



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 247

Friday 22nd January 2016



Head Lice!!!! Please Take Action!!!!

We have a severe head lice problem, particularly in Year 1&2, affecting not just the children but staff too. Head lice are uncomfortable and embarrassing for the children and very frustrating for parents and the situation is getting so bad that we have this week had children telling their friends that they aren't allowed to sit next to them because they have nits. We will only eradicate them if everyone deals with the problem. Please note that sprays and lotions don't kill the eggs (nits) they just kill the live lice, so spraying and treating your child's hair won't work on its own; the nits **also** have to be removed with a fine-toothed comb, designed specifically for the job. There is plenty of advice on the internet, with a couple of links that you may find useful listed below:

NHS Choices - <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Diagnosis.aspxx>

Community Hygiene Concern – “Bug Busting” explained - <http://www.chc.org/>

New Match Kit

Here are the children, resplendent in their new match kit that arrived on Monday! They are thrilled with the kit, that they designed themselves. Well done to the School Council, who fundraised for the kit, and thank you again for the very generous donation from a group of parents. The children are looking forward to wearing their new kit (with gold socks to match, we hope) at the netball tournament on Wednesday 3rd February.



News from Reception

With perfect timing we had the coldest weather of the winter and Reception Class spent the week studying ice, how it's made and what happens to it (or maybe the teachers knew the weather was going to be perfect for this topic?!) The children have investigated, experienced and made ice this week, using it to make ice mobiles (not phones!) and then watching them melt and plummet to the cleverly positioned Tuf Spot with a crash!

In Maths the children have been learning how to partition numbers to 10 (4 & 6, 1 & 9, etc.) and lots of doubling and halving facts. Have a go at testing them on double 4 or half of 6 and watch their hands spring up with the correct number of fingers showing.

Lots of super readers this week, but do remember to regularly listen to your child read or share a book with them as practice really does make perfect and once the children can recognise the High Frequency words they will start to read more fluently.

News from Years 1 & 2

My sincere apologies to any parents whose children have refused to eat butter in fear of having a heart attack this week! We have been learning about healthy eating and had an extremely interesting class discussion about what different foods provide to your body to help you grow, give you energy, help your teeth and bones to be strong etc. As part of our learning we looked at the traffic light system on different foods and of course chocolate, sugar, butter and other fats had a red marker which led to lots of questions about 'why' and 'what happens' and of course some children have experience of family members or friends having heart problems. I tried to end the discussion with the message that no foods are bad unless they are rotten or mouldy but some foods should be eaten in moderation in order to have a healthy body.

The children have all completed their traditional story writing this week and are now practising their aural storytelling; if you have time over the weekend ask them to tell you the traditional story from India called 'The Best of Friends' and hopefully some of you will be pleasantly surprised!

News from Years 3 & 4

The children have really been getting their teeth into our Stone Age topic. All of them passed the 'Museum of London' online quiz... 'Could you survive the Stone Age?' and with the wealth of new vocabulary they have learnt have created their own Stone Age word searches on PuzzleMaker.com. They taught Year 5 and 6 children two Elvis 'Rock & Roll' tracks; 'Jail House Rock' and 'You Ain't Nothing but a Hound Dog!' A wealth of rocks and fossils have been brought in from home – we will soon have our own museum! Finally thanks to all the parents who have signed up for our Stone Age Activity Day on Tuesday 9th February.

Sporting Hero: James Zibarras- perfecting his gymnastic moves by 'not giving up'...and practising at home!

Home Learning Hero: Loic Cobb Stanier- for going that extra mile and wanting to do extra research.

News from Years 5 & 6

In maths, the children have been getting to grips with negative numbers (that's why it was so cold this week!) and learning how to measure and draw angles accurately with a protractor. In English we have been exploring Alfred Noyes' classic poem "The Highwayman", looking at old English words and the language used to describe each character. The children then did a "big write", based on some of the true local murder-mystery tales the children had researched.

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.

Reception	Fran
Year 1&2	Lucia
Years 3&4	Bella
Years 5&6	Harry

World Thinking Day (the Girl Guide/Girl Scout day of international friendship)

World Thinking Day 2016 is on Monday 22nd February and the theme this year is "Connect". To mark the day, the Hook Norton brownies and rainbows have been asked to wear their uniform all day and to share with their peers at school what it means to be part of the girl-guiding community and some of the good things that they do. We hope that all the children who attend Brownies or Rainbows will wear their uniform to school on the 22nd February and perhaps tell us a little bit about what it means to be part of the girl-guiding movement.

Lock-Down Practice

One or two of you may have heard from your children that we had a "lock-down" practice on Thursday. This is to ensure that the children know what to do if we have an emergency situation that necessitates bringing (or keeping) all the children and staff into the safety of the school building/s. The children practised coming in quickly and following a range of simple instructions. Whilst it is important to practise this sort of emergency procedure it is equally important to do it without frightening the children - the emergency situation used as an example was an aggressive dog in the playground. The children were sensible and responsive and understood the need to follow instructions quickly.

Good Manners Champion

Our good manners' champion this week is Ami in Reception. Ami is particularly good at waiting until other people have finished speaking before saying something or asking a question – this is not easy as it sounds when you are only in Reception! She is also very good at saying please and thank you, never needing reminders. Ami has lovely manners around the classroom, being someone who is gentle and friendly, who looks out for other children and who is also lots of fun to play with. The children told us: *Ami is never upset or grumpy – she always looks happy; Ami plays nicely and plays with different children not just the same people every day; if someone is on the friendship stop she always stops and asks if you want to play with her; when she asks me to help put on her gloves or coat she always says please and thank you and gives me a hug!* Well done Ami – we all think you have lovely manners.

"Growth Mindset" in Action

In Monday's assembly I used Dame Kelly Holmes as an example of someone who kept on and on trying, despite numerous setbacks, until she finally won her two Olympic gold medals in 2004 at the age of 34. The older children have been proudly making mistakes this week (!), making good mistakes and learning from them. Some (not yet all) of them are really beginning to understand how important it is to push themselves to do things that they get wrong, things that are initially too hard for them and things that they will have to really work at. It is lovely to hear the children talking about their learning in this way, knowing that if they don't make mistakes they probably aren't trying quite hard enough and they might be just taking the easy option. The younger children are thinking lots about the idea that you have only failed if you have given up – Mrs Butler used this idea to support the children who were struggling with their oral storytelling – and that kept most of them going with a positive "I can" frame of mind. Some of you may have heard Michael Caine being interviewed on the radio on Friday morning. He explained how he became an actor not to be a rich and famous movie star but to become the best possible actor that he could be, competing only against himself, and wanting every performance to be the very best it could be for himself and no-one else. He had never failed, because he had always kept on trying to the best of his ability – perhaps that's why he's still making films at the age of 82!!

New Door Entry System – (and a reminder about morning timings)

A reminder that children should be dropped off in the morning **between 8.40am and 8.55am, when registration takes place**. All children should be in school in enough time to get themselves organised with coats off, hair brushed and belongings away in time for registration at 8.55am. It was noticeable that quite a lot of children were arriving this week at just **after** 8.55am, making them late for registration. Please note that the doors will be closed at just after 8.55am and will remain closed for the remainder of the day. Children arriving late should be brought to the office to be registered there; this ensures that they are marked present in the register, in case of fire. Thank you for your co-operation.

Best wishes to everyone and enjoy the weekend. 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