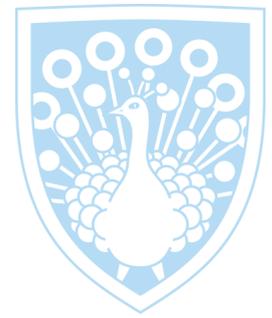




Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 234

Friday 25th September 2015



What a lovely birthday I've had today! Thank you to all of you, staff, parents and children for making it so memorable, for singing so beautifully (!) and for that cake, Mrs Butler! I'm shamed and I'm putting away my whisks and cake tins for ever! I know that the children would tell me to be resilient, not to give up and to keep practising until my cakes too are six inches high! Lunch time today was spent in the playground with the children, stiling and scattering autumn leaves. I wish that all of you could have seen what fun the children were having and how beautifully they played together.

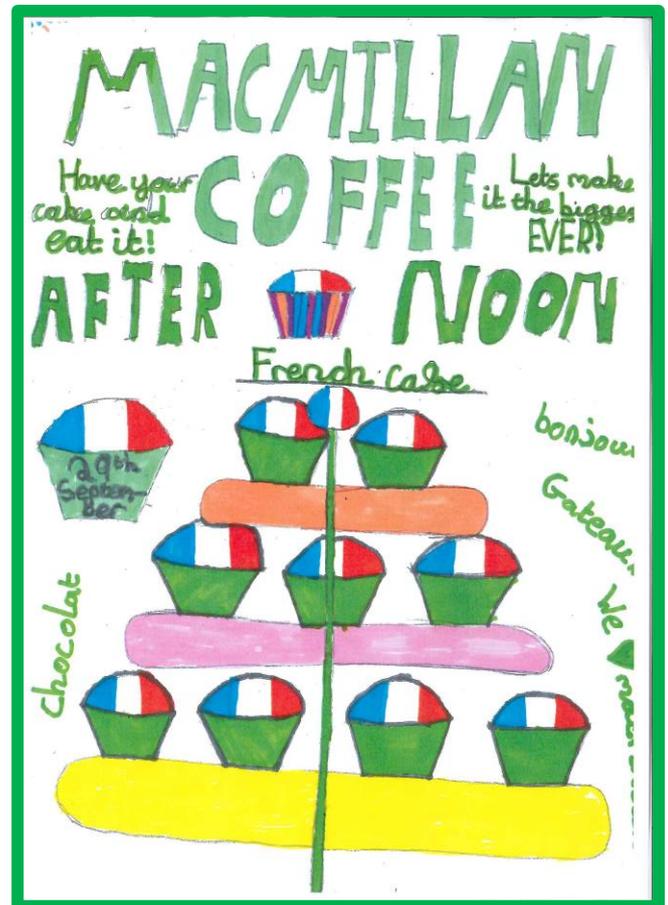
Internet Safety Meeting for Parents – Tuesday 29th September at 7pm

A letter has been sent home today to parents of children in Years 3 to 6 and another is attached to the newsletter. Al Kitchen, father of Toby, Seb and Bertie, will be delivering a session for parents to enable you to support your child/ren in safe use of the internet. Apologies for the short notice but this meeting has been arranged in response to an incident that was brought to my attention very recently. All parents are welcome and I hope that as many as possible, particularly those of you with older children, are able to attend. The meeting will last approximately an hour.

Macmillan French Cafe

Come and visit our French Café in support of Macmillan Cancer Relief. Years 5 and 6 have been working very hard to provide us with an afternoon of tea and cakes. Please join us on Tuesday 29th September between 1.30-4pm for fun activities, a cuppa and a cake!

A big thank you for all the many donations we have already had...it really is a massive school effort because we have had donations from Reception parents through to Year 6 parents!



WANTED!!!

The Reception class are after a Girls' World (or 2) for a new activity in their classroom. The children will be following hair-do instructions with combs, brushes and clips a-plenty! I'm sure I didn't have that much fun when I was at school!

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Elena in Year 3. Elena is always polite and helpful with a beaming smile and it is lovely to see how grown up and responsible she is becoming. The children told us: "Elena is very kind and supportive to other children; she 'gets stuck in' at football; Elena is always positive about things and gives things a go; she lets everyone play her games in the playground; she lets people play in her games when they have no-one to play with." Miss Mannion mentioned that Elena was very welcoming to the supply teacher this week, asking if there was anything she could do to help her. She is very smiley and welcoming. Well done Elena – you should be very proud.

Pre-school news:

This week we have continued to develop new friendships within our 'super hero' play which is motivating us at the moment. On Friday we worked really hard with our number skills as we weighed the ingredients to make some delicious cupcakes.

Reception news:

The children have enjoyed their first 'Show and Tell' sessions this week; they have been very brave, standing up in front of the class and sharing their special possessions. We have been thinking hard about what makes a good question to ask and how important it is to listen carefully when our friends are showing us something that is special to them. We have practised putting up our hands and taking it in turns to speak when we are in a big group on the carpet. Henry brought in his Tummy Ache game and we had a lovely time playing it together in groups, Henry explained exactly what we should do and encouraged us to take it in turns and avoid the 'yucky bug food!' Well done everybody!

