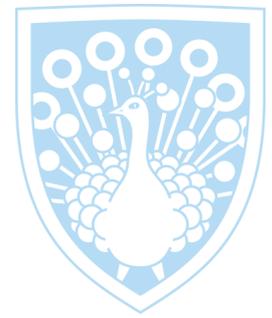




Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 233

Friday 18th September 2015



Dear Parents

What is the difference between learning and work?

I discussed that in assembly with the older children yesterday and was very impressed by their responses. Sophie (Y5) told us that she thought learning was something you did to develop yourself, because you wanted to do it, to prepare you for life, whereas work was something you had to do. I think you would agree that's a fairly good summary of the difference! You may have noticed the children beginning to talk about "learning" rather than "work" this term; we will be focusing this year on developing the children's learning skills and changing that one word is the very first thing we are doing. I have been so impressed, walking round the school this last couple of weeks, to see the children's learning in full evidence. Bertie was quite right when he told me that if children were learning I might expect to see: children with heads down, children concentrating, children talking together about what they are doing; children supporting each other; children being enthusiastic; children sharing, and listening to each others' opinions; children having a go; children looking like they are enjoying themselves. That's exactly what I have seen and I told the children how proud of them I feel to see this buzz of learning in evidence.

Get to Know the Teacher Meetings

A reminder that these meetings are taking place next week, beginning the 21st September. 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

Great Tew Awarded Silver Sportsmark Award

I am delighted to tell you that Great Tew have just been awarded a Silver Sportsmark award for achievement, commitment and participation in a wide range of sport. We are one of only two schools in the partnership that have currently achieved this award. Sportsmark is Sport England's accreditation scheme rewarding and recognising a school for its out of hours sports provision and for having a broad and balanced PE curriculum. This award reflects the enthusiasm with which the children approach their PE, the energy with which Mrs Sellars leads PE in the school and the commitment of teachers and teaching assistants towards delivering the highest quality PE provision.



Well done to everyone and a very big thank you to Mrs Sellars for putting together the application for us.

Well Done to Last Year's School Councillors – and a Very Big Thank You Too... New School Match Kit on the Way

Last year the School Council organised a Talent Show to raise money to buy a school match sports kit, for those children representing Great Tew in the partnership festivals. Thanks to their hard work together with a very generous donation from a small group of parents and their friends, we now have enough money to purchase a new match kit. A very big thank you goes to all those parents involved (they know who they are!) who raised a very impressive £300 for the school. Sample kits have started arriving in the office and we hope to place an order next week. Watch this space!

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Laura in Year 1. Laura is a kind, gentle, thoughtful little soul with a really wonderful twinkle and a great sense of fun and she is someone whose company we all enjoy. Laura's good manners are evident throughout the day, both in the classroom and outside at playtimes. She is very considerate to other learners, always allowing them to get on with their work without disruption and quick to offer help if it's needed. The children told us: *Laura plays with her friends politely and never gets cross; whenever people are sad she comes to help; when I don't have anyone to play with Laura always comes to play with me; Laura is never mean to other children – and finally, "When I was on my own on the football pitch (Y6 boy) Laura asked me if I was OK and if I wanted her to play football with me. She had really good skills!"* Well done Laura – you should be very proud.

Reception news:

This week we had a blast in our first PE session! We played games to encourage the children to respond to the whistle and explored ways of moving safely so that we didn't bump into each other. Lots of the children were extremely independent when it came to dressing and undressing themselves, Evelyn even showed us how she folds up her clothes, lucky Evelyn's mummy! It would be very helpful for your child's development if the message of independence could be followed up on when dressing and changing shoes at home as this is something that we are working hard towards at school. The children are learning that our role is to support and help them when they are finding things hard rather than to do it for them.

We have had fun making jigsaws of our faces and names this week and in our Letters and Sounds sessions we have been looking at the letter sounds /p/ and /s/.

Show and tell will begin next week; please make sure that you have seen the rota on the notice board.

Year 1 & 2 news:

This week in our maths lessons we have been looking at the different coins we have in our currency and the value of each of them. Year 1 children have practised adding two coins together whilst the year 2 children have investigated how to make a specific total using different combinations of coins. Wednesday afternoon was exciting as we had visitors from Woodstock museum come to talk to us about holidays in the past. They brought lots of artefacts to share with us and the delight on the faces of the children was a pleasure to see.

Year 3 & 4 news:

This week has seen an action packed week and the children have really improved their football skills. The standards of tackling, dribbling and tactical manoeuvres have been outstanding. We have got fully involved in the safety aspect of our science topic of electricity and the elements of an electrical circuit. The children are responding very well to the challenges of Year 3 and 4, with the children thoroughly engaged in their learning. Homework Hero this week is Jack, for really going the extra mile with his maths investigation and showing the very best he could do. Friday's tables challenge is causing a lot of excitement, with the children determined to improve their scores and move up the ladder.

Year 5 & 6 news:

Year 5 and 6 received a lot of lovely visitors this week. On Tuesday afternoon Ms Furnivall popped back to say hello to the class and have a cuppa but before she knew it she had stayed and helped out for the whole afternoon. We were locating all the countries and races in northern Europe which had invaded the United Kingdom throughout time, in an atlas and then devising our own key to record it on a map. Ms Furnivall is really enjoying her new class, which she tells us is very spacious!, but is missing us and has promised to try and pop back for our Macmillan French Café on Tuesday 29th September to have a croissant and a coffee! Then on Wednesday the team from the Oxfordshire "Hands-on-Heritage" team came with boxes of artefacts and craft materials to explore the Anglo Saxons and re-create their beautiful jewellery. We learnt where the Anglo-Saxons came from, why and where they settled, and then we went on to look at grave goods found in archaeological digs in Oxfordshire and to make our own copper leaf brooches. The team said they were impressed by the children's knowledge of history and their intricate art designs. The children are continuing to read regularly and share with us their favourite books in reviews. Hattie is our very first Homework Hero for an amazing effort with her geography poster, great understanding in her maths and beautiful presentation generally - she has even decorated her front cover and backed her book!

Mrs Sam

Mrs Sam yesterday underwent a big operation on her knee, which has been causing her problems for the last couple of years. She is expecting to be in hospital for a few days before going back home for some rest and recuperation. I know you will all join with me in wishing Mrs Sam a very speedy recovery; we are all looking forward to seeing her back in school when she is mended.

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 – William
Year 1 & 2 – Lila
Year 3 & 4 – Royce
Year 5 & 6 – Oliver

Fresh New Y3/4 Cloakroom

Many of you will have noticed the newly painted Year 3 and 4 cloakroom. Thank you to Peter and Gethin Collins, who came in at the end of the holiday and helped to paint it and to Mr Miles for putting up new pegs to replace the old ones that were beginning to fall off the wall. Well done to the Year 3 and 4 children (and Miss Mannion) who are doing a good job of keeping it nice and tidy!

Wishing you all a very happy weekend,

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