



Great Tew School Newsletter
Issue 240
Friday 13th November 2015



MATHS WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS - TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

- Do you find it hard to support your child with their maths home learning?
- Do you find the methods the children use different to those you were taught yourself?
- Come along on Tuesday from 5-6pm to find out more about how maths is taught in school.
- See some of the practical resources that your children use, together with text books and sample problems.
- Have a go at some calculations yourself, using the equipment the children use.
- Look at the new expectations for children in every year group.

There will be two workshops in each class, one from 5.00-5.30pm and one from 5.30-6.00pm. They will be practical and hands-on, with activities set up in the classroom for you to have a look at. There will plenty of opportunity for you to ask questions and have a go at some calculations yourself, using the methods that the children use. If there is something that you would particularly like explained, please mention it to your child's teacher.

If you are unable to come along, we will be sending some simple information home to help you support your children. We will also put some of the information and resources on the school website, together with links to useful websites that may support your child/ren's maths learning at home.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



GREAT TEW CHRISTMAS FAIR



- Thank you very much for all your kind donations- we have had some very generous gifts brought in.
- Lists for cakes and stalls are up on the year 3/4 noticeboard – please put your name down.
- A number of high value items will be auctioned on a bidding wall which will be displayed in the hall starting Monday. You can bid for items such as beauty treatments at Soho Farmhouse, a giant Toblerone and a large print by celebrity photographer Chris Floyd. Bidding starts as little as £1.00, but we hope to raise lots of money so please bid generously! Bidding will end on the day of the fair at 2p.m.
- Our second non-uniform day is on Friday 20th November – please donate items for the tombola or raffle.

Saturday 5th December, 11.00a.m. —2 p.m.

News from Pre-School

This week we enjoyed a very special firework party with our friends in the reception class where they introduced us to a new firework song. Both classes had made dancing sparklers and we used these to move to the music and look at the way the different sparklers encouraged us to move. Some lovely big shapes were formed and after all that dancing we relaxed with some bonfire food and drink.

The end of the week brought our 'Gingerbread Baking' skills to life when we made our very own real gingerbread men, gingerbread ladies and gingerbread super hero's with Ann. The result was very tasty and we had enough to share with our friends in reception - thank you Ann!

News from Years 3 & 4

Year 3 and 4 children have had a very busy week entering competitions. Christmas came early this week and the children produced some fantastic designs for the Strutt and Parker Christmas card competition. Very festive! They also produced some outstanding letters for the Royal Mail Young Letter Writer Competition. Their dream jobs ranged from Racing Car Champions to Zoo Keepers. There was a very impressive range of career choices and I'm sure many of my class will achieve their dreams. The children also used their letter writing skills to write some excellent thank you letters to the staff at Coughton Court, which we visited last week. I'm delighted to have some masters at letter writing in my class after a busy writing week.

Star of the Week: **Sebastian Stewart** - for really applying himself and producing an excellent 'Dream Job' letter in a short space of time.

Sporting Hero: **Seb Kitchen** - for being a caring and supportive member of the team during hockey lessons.

Home Learning Hero: **Loic Cobb-Stanier** - for producing very detailed maths homework. His design had very precise measurements for a piece of furniture he was crafting at home.

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Lila in Year 1. Lila is a very grown up little girl who just loves life in the classroom and works diligently all of the time to make sure that she does the very best that she can. Lila is kind and supportive to all of the other children and she never needs to be asked twice to follow an instruction, setting a fantastic example to others, even those older than she is. The children told us: *Lila always plays very nicely with her friends; she sits quietly on the carpet and she puts her hand up and never shouts out; Lila never gets anything wrong in our dance because she listens well; Lila says please and thank you and excuse me; everyone always looks like they're having fun when they're playing with Lila.* Well done Lila – you should be very proud of yourself. We certainly are!!

News from Reception - Fireworks -a-go-go...

We have had the most fantastically creative week!

We shared our firework experiences and drew pictures and wrote our news in our diaries. We played with sparkly playdough, making fireworks with straws and stars and used small pins to hammer beads into a 'firework pumpkin'! We explored metallic crayons on black paper and even sprinkled, plopped and scraped powder paint colours onto our black tray to make firework effects.

