

Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 236

Friday 9th October 2015



Individual School Photographs

These will be taking place on Tuesday 20th October. The photographer will be taking individual portraits and sibling groups for children in all classes plus pre-school. This year we are trying something different as well. The photographer will be in the hall from 8.30 to 9am so that you can bring your littlest children into school to be photographed with their older siblings. If you would like your children to be photographed with their baby brother or sister, you will need to bring the children to the hall at 8.30. In order to fit everyone in during the morning we will need to start photographing the classes at 9am so please be prompt!

Welcome

We were very pleased this week to welcome Beau Deacon into Year 4. The children have given her a Great Big, Great Tew welcome and we hope that Beau will be very happy here. Please do look out for Beau and her mother Sophie if you see them in the playground.

45 Brand New Laptops – Thanks to a Very Generous Donation

Yesterday the children (and staff!) were truly thrilled to open up the three trolleys of brand new laptops that are now set up and ready for use. The children's eyes gleamed as they looked inside to see 45 state of the art Dell laptops, loaded with programmes and all linked to the network. With school budgets the way they are, this purchase was only made possible due to an incredibly generous anonymous donation made by a parent. These laptops are going to quite literally transform the way we teach the children, not only enabling robust coverage of the computing curriculum but also enabling the children to develop their application of ICT through its use in other subjects such as maths, English, art and music. The children are itching to put the laptops to good use, and with 45 of them we know that there will always be enough to go round. They know how lucky they are and I know how much they would like to say thank you for this incredibly generous donation. A huge thank you comes from me too, as from all the staff, and I am so looking forward to the children's skills developing over coming months. We have a little money left over (due to the Gift Aid on this donation) and are hoping to spend this on a new CTouch interactive screen for one of the classrooms.

Pre-school news:

The children have enjoyed starting to learn about the change in seasons and thinking about the different colours, shapes and patterns that Autumn brings - perhaps when you are out and about with your children this weekend you could collect interesting leaves, conkers or other Autumnal items for us to share together. Writing/mark making has also been extremely popular with the children who have asked for Butterfly Cottage to be transformed into a 'Writing Shed'. We have taken their ideas on board and will be creating this with the children on Monday.

Reception news:

*We're making lots of silly soup, we're making soup that's silly!
We're going to cook it in the fridge and make it nice and chilly!*

This week we have been rhyming anything and everything! We sang rhyming songs and read rhyming stories. We played a game called 'Silly Soup' where the children had to combine the items that rhymed and then stir them up as we all sang the song, so why not find as many rhymes as you can at the weekend, or even make your own silly soup! Next week we will be exploring alliteration linked with our harvest soup ingredients, for example, Lucy Leek and Peter Potato!

In maths the children were learning different ways to make sure that they counted a set of objects carefully and accurately. We found that when counting a larger number of small objects it really helped to line them up and touch each item.

The children got changed for PE this week so quickly, well done everyone, you were brilliant! We played 'Sticky Bits' (in the rain!) and the children found more and more challenging places to balance their beanbags on their body without it slipping off.

Interest Table: Thank you to all those that have taken the time to print off photos or create pictures for our class display, the children have been talking so proudly of their families, toys, special times, places and events.

If you have not yet been approached by your Key Person, please catch them early next week to arrange a time to meet up and discuss settling in. Many thanks.

Year 1 & 2 news:

Pirates will literally be taking over the class next week! We have all designed a pirate glove puppet, chosen the materials and tools that are needed to make it and practised various methods of joining two pieces of fabric. The children thought of four possible methods, gluing, taping, stapling and sewing. Some children managed to have a go at all four methods but due to lack of manpower to arrange and supervise 30 needles and thread, not all children had a turn at sewing so they will complete this on Monday! After a class discussion the children decided the best methods were stapling and sewing as they didn't come apart very easily, however, without any prompting they pointed out that staples might rust at sea and could scratch your hand! So sewing it is! If you are able to offer any help on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday afternoon for the next couple of weeks PLEASE come and speak to me or just turn up, you will be VERY WELCOME!

Year 3 & 4 news:

A big warm welcome to Beau Deacon who joined our class this week. She has only been with us a week...yet she's slotted in seamlessly. I'm delighted to say that my class are excellent at making newcomers feel very welcome. This week the children completed a study of the character of Guy Fawkes as well as the Houses of Parliament. It was very interesting to see how these were woven into the story of the Gun Powder Plot. The English homework completed this week was outstanding and gave me a real insight into what intrigues and interests some of the children in my class. Many of our talented parents featured in the local articles found by the children. I'm also delighted to say that the entries in our Reading Diaries have improved dramatically this week...keep up the hard work!

Home Learning Hero is Ioan - his English homework was outstanding this week. He was asked to research local and international news items. He located amazing articles internationally as well as news about his own family and neighbours. Excellent work and well done for going the extra mile.

