



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 232

Friday 11th September 2015



Dear Parents

The children have been working very hard this week and everyone is settled in, getting used to new routines, new teachers, new friends and new topics. I have so enjoyed visiting the classrooms this week, seeing the children taking great pride in their work with many of them already setting themselves targets for the year.

Get to Know the Teacher Meetings

These will take place in the week beginning the 21st September. A letter has been sent home today, but the dates and times are as follows:

Monday 21st Sept at 3.30pm:	Year 5 & 6	Mrs Catling
Tuesday 22nd Sept at 3.30pm:	Year 3 & 4	Miss Mannion
Wednesday 23rd Sept at 3.30pm:	Reception	Mrs Platt and Miss Read
Thursday 24th Sept at 3.30pm:	Year 1 & 2	Mrs Butler

Reception news:

We are very proud of all of the children in Reception; they are settling in really well and learning all of the new rules and routines so well! They are busy showing us what they can do as we carry out our initial assessments and have fun getting to know them. We have learnt some new songs, talked about friends, families and birthdays. We have created a friendship rainbow and made our birthday train, both of which are already on the wall!

The children told us they have enjoyed: *“playing with the house”*; *“going outside with my buddy”*; *“doing drawing on the writing table”*; *“playing with the dogs and the pram”*.



Our first PE session will be on Tuesday next week so please make sure all PE kits are in school by then, if you have not yet done so.



The children have an additional coat peg located at the top of the stairs where we hang PE kits to free up some space in our busy cloakroom.

Show and Tell: There is a rota displayed in the cloakroom, please make a note of your child's day. To begin with they may bring anything that is special to them to share with us all. There is a box in the classroom to place show and tell items when you arrive in the morning. Please can we remind you that toys should be left at home on other days.

Year 1 & 2 news:

We've sniffed, poked, listened, tasted and used our beady eyes to create some very descriptive senses poetry about our school. Along the way we've discussed and practised using rhyme and alliteration and some very grown up vocabulary like rigid and flexible. Everyone had their P.E. kit in school this week and so far clothes that have been found strewn around the classroom were named and therefore safely returned to their owner. We just have an un-named vest which you will find in lost property!

Year 3 & 4 news:

The year 3 and 4 children have had an excellent, and very full, week. We have really got our teeth into our new topics. We found out about Robert Catesby's role in the gunpowder plot and have looked at David Hockney's landscapes in both America and North Yorkshire. Homework is now in full swing..... a good week!

Year 5 & 6 news:

Bonjour, tout le monde...we have been getting ready for our Macmillan French café in a couple of weeks with lots of french conversation...details to follow soon from our Yr.5/6 school councillors.

To start our Viking topic we explored the interesting and topical issue of invasion and immigration. We found out about the earliest immigrants and invaders and subsequent settlers from the Romans to the Normans and even looked at newsround articles on the current immigration and refugee crisis. We had a really interesting discussion about our ancestors' heritage and Blythe explained how ancestry is tested through DNA. Mrs. Catling's ancestors came over from Ireland in the Potato Famine (which would explain why she loves chips!).

In Maths we have been continuing with place value by revising decimals and multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, 1000. Sports star of the week was Jennifer for great ball control and enthusiastic tackling in football.

Can you Help With Supplies?

In the next couple of weeks, the Year 5 & 6 children will be making Viking longships as part of their topic work. It would help if they could bring in spare, empty milk/juice cartons, straws, skewers, lolly sticks/coffee stirrers, brown paper bags, plain red, green and blue fabric or anything else they think would be useful!

KS2 Playing Hockey this Term - Shin Pads and Gum Shields Needed

Please make sure that all children in Years 3 to 6 have a gum shield and shin pads in school with their PE kit on Wednesdays.

School Council

In assembly yesterday I spoke to the children about the role of the School Council, with Miss Read who works with the School Council and Mrs Zibarras, one of the school governors. I explained to the children how important the School Council is in giving all of the children a "pupil voice" ie their say in how the school is run. The children (from Years 1 to 6) have been asked to think about whether they would like to represent their class this year, and if so, to prepare a short speech about why they think they should be chosen as their class representative on the School Council. Please do talk to your child/ren about this important role and encourage them to prepare a speech if they would like to be considered.

