



Great Tew School Newsletter
Issue 243
Friday 4th December 2015



Come Along to the 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 Great Tew 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.

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 to buy: sweets, pocket money funny toys, bric-a-brac and new cuddly toys.

Have lunch here with lots of tasty treats including hot dogs, the cake stall, a children's sweet stall and even Scarlet's candy floss stall!

Good Manners' Champion

This week's Good Manners' Champion is Stanley in Year 4. Stanley is a quietly spoken chap but so well-mannered and with particularly good eye contact. Even when Stanley gets flustered or upset by a situation he just handles it calmly and like a true gentleman, without getting himself into a tiz! Stanley is patient and kind to everyone and his gentle manner makes him a great addition to the Year 4 class. The children told us: *if people have an argument he is very good at sorting it out for them gently; Stanley is always fun to play with; when he sorts things out or there's a problem, he doesn't boss you around, he always says please! He plays with different year groups, not just children of his own age.* Well done Stanley – we have all noticed your lovely manners and we are so glad you came to join us at Great Tew.

Stars of the Week

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

- Reception:** Theo
Year 1 & 2: Sophia F-F
Year 3 & 4: Indiana
Year 5 & 6: Finlay

News from Pre-School

Sunday's party has very much got us all into the Christmas season - the children loved the party and arrived full of fun and excitement on Monday morning. A huge thanks to Lyon and his family for our amazing experience. We have continued the Christmas excitement by making our playroom look very festive with decorations that we have really enjoyed making.

We particularly enjoyed a free flow Christmas craft morning with our friends in reception on Tuesday which was a fantastic event with all of us managing to complete six creative challenges each. The beginning of advent has been very exciting and described beautifully by Letitia 'We open one window each day until it is the time to celebrate baby Jesus being born'.

Our sensory tray has been filled with animals and fabrics to encourage us to think about the cold. As we have been so responsive to this, sharing our knowledge and ideas, the grown ups are planning to build on this learning next week. If any children have any books, or can find information on the computer about life in cold climates we would be very pleased to share it together as a group.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION Tickets Please!!

Tickets for "It's A Baby!" have been sent home today. Please do make sure that you have a ticket for everyone coming to the performances, even small children. If you need additional tickets, there may be a few spare so please ask in the office on Monday. Thank you.

News from Reception

We had a fantastic morning on Tuesday, it was our annual joint Christmas craft morning with our friends and siblings in Pre-School. The children had a range of six different crafts to complete, with threading, sticking, winding and sprinkling skills well and truly developed, we were all head to toe in glitter by lunch time with smiles all round! A big thank you to Evelyn's mummy for kindly giving her time on Tuesday morning to help the children. This week the children have been listening to different versions of the Christmas story and considering how the characters relate to our own Christmas play. We have also been busy polishing up our play so that it is ready for you to see next week in all its glory! Please remember that ALL costumes must be with us on Monday morning, ready for the dress rehearsal... we can't wait!

Our Christmas Interest Table is full to bursting with lovely items that the children have enjoyed sharing with us and we are all very proud of our amazing homemade advent calendar.

In letters and sounds this week the children have looked at the letters /l/ and /ss/ and tried hard to read and spell words with these sounds.



News from Years 1 & 2

Pirates have taken a back seat this week as rehearsals for the play have taken over our lives. Pirate songs continually in my head have been replaced with 'It's a Baby', 'We've come to see the Baby' and other such classics! I'm sure you will have heard them hummed or sung at home. The children have been so enthusiastic and keen to practise this year that the whole experience (so far!) has been rather enjoyable. Many children know everyone's lines by heart and woe betide anyone who slips up as twenty nine other voices chime in with the correct words!

Our trip to the Sealife Centre in Birmingham was a big hit with the children and adults too. The children (and quite a few of us adults!), all came away having learnt something amazing about creatures of the sea. The behaviour was fantastic and it was so good to receive compliments from staff at the centre about their enthusiasm, engagement and good manners.

After the play finishes next week we are moving on with our topic to create clay sculptures based on underwater creatures. I would like to show the children some examples of sculptures made from different materials such as metal, clay wood etc and wondered if any of you have small sculptures that you would be prepared to lend us for a couple of days. They don't need to be sculptures of sea creatures and I can assure you that I have a high shelf to keep them safe.

News from Years 3 & 4

This week has been a busy week in Year 3 and 4. In English we completed our diaries by imagining being a famous person for a whole week. Our artistic talents have been very much in evidence as well. Portraits have been produced by sketching our buddies and photographs have been dramatically changed on the iPads using a photo editing programme...it produced some very interesting results! Home Learning was of an outstanding quality this week. The Christmas Fair posters have been displayed in the hall directly outside Miss Mannion's Classroom. Please come and have a look at them on Saturday if you have a chance.

The highlight of the week has to be the Ball Skills Festival at Chipping Norton School on Wednesday afternoon. This was Miss Mannion's first experience of a partnership festival at Chipping Norton School and she was very impressed with how the Year 11 boys from Chipping Norton School had organised such a fun and exciting afternoon for our Year 3/4 children. Our children stepped up to the mark and worked alongside children from four other West Oxfordshire schools beautifully. They were competitive, fully engaged and well-mannered but more importantly they had FUN! A great afternoon.

Star of the week: Indiana - for her outstanding maths work this week. Indiana's knowledge of fractions is fantastic. She also gave us 100% effort at the Balls Skills Festival.

Sporting Hero: India - for really getting stuck into every game and having a big smile throughout the afternoon.

Home Learning Hero: (A TOUGH ONE THIS WEEK!) Rosie - the quality of Rosie's sketching and designing is breath taking!

Christmas Dates

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

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
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

Village Carol Service

On Monday we will put up sign-up sheets for the village carol service, taking place next Saturday 12th December at 5pm. This is always a really special service, packed with locals from the surrounding villages. The children will be singing at the service and it would help us to have an idea of who will be coming. Last year there were lots and lots of children, who all looked wonderful in their Christmassy clothes, so please do try to come along and enjoy a little festive cheer. Mulled wine and mince-pies will be served after the service.

Christmas Feast

For those new to the school, this is a wonderful Great Tew Christmas tradition, one which is looked forward to and enjoyed by children, staff and parents alike. The children (and staff!) will enjoy a Christmas lunch all together on long tables in the Year 1&2 classroom. Ed and Andrea Allen are already working hard behind the scenes planning and preparing for this mammoth event and I know they will be asking for a little help. A letter will go home on Monday, and we will be asking for £4 per child to cover the cost of providing this truly delicious lunch.

Look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow morning, to get us all in the Christmas spirit!

Mrs Lucy Miles

Dates for Your Diary

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
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Feast - £4 per child, letter to follow
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