Everyone had fun at our joint firework display party that we planned together with Pre-school; we made firework sandwiches to share and drank hot chocolate to warm our hands after we sang our firework song and danced with our handmade sparklers!



The children have also learnt about the story of Rama and Sita and made their own diva lamps out of clay as they talked about Divali with Mrs Miles. Some of the children decided they'd like to use the playdough to make Divali fireworks and sparkling wedding cakes for Rama and Sita!

Alongside this theme we have read the story 'A Dark, Dark Tale' and began to think about dark, dark places that we know. The children have enjoyed using the torches to find dark corners and have explored the language they can use to describe them.



I was extremely proud of the children on Wednesday as we sat in silence for a whole minute to 'look at poppies and remember the soldiers in the wars'. (Arthur Colville's words.) What a lovely, positive experience with a group of very thoughtful and respectful children.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & YEAR 2

The Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be performing their Christmas production on Tuesday 8th December. There will be two performances for their parents/families/friends, one at 2pm and one at 6pm. Please note that due to overcrowding last year (it was a sell-out show!!) we will be issuing tickets this year. We will have to restrict tickets (initially) to two tickets per family per performance, with the possibility of requesting additional tickets if there are some spare seats. A letter will go out shortly with further information. The older children will all see the dress rehearsal on Monday afternoon.

News from Years 1 & 2

Another week of pirate adventures and activities; I'm actually having dreams about them now! Everyone has completed their pirate hand puppets (hurrah I hear from some mums and grandmothers!) with some children showing extremely competent design and sewing skills. The children are desperate to take the puppets home but I would really love to make a beautiful classroom display of them. If anyone creative has some display skills they would like to share with us I would be very appreciative.

In our English lessons we have read and followed instructions to make pirate sandwiches and a pirate hat; yesterday we started to write our own set of instructions for 'How to make an amazing pirate hat'. We have been thinking about organizational features of the genre such as titles, 'you will need' lists, numbered steps, diagrams, top tips etc and how we can incorporate these things into our own writing. Whilst writing the instruction sentences we have started the sentences with an appropriate time connective such as first, next, after that, then, meanwhile or finally and then used an imperative verb (bossy verb) like draw, cut, stick. The children have been hot on making sure their sentences are correctly punctuated and woe-betide me if I forget to put a full stop when recording their ideas on the board!

The pirate dance is coming along nicely; we have decided to create separate Year 1 and 2 performances which has helped to slightly subdue the enthusiasm and chaos of the fight scene. The children are desperate to perform to you; I'm not sure how long I can hold them off!

Stars of the Week

Well done to the following children, our hard-working and enthusiastic Stars of the Week.

Reception: Sophie
Year 1 & 2: Rose
Year 3 & 4: Sebastian
Year 5 & 6: Imo

Enjoy the weekend everyone – and see you on Monday.

Mrs Lucy Miles

Christmas Dates

Please see dates overleaf, but can I draw your attention to the following Christmas dates and events:

Sat 5 th Dec	Christmas Fair 11-2pm
Tues 8 th Dec	KS1 & Reception Production 2pm and 6pm
Sat 12 th Dec 5pm	Village Carol Service – all children are invited to sing in the service
Weds 16 th Dec	Whole school trip to the pantomime – Aladdin at the Oxford Playhouse – letter to follow.
Thurs 17 th Dec	Christmas Feast – for all children – further details to follow
Friday 18 th Dec	End of Term Church Service- all parents and families invited

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 17 th November	Maths Workshop for Parents 5.00 - 6.00pm.
Friday 20 th November	Non-Uniform Day. Please donate an item for the tombola or raffle.
Tuesday 1 st December	Year 1/2 Trip to Sea Life Centre
Wednesday 2 nd December	Year 3/4 Ball Skills Festival, 3-4.45pm
Saturday 5 th December	Christmas Fair 11-2pm
Tuesday 8 th December	KS1 and Reception Production 2pm
Tuesday 8 th December	KS1 and Reception Production 6.00pm
Saturday 12 th December 5pm	Village Carol Service
Wednesday 16 th December	Pantomime
Friday 18 th December	End of Term Church Service. Term ends, 2pm
11 th -15 th January	Year Six Residential visit to Yenworthy
Wednesday 20 th January	U11 Swimming Gala - 1-3.30pm

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