easter Raffle	
	End of Term at 2pm	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer Term begins	Children return to school