We welcomed Grace into our class this week; she will be gaining work experience with us every Tuesday. Grace may be a familiar face to some as she has worked in the Town Nursery in Chipping Norton and is now taking steps to continue her career, working with Reception aged children.

Please ensure that your child has a book bag in school every day as we are beginning our reading sessions on Monday and will only be able to send home reading books if there is a bag to keep it safe.

Interest Table: We are kicking off the year with a display of pictures and photos of the children entitled, 'All about Me'. You might like to find a photo of your child with their family, pet, favourite toy, on holiday or a special day out. If they prefer, your child could draw or paint a picture instead of bringing in a photo. We would love them to write their name as a minimum or attempt to write a short caption with your support if they are able, eg, "This is my red bike."

Show and Tell rota will continue each week.

Year 1 & 2 news:

Pirates have been everywhere this week! Our English lessons for the next couple of weeks will continue to focus upon the story of 'The Night Pirates' as we use it as a model to create our own story and to learn about the correct use of capital letters, full stops, commas in lists, exclamation and question marks. We have also used the story to create a dance which the children are desperate to perform to you after their success last year with the 'Three Little Pigs' dance. It will be a few weeks before the polished version will be ready for viewing so details of date, venue and time will be released in due course. Our history investigations have been digging up information on famous pirates such as Blackbeard and Calico Jack. The children were fascinated to learn that there were famous female pirates too, I'll let them tell you all about those as the homework this week is to make a poster about the life of a famous pirate. Good luck me hearties!

Year 3 & 4 news:

Thanks to all the parents who came to Tuesday's 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon. A huge response and so lovely to have an opportunity to meet you all. Thanks again for making me so welcome at Great Tew School. (A separate letter will follow on Monday to clarify all points covered in that meeting and for all the parents that couldn't make it.) In Art this week we have been exploring David Hockney's love of the sunny shores of America. We have created some very colourful swimming pool designs in his flamboyant style. We noted how these landscapes compared to his studies of the Yorkshire countryside. In History we have been unravelling more layers about the life and times of Robert Catesby. The adjectives to describe him fitted in perfectly with the English we have been doing this week. We discovered that he was **wild** and **rebellious** in his youth. He didn't finish his degree at Oxford University. As he became more religious we noted that he became more **focused** as well as **charismatic**. He was very popular and well regarded by others. We were also surprised to find that he was the mastermind behind the whole Gunpowder plot...and not Guy Fawkes! We will be investigating more to see if he was more of a Villain or a Hero? We have also confirmed that we will be visiting Coughton Court, near Alcester on Monday 2nd November to investigate Robert Catesby's role in the Gun Powder Plot more fully. (Details to follow soon) Well done to Sophie! Her Poster of Modern Britain has been chosen for our Historical Timeline. Her poster showed how migration is a big part of Modern Britain today. Other excellent posters depicted the Rugby World Cup and the 63 magnificent years that Queen Elizabeth II has reigned over the country. Hot topics and ones we will be covering in more depth with our Newspaper coverage in English lessons!

Year 3 & 4 news (continued):

Star of the Week:

Indiana...what a fantastic PE lesson she had yesterday! She is becoming a really skilful footballer and made everybody grin when she shouted and encouraged her team mate, "Come on Tilly!"

Home Learning Hero:

Phyllida...a fantastic piece of 'Villain & Hero' home learning. A great write up on Lassie as well as a picture and an illustration to go with it!

Year 5 & 6 news:

On Tuesday all the children from year 6 were driven to Rewley Road Fire Station in the centre of Oxford by three kind parents to take part in Junior Citizens, the emergency services roadshow. Over two hectic hours they took part in eight real life scenarios which they had to solve and then they were graded on how safe or quick thinking they were. They learnt lots about safety and Finlay said "It was really fun, I enjoyed all of it!" Hopefully all the Year 6's came back a little wiser and safer! The winning team was Eliza, Hattie, Jemima, Blythe, Maddie, Scarlet and Millie but only by 2 1/2 points!! *Report by Jamie and Finlay.*

Many thanks to Mrs Beggin, Mr Collins and Mrs Floyd for being our brave and patient taxi drivers to fight the traffic and the roadworks in Oxford (they need a medal!).

Homework heroes this week are Blythe and Millie (I couldn't decide between them!) for really challenging themselves in the maths this week and clearly showing their working out – I could really see their learning and improvement!

Sporting hero of the week was Ollie who put in a brilliant effort during the very wet and hilly cross country run.

Student Update Forms

These went out in school bags today for years 1 to 6. Please could you ensure that these are returned to the office, even if there are no changes to be made, so that we can ensure that the information we hold on your child is up to date.

Stars of the Week

A very big well done to our stars of the week. They have all excelled this week.

- Reception – Meredith
- Year 1 & 2 – Louis
- Year 3 & 4 – Indiana
- Year 5 & 6 – Scarlett

Footie-tastic footballer this week was Archie Leigh-Wood. Well done for great team work and fair play.

Harvest Festival

On Sunday 27th September at 3pm there will be a Harvest Festival and Feast at St Johns Church, Little Tew. There will be a collection taken for 'Refugee Action'. This service is always fun for the whole family.

Nits!

Once again our pesky friends are paying us a visit so please could you ensure you check your child(ren) and treat them as soon as possible.

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 |