



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 246

Friday 16th January 2016



News from Yenworthy

Mrs Reid and I had a very happy week with the Year 6 children at Yenworthy this week. It is always a privilege to spend time with the children away from school, seeing a different side to that one sees in school. The children's enthusiasm was boundless, commented on by all of the Yenworthy instructors, who were impressed by their teamwork, the way they just got stuck in and had a go, the way they listened and answered questions and of course their sense of fun. The children managed very well at organising themselves (until it came to packing, which proved a little bit of a challenge for some!) and I am sure that parents will notice the children's increased independence and personal organisation! May I suggest continuing the room inspections each morning (with a song or dance thrown in for entertainment of course!)? – there seems to be no better way to encourage bed-making and drawer tidying than a little bit of healthy competition! Well done to all of the children – they were a pleasure to take away, they supported one another incredibly well and I truly didn't hear a moan or a grumble all week, even when it was pretty cold! Mrs Reid and I both enjoyed their company, their enthusiasm and their sense of fun!



Some News from Pre-School

This week the children have been very responsive to our first sound of the week, learning the phonic song for 's' and searching for items beginning with the sound. Next week we will move on to 'a' and would love the children to bring in an item which begins with that sound or maybe a list of things they have seen around the house beginning with the sound.

They have also very much enjoyed exploring space, making rockets, planets, stars and one particularly large rocket which we have on display! Looking at books we have learnt quite a lot - this might be something you wish to continue at home.

There has also been a big interest in music and movement, so as a result Izzy will start a little dance session on a Wednesday morning which should be fun for the children.

Some News from Reception

The children have had fun in the garden this week, creating a role play area to link in with our Three Little Pigs theme. There are building materials-a-plenty and there has been much hard-hat wearing, risk assessing and cement mixing, in fact I don't think that there is a square inch of garden that is not now dripping in wet sand! Alongside this the children have been busy writing signs for the building site and also writing in response to the story. We have been making our own model houses from junk and testing different materials to use for the windows; the children have been using language to name and describe materials, eg, rough, smooth, strong, transparent, see-through, metal, plastic, wood. Test your child's memory and ask them about lines of symmetry over the weekend! We have been exploring patterns in maths, including symmetry, repeating patterns and odd and even number patterns. In Letters and Sounds the children have been reading and spelling words with sh/ch/th spelling patterns.

Some News from Years 1 & 2

Well done to those year 2 parents who demonstrated to their children outstanding resilience with last week's maths homework and a big thank-you for not phoning me at home! This week's homework you will be glad to hear is not algebra but number bonds as both year groups have been learning these in class with the year 2s extending to adding 10, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 30, 31, 32 to any 2 digit number!

In our topic time we have investigated the environmental impact of increasing wealth on developing countries, this led to a huge discussion about water and sewage systems so don't be too surprised if your child seems to have developed a peculiar interest in your septic tank, drains and stopcock!

Stars of the Week

Well done to the following children who have been working hard, displaying a "Growth Mindset" towards their learning. Well done to them all and keep up the good work.

	<u>8th January</u>	<u>15th January</u>
Reception	Arthur M	Arthur C
Year 1&2	Jimmy	Olivia
Years 3&4	Lara	Seb K
Years 5&6	Sophie	Isabella

Good Manners Champion (from last week)

Last week's Good Manners Champion was Matilda in Year Six. Matilda's manners are recognised by us all; she is smiley, kind natured and gentle and she has a true understanding of how her actions affect others, always being considerate to those around her, both young and old. Matilda has a grown-up attitude towards school and is also especially good at dealing with disappointment, never more obvious than during the selection process for Head Girl. The children told us: *when I'm lonely Matilda always helps me find a friend to play with; Matilda is really fun to play with – she has good ideas but then when it's time to learn, she settles down and gets on; she is funny, hardworking and a great person to have around; Matilda is good at welcoming new people to school; Matilda doesn't always tell you about HER life, she's interested in what YOU do and YOU as a person.* Well done Matilda – you do have lovely manners, we all agree!

Help Needed Please!

We are looking for help to tidy our much-used library. We have recently purchased a new selection of fiction and non-fiction books and we need some help to get the library back into order, creating some space on the shelves. Please speak to Mrs Catling or Mrs Miles if you think you can offer any time.

New Door Entry Systems

As part of our on-going work to develop site security and to further safeguard the children, we have had key-fob-operated door entry systems fitted to the Year 3/4 cloakroom door and the two back doors to the old building this weekend. These doors will be open during drop-off time, between 8.40am and 9.00am, and will then be locked for the remainder of the day. This means that there will be one point of entry into school for visitors (the office) with all other doors into the school buildings being locked and inaccessible during the school day. The only people with access to the buildings will be staff, volunteers or governors who have been police checked and are on our Single Central Record. This should not affect parents, but if anything has been left behind and needs to be brought in to school during the day (lunch, PE kit etc) it will need to be dropped at the office to be delivered to the classrooms by a member of staff. Thank you for your co-operation while we get used to this new system.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers Have Started Again

Please get collecting your Sainsbury's vouchers and ask your friends, families and neighbours to do the same. In the past these vouchers have provided many valuable resources for the school including sporting equipment and playground games. The box is in the Year 3 / 4 cloakroom. Thank you.

Wild Flower Seeds

Years 5 & 6 would like to help improve the bank outside Years 1 & 2 by planting wild flowers to attract butterflies. If you have any spare seeds or even time (in March, weather permitting) then please speak to Mrs Catling. Thank you.

Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome two very experienced new members of staff to our team of Teaching Assistants. Mrs Lucy Martin is working in Reception with Miss Read at the end of the week and Mrs Teresa Rumble is currently working in Year 1 & 2 with Mrs Butler and Mrs Woodward at the beginning of the week and in Year 3 & 4 at the end of the week. We are delighted to welcome them both and hope that they will be very happy as part of our small team at Great Tew.

Best wishes to everyone and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday,

Mrs Lucy Miles

OXFORDSHIRE PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

This event, for all primary schools in Oxfordshire, is taking place on Saturday 27th February at Chiltern Edge School, near Reading. Pupils can enter individually or in teams of 3 or more. I know we have lots of keen runners in school and it would be lovely to be able to enter a team for this event. There are separate races for girls and boys, in year group categories from Y1 (640m) to Y6 (1800m). If you are interested in finding out more, please ask in the office for further details.

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 20 th January	U11 Swimming Gala - 1-3.30pm
Wednesday 3 rd February	U11 Netball tournament
Monday 8 th February	Y6 children – IMPS at Horton Hospital
Tuesday 9 th February	Year 3 and 4 Stone Age Activity Day
Wednesday 10 th February, pm	Year 4 children to Carrdus School for drama workshop – parents invited to watch
Tuesday 23 rd February	Year 3 and 4 children to Creative Climbing Centre in Birmingham
Saturday 27 th February	Oxfordshire Primary Cross-Country championship
Thursday 10 th March	Year 5 children singing at Chipping Norton Music Festival
Friday 11 th March	Year 5 Science Day at Tudor Hall
Wednesday 16 th March	Schoolympics for Year 2 and 3 children at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre

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