



Great Tew School Newsletter
Issue 242
Friday 27th November 2015



Christmas Fair; Saturday 5th December 11.00 - 2 p.m.

Come and meet Santa, do your Christmas shopping and treat yourself to a delicious mulled wine or coffee and cake and support your children's school at the same time!! This fundraiser will provide important, essential items for every class and we are hoping to buy interactive screens for some of the classrooms. So if you can't come along please buy some raffle tickets and place a bid on the bidding wall!

There will be a variety of stalls where you can do your Christmas shopping including: scarves, make-up and jewellery and home-made items including: up-cycled Christmas decorations, children's crafts made at school and beautiful Christmas home decorations.

There is lots for children to do: Santa hat hoopla, Christmas lights game, cuddly tombola and gingerbread decoration, face-painting and buy: sweets, pocket money funny toys, bric a brac and new cuddly toys.

Have lunch here with lots of tasty treats including hot dogs, a chocolate fountain, the cake stall and a children's sweet stall!

Breaking news: two new fantastic items have gone up on the bidding wall - family tickets to Gifford's Circus and Victoria Pendleton auto-biography and Olympic t-shirt.

Raffle tickets for the two totally luxurious, absolutely indulgent, posh hampers and other amazing items are coming home on Monday in your child's school bag - tickets cost 20p each or £1 per strip!

How You Can Help Support Your Children's School:

- *Come along on the day, bring your family and friends, and lots of money to spend!*
- *Buy some raffle tickets and sell them to your friends and family too*
- *Place some bids on our bidding wall – it will be in the playground next week.*
- *Have a clear out and bring any bric-a-brac/new to you items for our stalls*

We are still looking for the following offers of help:

Someone to run the cake stall and some other stalls too

Helpers to set up the tables on Friday after school

Santa's helper – to help Mrs Platt set up Santa's Grotto and sell tickets

Thank you for your support!



Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Florence in Year 3. Florence is a smiley, cheerful little person who goes out of her way to make other people feel special. She plays with all of the other children, sharing her friends and not keeping them to herself, and she is someone who never gets herself embroiled in disagreements and upsets. Florence always keeps an eye out for others, both children and adults, and she has a smile for everyone. The children told us: *Florence helps other children to make friends; when we have an argument she takes it out on me in a nice way!! (says Bertie!); she's funny; when Florence was in Year 2 she was kind to us Year 1s; if someone goes to the friendship stop and Florence is playing with her friends, she will bring her friends over and ask if the other person wants to join their game.* That is truly lovely manners – well done Florence!

Stars of the Week

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

Reception:	Cecily
Year 1 & 2:	Tom
Year 3 & 4:	Otterlie
Year 5 & 6:	Archie G

News from Pre-School

This week has seen us getting very busy creating lots of very different decorations to make our houses look very festive for the arrival of Father Christmas. We have started learning our Christmas songs which the children will perform at our Christmas party on December 11th. As a staff team we have been particularly impressed with the way the children are developing their name writing abilities, the concentration and hard work they have put into this has been a delight to witness.

I am sure Lyon's Christmas party on Sunday will see the children starting to get very excited about this very special time of year and we will begin to embrace this by making our room look very festive next week - please could we ask that if you have any old tinsel or baubles you no longer require you bring them in for the children to make use of over the next few weeks.

News from Reception

Busy, busy, busy... this week we looked at the letter sounds /b/ and /f/ and found examples of words where we see the /ff/ sound at the end, eg, huff, puff, fluff. Thank you for your hard work at home on your Letters and Sounds books, we are so pleased to see everyone confidently sounding out and recognising a range of key words already. Please remember not to tick or write on these books at home as it makes it very difficult for us to see your child's progress.

In Maths we have explored all things measures, the children may well ask you to lie down so that they can see 'how many pens long' you are! We have used lots of tall/tallest/short/shorter language and filled different containers to find out which holds more as we practise capacity vocabulary such as half full, empty and overflowing!

On Wednesday we studied Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' painting and the children were extremely observant, offering interesting thoughts and opinions about the things that they could see. They then used their fingers to swirl wonderfully thick paint in black, blue, yellow and gold in an attempt to copy what they had seen. The results were wonderful, look out for them on display soon!