This week's **Sporting Hero** was Bella Evans-Pollard - who surprised herself by hammering a superb goal into the back of the net during Wednesday's Football training.

Star of the Week is Ben Jefferson - for his sheer determination to do the best he possibly can in all areas of the curriculum. He is always so cheerful and motivates others around him. Well deserved.

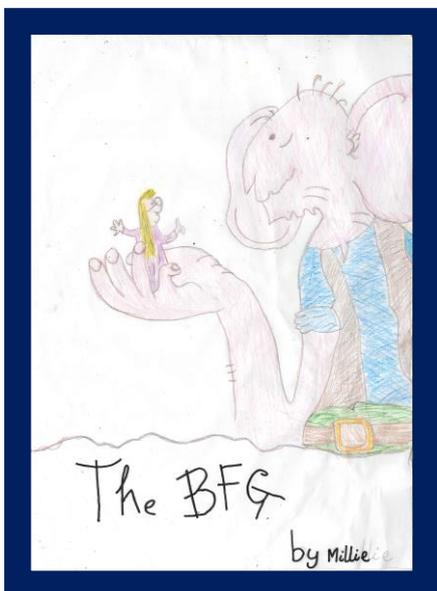
Year 5 & 6 news:

You may have heard the crooning of Michael Bublé coming from Year 5 & 6 classroom this week; they were getting into the Christmas spirit with a few carols as they finished off designing their fantastic Christmas cards. So please don't buy any cards yet until you have seen your child's masterpiece – proofs will be sent home in about 2 weeks' time!

The children were very excited this week as they got to try out the brand new laptops; we completed some online maths games and then Miss Connor got them to design their own Bayeux Tapestry using an online programme. It opens up a world of exciting learning and there are enough for EVERY child to have one since we can use Miss Mannion's too!

Roald Dahl Day Competition

Well done to Millie in Year 6, who was one of the runners up in the Roald Dahl Day competition run by Simply Education. Millie impressed the judges with her illustration of the BFG and she has won herself a copy of the BFG.



The Fundraising Continues Outside School...

Congratulations go to Rosie and Isabelle Heath, together with Millie, Loic and Milo Cobb Stanier, all of whom completed the Hook Norton alternative race for life last weekend. They were all dressed in pink for the occasion and completed the 5k course at a great pace. Rosie won a 2nd in the Under 8 girls category, and Milo came 1st in the under 7 boys category. They have all been collecting sponsorship and have raised well over £200 for Cancer Research.

Christmas Fair – Saturday 5th December at 11am

If anyone would like to help organise or run the fantastic annual Tew Christmas Fair then please get in touch with Mrs. Catling. Santa and his elves are ready and Angela is waiting in the wings to give her support in very way she can – many hands make light work!!

Stars of the Week

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

Reception –	Henry
Year 1 & 2 –	William
Year 3 & 4 –	Ben
Year 5 & 6 –	Bertie

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Archie Grant in Year 5. Archie is gentle and kind with a good word for everyone and he is particularly good at noticing when something needs doing and offering a helping hand. The children's comments included, *'Archie has lovely manners all round school'*; *'he is polite and helpful'* and *'says please and thank you'*; *'he's always kind playing games, he lets people play what they want'*; *'whenever there is a big argument going on Archie sorts out problems by getting people to talk to each other'*; *'he lets you borrow things in class like his pencils'*; *'he always sees the good side in people and situations'*. Miss Connor added that *'he works hard and doesn't interrupt the learning of other children but will help them when they are stuck'*. Well done Archie – you are a great role model for the younger children.

Harvest Festival – Collecting for the Banbury Food Bank

Our Harvest Festival is coming up next week. Every class is making up a harvest box for the Banbury Foodbank and we hope that this year we will be able to donate even more than we did last year to those in the local area in need of a little support. Please give as generously as you are able. Thank you. Further details about the Harvest Festival were sent home on Monday.

“Remembering the Romans” at the Ashmolean Museum – a FREE event

Sunday 22nd November 2015 - no booking needed Take part in a big day of Roman inspired activities as we explore how Romans remembered and celebrated their loved ones. Listen to Roman stories, carve an inscription, test your code-cracking skills on real Latin inscriptions, enjoy eye-opening talks and tours and explore the newly installed interactives and Roman displays in the Museum. For the full programme go to www.ashmolean.org/rememberingtheromans

Parents' Evenings

A reminder that parents' evenings for parents of children in years 1 to 6 are taking place next week. Arrangements for parents of reception children are slightly different this term and appointments are being made for you to meet your child's key person to talk about how they have been getting on in this very important first term at school.

Half Term – Inset Days

Please note that the school will be closed for staff training on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October and that the following week is Half Term. School finishes at 3.15pm on Wednesday 21st October and re-opens at 8.40am on Monday 2nd November.

Year Six Parents – Application for Secondary School Admissions

Please note that the deadline for applications is 2nd November. Applications should be made online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

Enjoy the weekend everyone, 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