



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 224

Friday 22nd May 2015



Ideas for Some Half Term Fun!

Wildlife photography Competition



Why not grab a camera and get snapping while you are out and about over the half-term break! Take pictures of any kind of wildlife, choose your best shot and enter it at school to be judged in one of the age categories. Bring your photo with your name and age on the back along with £1.50 entrance fee to school during the week after the half term holiday. Please hand them in at the school office. All money raised will go towards the new wildlife garden fund, we are hoping to be able to buy bird feeders, food and den building equipment for all children to have fun with.

Look out for flowers, trees, landscapes, bugs, birds, insects, spider webs... anything that catches your eye!

Have fun, I look forward to seeing the results,
Mrs Platt

Build a Scarecrow



Can you make a scarecrow to keep the birds away from our beans?! Be imaginative and creative; if you are short of inspiration there are plenty of ideas here:

<http://www.makescarecrows.com/scarecrow-ideas.html>

We are looking forward to our new friends arriving at school after half term!

Does anyone have a lockable 2-drawer filing cabinet looking for a new home? If you do, please see Angela! Thank you.

ALICE'S ART SHED – 1 OR 2 DAY SHED – UNDER THE SEA – 5 yrs upwards

Thursday 28th May – 10am til 3pm and/or Friday 29th May – 10am till 3pm.

We will use 'Tiddler' by Julia Donaldson as stimulus/ inspiration.

Thursday, based around dance, drama and singing, will be led by drama and dance teacher Jenna Mckee. The day will incorporate mythical/real sea creatures, mermaids, pirates and adventure! We will use the story book to explore drama through imagery, language and rhyming couplets with older students.

Friday will be taken by Alice Clark where we will explore the book Tiddler and 'Under the Sea' through arts and crafts experimenting with different techniques and making some wonderful underwater scenes with fish of all shapes and sizes!

<http://www.alicesartshed.co.uk/>

Reception

We received a surprise gift in the post this week of a batch of lovely crawly caterpillars that we can watch as they grow and change into butterflies! Florence has been enjoying her own crawly friends at home and her mum and dad kindly thought that we would like to have our very own kit at school to support our 'Life Cycles' topic after half term. We hope to see our five caterpillars emerge into Painted Lady butterflies after the half term break. Our creature collection will also include a family of tadpoles which we will observe as they change into frogs over the coming weeks.

I am also very pleased to tell you that the children will be visiting the butterfly farm in Stratford-upon-Avon to further support and extend our topic. You should have received a letter about this today, please look in book bags. A very exciting term ahead I'm sure you will agree!

Water bottles: Please can your child have a drinking bottle with a sports style cap filled with water in school with them each day after the half term break. It is important that children have a named sun hat with them each day too, please.

Years 1 & 2

Year 1s have had a very tricky letters and sounds week learning when to use the different graphemes for the 'c' sound, will it be 'c', k, ck or ch? Year 2s have started to investigate the use of apostrophes for contractions. We've practised contracting the words using an apostrophe and then reversed the exercise by deciding what the two original words were.

Have the children been writing riddles at home? Our English this week has focused on writing riddles about animals; the children have really risen to the challenge and produced some amazing work. Everyone wants to share theirs with the class and as they are all so good we are working our way through them!

Year 1s have been discussing the properties of 3D shapes and telling the time to the hour and half hour in maths. Please try to take some time over half term to ask them what the time is when it's on the hour or half past on the clock. Year Y2s have completed their end of key stage 1 maths, reading, and short writing tests this week, they have worked extremely hard and I was very proud of the way they approached, focused on and performed in these tests. Just the long writing and spelling test to go! They deserve a holiday!

Years 3 & 4

The last week of this half term. Time doth fly when you are having fun. We have been conducting assessments in English and Maths this week. By and large the children have shown their true colours and have done well. We have been finishing off work on the Grand Tour of the school and writing about our experience of planning and making this presentation. Maths has focussed on problem solving and how to comprehend a question. Authors of maths puzzles have only so many questions to ask and so think of quirky ways of setting the same problem. We have been trying to identify the sum behind the text.

A great half term's work from all in Years 3&4, a rest is due in the coming week. Please let the children have a rest too!