Letters home this week: please make sure that you have seen the letters referring to the Christmas play seat allocation and costumes. If you have missed either of these, see a member of the team as soon as possible.

News from Years 1 & 2

Pirate hand puppets are now swarming across our classroom walls. Please feel able to come in and admire them as the children are very proud of their achievements, and so they should be, they look amazing. We have also completed our instruction writing unit of learning where the children have written instructions for making a pirate hat and a pirate treasure map. Together we compiled an 'instruction writer's checklist' and used this to check that our work was as good as it could possibly be. The children also checked the work of a partner to improve their work even more!

Play practice is well under way now; if your child has a speaking role would you please help them to rehearse their words slowly, clearly and in a fairly loud voice without shouting! Good luck!

COSTUMES: There are two shepherd's costumes in school if anyone would like to borrow them.

News from Years 3 & 4

Year 3 and 4 children have been busy researching this week, finding out about King James I and what life was like in England in 1605. He was quite a character! With Christmas around the corner we have started our preparations by looking at why Christians have Advent in the build up to Christmas. The children have made their own Advent Calendars with activities 'to do' before the big day. Wrapping presents, making Christmas Cake...and even tidying their rooms have been listed...you'll be glad to hear.

Star of the week: Otterlie -for always being on task and giving every activity tackled 100%.

Home Learning Hero: Hugo -for not being content with his first piece of maths home learning and continuing until he was happy with the second draft.

Sporting Hero: Royce de Jong. Voted for by our hockey coach Carol as well as the class this week. Royce really helped with sorting out all the PE equipment.

News from Years 5 & 6

Our game companies (the `Tomorrow`; `E-Games`; `Technosquirrels`; `HAJJ`; `Technosaurus` teams) have been busy designing and constructing their electronic board games this week, all involving lots of ideas, discussion, decision making and even compromise! We are constantly discussing which skills and attitudes we need to make our teams work, whilst valuing and hearing each individual member...a life-long skill!

Our Head Boy and Girl contest came to its conclusion on Wednesday this week; almost all of the Year 6's applied and read their professional and persuasive letters to the assembled school on Monday. Every child and member of staff then voted anonymously for their four preferred candidates and then Mr Duffy, (Headteacher of Chipping Norton Secondary School), Miss Butler (former Head Girl herself) and Mrs Miles interviewed each of the shortlisted children. The questions were very hard and the children were extremely nervous but did exceptionally well and after a lot of head scratching and difficult decision making Jamie and Millie were awarded the prestigious honour of being the first ever Head Boy and Head Girl of Great Tew, whilst Finlay and Matilda were announced deputy Head Boy and Girl and Gethin and Maddie were awarded Sports Captains.

The children should all be so proud of the confident way they spoke and their wonderful understanding of what makes Great Tew so great!

Head Girl & Head Boy

I have felt so proud of the oldest children in the school this week. Applying for the position of Head Girl and Boy was a risk for all of them, as they were fully aware that they could not all be chosen and that some would inevitably be disappointed. It was really lovely to see the way that the children supported each other through the process, showing empathy, generosity of spirit and resilience. Mr Duffy was incredibly impressed by all of the children that he met, commenting in particular on their enthusiasm and the way that they spoke about their school. We set ourselves a hard task of selecting Head Girl and Boy and Deputy Head Girl and Boy, with fourteen splendid Year 6 children to choose from; I know you will join with me in wishing Millie, Jamie, Matilda and Finlay well in their new roles and in congratulating everyone else for giving it their very best shot.

Wishing you all a happy weekend,

Mrs Lucy Miles

Christmas Dates

Please see dates below, 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 – St Michael and All Angels
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 9am	End of Term Church Service- St Michael and All Angels - all parents and families invited

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 has been sent out and sign up sheets are in the Year 1 and 2 cloakroom. The older children will all see the dress rehearsal on Monday afternoon.

Dates for Your Diary

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 at 9am	End of Term Service at St Michael & All Angels, Great Tew. 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