Clubs

We have lots of clubs running this term, with a few spaces remaining in most of them. Please do encourage your children to come along; we can only run them if numbers are high enough. Could I request that payment is made in advance for all clubs. Cash please for all clubs except football, home learning and hockey, when you can write a cheque if you prefer.

Stars of the Week

A very big well done to our stars of the week. They have all made very good first impressions to their teachers and long may that last.

- Reception** – all of the children - for settling in so well, being so grown-up and making lots of new friends
- Year 1 & 2** – Parker
- Year 3 & 4** – Emily
- Year 5 & 6** – Maddie

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Matthew in Year 1. Matthew is someone we have all noticed for his gentle nature, kindness and the way he plays happily outside with all the children. Matthew listens beautifully in the classroom, which means he always knows exactly what he needs to do when he settles down to his learning and this means he has made a fantastic start to Year 1. The children told us: *he is the funnest brother ever (!); he is kind to the other children; he plays nicely and he never plays rough games; he sits on the carpet and doesn't ever shout out; he always puts his hand up if he wants to say something.* Well done Matthew – we all know you are going to do very well in Year 1.

A Reminder about drop-off and pick-up times

	Time	Notes	
Drop off	after 8.40 and before 8.55 when the register is taken	Children not in the classroom by 9am are marked as late.	The classrooms are not open until 8.40am as the teachers need time to prepare for the day's learning.
Collection	3.15	Children not collected promptly will be taken to the office or the staffroom to await collection	Please make sure that you let us know if you are going to be late or if your child is going home with someone else

Bed Times

School is tiring (for all of us!) particularly when children have got out of their normal term time routines during the summer holiday. To ensure they get the best from school life and arrive in the morning ready to learn, please make sure they are having enough sleep at night. It is impossible to say what time a child should go to bed but these are guidelines as found on the NHS Choices website. See the following link for further information:

<http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/childrenssleep/Pages/childrenssleephome.aspx>

Age	Recommended Sleep
4 years	11 hours, 30 minutes
5 years	11 hours
6 years	10 hours, 45 minutes
7 years	10 hours, 30 minutes
8 years	10 hours, 15 minutes
9 years	10 hours
10 years	9 hours, 45 minutes

Open Days at Heythrop Zoological Gardens Saturday and Sunday

The lions roared and the crowds cheered last weekend, at the first of Heythrop Zoological Gardens' annual public open days. The private zoo is opening its doors to the public again this weekend, on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September. Do try to go along – those that went last weekend really did love it and I know that Jamie and Mim Clubb and Thalia and would love to see you there. For further information go to: <http://www.amazinganimals.co.uk/open-days-local-community/open-days/>

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

Best wishes,
Mrs Lucy Miles

Great Tew Primary School

Term Dates for 2015-2016

Autumn Term 1

Wednesday 2nd September to **Wednesday 21st October at 3.15pm** (*INSET days on 1st September, 22nd October & 23rd October*)

HALF TERM – Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October (*plus INSET on Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October*)

Autumn Term 2

Monday 2nd November to **Friday 18th December at 2pm**

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January (*plus INSET day on Monday 4th January*)

Spring Term 1

Tuesday 5th January to Friday 12th February at 3.15pm

HALF TERM – Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February

Spring Term 2

Monday 22nd February to Wednesday 23rd March at 2pm (*Thursday 24th March is INSET day*)

EASTER HOLIDAY – Friday 25th March to Friday 8th April (*plus INSET day on Thursday 24th March*)

Summer Term 1

Monday 11th April to Friday 27th May at 3.15pm (with May Day Bank Holiday on Monday 2nd May)

HALF TERM – Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June

Summer Term 2

Monday 6th June to Wednesday 20th July at 2pm

INSET (Staff Training) DAYS no school for children on these days:

Tuesday 1st September

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October

Monday 4th January

Thursday 24th March

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