Years 5 & 6

It was back to work this week in maths and literacy - tackling linear sequences and representing them in algebraic equations and planning and writing our own timeslide story based upon a captured animal. We have also been analysing the responses to our village questionnaire and turning them into data that we can analyse. We used spreadsheets and then graphs to compare the businesses in the village and how much they import and export and where to and from. We then used maps to find out where the exports went to - the global connections were wide and far from the Maldives to Albania (which is not easy to find on a world map)!! We will publish the findings to residents in a special booklet. The children have had another successful sporting tournament - this time it was the Year 5s at Tag Rugby at Chipping Norton Rugby Club. We have some really outstanding rugby stars and the children played incredibly well, narrowly piped into second spot by Enstone School.

Stars of the Week

Well done to all of our hard-working stars of the week.

Reception	Archie
Year 1 & 2	Vivi
Year 3 & 4	James
Year 5 & 6	Rhianna

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is William in Reception. William is particularly good at remembering to say please and thank you. He never, ever, ever calls out and always sits patiently with his hand up (no noises, no finger clicking, no arm flapping!) William is also very good at waiting patiently to speak to an adult. He is gentle natured and calm, but often has things to add to a discussion. The children told us: *William is a good high fiver; he always walks round corners; he plays with me when I don't have anyone to play with; he plays with all the different year groups and he also plays with everyone in his class.* Years 5 & 6 children said: *William reminds us to be quiet when coming in from play and he is sweet and peaceful.* Well done William – you do have lovely manners.

School Fete – Saturday 20th June 11-1 pm

The annual school fete as you will know from our previous newsletters is being held on Saturday 20th June. This is the major fund raising event for the Great Tew School Supporters' Club and we need **EVERYONE** to be involved to make it as successful as possible. We know that you agree that this is a special school and we rely on your help. A list of stalls will go up on the notice board outside the Year 3 & 4 classroom along with a list of cakes we would like, after half term, so please pop in and sign up to something you can make for us and also by choosing a stall you/and a group of friends would like to man. If you have an idea of your own for a stall please feel free to add this to the list. Please remember that we do ask that whoever runs a stall is responsible for setting it up and clearing away afterwards so it doesn't fall to just a few people.

On Thursday 4th and Friday 12th June we will be holding two non-uniform days for children who bring in donations for the tombola or raffle. This year we will also be running a sweet tombola for the children, this means we would be grateful for jam jars or jars of a different kind to be filled with sweets. Other donations needed are bric-a-brac, books, plants, cakes etc. Donations of items for the stalls may be brought into school after half term.

Blenheim 7k Run

Well done to our team of energetic runners, who took part in the Blenheim 7k run on Sunday. Finlay, Gethin and Jamie ran 7k and Ioan ran 1k. All the boys did very well in their age categories and came in on Monday beaming with pride and adorned in medals.

To top off his weekend of sporting success, Finlay also won a trophy from Chadlington Football Club as Players' Player, voted for by his team mates in the under 10 squad. Well done Finlay.



Rugby Festival

On Wednesday the Year 5 children took part in the Rugby Festival at Chipping Norton Rugby Club. The children played incredibly well as a team and came 2nd overall in the competition. Everyone was involved and played their part and no-one tried to take the limelight. Sporting Champions were Max, for sportsmanship and excellent passing skills (he set up at least 2 tries for other children to score) and Scarlet for both her attacking and defending skills.

Mrs Sellars told me: *It was a delight to be with them for the afternoon, with some excellent rugby played by all. It was a whole Year 5 triumph in sportsmanship and positive attitudes.* Well done to all of the children!

Budding Young Writers

I was delighted and proud to receive an email telling me that five of our Year 5 children have been shortlisted for the 2015 Deddington Writing Competition. All the shortlisted entries in each age group are now being judged by a panel of professional authors who will comment on them and award 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. The winners will be announced at the awards event which will take place at **2.30 pm on Sunday 14th June at Deddington Parish Church.**

A very well done to Finlay, Gethin, Matilda, Max and Toby. Read Finlay's story overleaf.

Charlie and the Ghosts by Finlay Beggin

Charlie was snoring awkwardly in his bouncy bed. Moments later his bonkers alarm went off, it rang through his mind blurring his dreams for a second. Charlie saw his clock, which he thought was wrong. Looking out of the grimy brown window, he noticed that it was correct, it was midnight! Just when he was about to go back to bed, he spotted an unknown figure pass the moon. The moon was glinting on the hard wooden floor, making this night even better.

Charlie was very curious and wanted to know what was out there. So, he got out of his bed and wrapped the duvet around him. He scribbled Superman on the back and plunged out of the horrible window. Unfortunately, his idea didn't work and he landed heavily face first into the thick layer of grass.

Charlie untangled his duvet and ran off into the dark, gloomy woods. Moments later he lost his route. His heart was pounding out of his chest. There was one thing; Charlie had never been in to the gloomy woods on his own and now he wanted to go home but he couldn't, so he kept on running. He looked around for any bears but there were trees instead. In a panic, he ran into one.

When he woke up he looked around, clueless. Thinking *why am I here? Where am I?* He was sitting on a chair in a wooden hut. Charlie didn't know that he was being watched. After he had banged his head heavily, he had forgotten nearly everything. Charlie wanted to leave but he couldn't. He was strapped to the chair but it wasn't by a rope, it was a snake. He wondered *who are the people outside? What are they going to do to me?*

Moments later, three people came into Charlie's hut, dressed like animals. They took him outside to the moonlit wood and dressed him up too, ready for what? Charlie tried to fit in with the crowd, but as he got halfway through, he slipped away and was alone in the terrifying wood. Charlie thought he heard a sharp, ghostly noise brushing past his ear. All that was going through Charlie's mind then was the frightening sound of ghosts and lots of other scary visions popping up in front of him. Charlie screamed "aaaaarrrrrhhhhh" in a very high pitched voice. Whilst Charlie was still screaming, the ghosts were circling poor little Charlie, who was now saying "I want my mummy!" One of the creatures said "Ahhh, that's a shame, you won't have no mummy when you're in your grave. Hahahaha!"

Running into the woods, came his fearless father. He grabbed Charlie's shoulder and suddenly, they arrived at what seemed like their neighbour's house. As the ghost mob hurdled through the front entrance, Charlie and his dad jumped out of the top floor window and fell to the floor. Thud! They slithered away towards the dark wood.

After that night, no-one ever saw them again....

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 1st June	Rugby coaching for Year 3 /4 children from London Welsh (6 weeks)
Tuesday 2nd June	Cycling Proficiency for Year 6 children
Tuesday 2 nd June	Bake-Off entries in (Year 5 children only)
Thursday 4 th June	Non-Uniform Day – please bring in items for the tombola
Friday 5th June	Art workshop for Year 5 children at Bloxham School
Monday 8 th June	Class Photographs - am
Tuesday 9th June	Cycling Proficiency for Year 6 children
Wednesday 10th June	U11 Cricket Festival at Great Tew Cricket Club
Friday 12 th June	Non-Uniform Day – please bring in items for the tombola
Mon 15th –Fri 19th June	Phonics Checks for Year 1 children
Tuesday 16th June	Cycling Proficiency for Year 6 children
Saturday 20th June	Great Tew Supporters’ Club Summer Fete
Monday 22nd June	Sports’ Day (pm)
Tuesday 23rd June	Cycling Proficiency for Year 6 children
Weds 24th to Fri 26th June	Transition Days for Year 6 children moving to Chipping Norton School
Thursday 25 th June	Year 1 & 2 trip to Heythrop Zoo
Friday 26th June	Violin Assembly – Year 3 and 4 children
Tuesday 30th June	Cycling Proficiency Test for Year 6 children
Tuesday 30th June	KS2 production – Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 1st July	KS2 production at 2pm and 6pm
Thursday 2nd July	KS2 production at 6pm
Friday 3rd July	Whole School walk and picnic at Cow Hill Tuesday 7th July Open Afternoon
Fri 10th to Sun 12th July	“Tea for Tew” at the Cornbury Festival
Tuesday 14th July	Contingency date for Sports Day (pm)
Friday 17th July 9am	End of Term service at St Michael’s Church
	Term ends at 2pm

2015-2016 TERM DATES

Autumn Term 1 begins	Wednesday 2 nd September
Autumn Term 1 ends	Wednesday 21 st October at 3.15pm
Autumn Term 2 starts	Monday 2 nd November
Autumn Term 2 ends	Friday 18 th December at 2.00pm
Spring Term 3 starts	Tuesday 5 th January
Spring Term 3 ends	Friday 12 th February at 3.15pm
Spring Term 4 starts	Monday 22 nd February
Spring Term 4 ends	Wednesday 23 rd March at 2pm
Summer Term 5 starts	Monday 11 th April
Summer Term 5 ends	Friday 27 th May at 3.15pm
Summer Term 6 starts	Monday 6 th June
Summer Term 6 ends	Wednesday 20 th July at 2pm