



Great Tew School Newsletter

Issue 251

Friday 26TH February 2016



Celebrating Books Week – Monday 29th February to Friday 4th March

Lots of activities celebrating books and reading are taking place this coming week, including a Book Swap on Wednesday (for parents and staff too), an extreme-reading photo competition, bed-time stories on Thursday (children can come to school in their pjs or a onesie!) Please make sure you have seen the letter that came home last week.

News from Reception

This week it's all been rather Oriental in the Reception Classroom. If you've popped your head in you will have seen our wonderful role play Chinese Restaurant complete with menus and takeaway order forms. If you've actually crossed the threshold you may well have bumped into our display of lanterns across the room. You may like to ask your child about the traditions associated with Chinese New Year and why the colour red is so important.

If you look up high you can now see our lovely watercolour artwork of 'The View through My Window', it's interesting to learn what the children have for a view, ranging from chickens to a building site and even 'the whole world'!

In Maths we have been focusing on teen numbers, reciting them, recognising them and putting them into the correct order. We've also had a go at estimating the number of items in a group. Theo and Arthur C turned out to be very accurate at this and promised they hadn't been secretly counting!

We revised our class and school rules, always a good idea just after a holiday so we all know what we SHOULD be doing.....and indeed HAVE been doing. What a great bunch we are!

News from Years 1 & 2

The children all enjoyed their half term break and have thoroughly enjoyed telling the class about the things they did. The half term home learning has really helped the children to focus on ordering and including the important aspects of recount such as where did you go, when, who with and why. We have discussed what makes an interesting recount and have compiled a 'recount writer's checklist' that we can use to help us when we write.

In our topic work we have been discussing diversity and variation of living things. The children had great fun sorting each other into different groups depending on the sorting criteria e.g. eye colour, skin tone, hair colour, freckles or no freckles. The year 1 children then used a graph software program to record our eye colour information and the year 2 children used a branching database programme to sort minibeasts.

News from Years 3 & 4

This week Year 3/4 had an amazing time at the Creation Climbing Centre in Birmingham. The class was split into two groups and worked with some amazing instructors. One group used lines of top-ropes, belaying and climbing up impressively high climbing walls. The other group climbed in a huge 6,000 sq ft bouldering area and then the groups later switched. They had to work as teams to reach their climbing potential. All four adults from Great Tew had a go too, much to the amazement of the children! The children were impeccably behaved, pushed themselves to achieve some amazing climbs and were praised by the instructors for their enthusiasm, grit and determination. A great day was had by all!

Sporting Hero: Ben Jefferson, whose natural talent and agility was spotted by the instructors.

Home Learning Hero: Loic for improving the quality and presentation of work completed at home.

News from Years 5 & 6

The week started off with that age old question, 'When is a hyphen not a dash?!' After lots of investigation in books we think we now know - a hyphen separates prefixes from root words to change the meaning or separates two words to make a compound word, whereas a dash separates phrases in sentences to indicate a pause or a new idea.

Think that's hard?! – Then try this online test and see whether your grammar skills are up to the mark!

<http://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2016/01/year-2-grammar/>

Continuing with our theme of murder and mayhem this week we have been learning all about blood in English...did you know your blood contains millions of white cells which are the commandos of your body seeking and destroying germs like the SAS?! We wrote an eye-catching, and attractive explanation text on 'How blood keeps us healthy.'

The Year 6 children gave us a very interesting and educational assembly this morning, all about what they had learnt during their recent IMPS visit to the Horton Hospital. They have learnt some vital life skills and I think you would agree that these children would be calm and confident in a crisis. Well done to them all.

Well done too, to those children who received a certificate for ALWAYS wearing their helmet when they ride their bike. Matilda Mackie wants to make sure that you all get this message, which was drowned out by the clapping at the end of their role play in assembly:

**Remember to wear your helmet.
Helmet Hair? Don't care!
Just one helmet can save your life.
Be safe, not sorry.**

Year 5 and 6 "Murder and Mayhem Horrible History" Trip

We went on a "Horrible History" trip to Chipping Norton. We started off at the Town Hall after being kindly driven there by Mrs Leigh-Wood, Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Souch. After that we were split up into two groups, one group with Mrs Miles and Mrs Reid and the other with Mrs Catling, Mrs Souch and Mrs Sinclair. Then they took us on a tour around Chipping Norton looking at the old buildings such as the Crown and Cushion Hotel and the Almshouses and we visited the fascinating museum too. We learnt all sorts of new things and it made us realise what a fascinating town we live close to! We never knew there were so many ghosts in Chipping Norton! **by Archie Grant & Harry Holmes**

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	Arthur M
Year 1&2	Skye
Years 3&4	James
Years 5&6	Victoria

Good Manners Champion

This week's Good Manners Champion is Emily in Year 4. Emily has not been with us long but has quickly become a good friend to everyone; she plays enthusiastically on the playground with children of all ages and keeps herself out of disagreements. Miss Mannion described Emily as a happy child with a beaming, radiant smile. Emily has impeccable manners and gets really stuck into school life, including attending 4 clubs! Her friends throughout the school added: *Emily has loads of ideas for how to make the games more fun; you never see her waiting at the Friendship Stop; she has a real 'can do' attitude in the classroom; Emily helps people make friends in the playground if they have fallen out; she makes me laugh; she's trustworthy and gives everything her best!* Well done, Emily – you do indeed have lovely manners.

News from School Council

The School Council have had discussions with all the children in school and would like to announce their next charity event. A vote was taken and the chosen charity was Helen & Douglas House. The children were keen to support a local charity and one they had in some cases personal connections with. To raise money they are arranging to hold a Cake Sale on Tuesday 22nd March, possibly with a raffle too – watch this space! For more information on the charity follow this link [Helen & Douglas House](#).

Welcome to Miss Hardy

This week we were very pleased to welcome a new member of staff, Miss Sophie Hardy. Miss Hardy will be working as a Teaching Assistant in our Year 1 and 2 class with Mrs Butler, Mrs Woodward, Miss Butler and Mrs Rumble. We are very pleased to have her with us as part of our team - do go and say hello if you see her around school.

TIME TO CLEAR OUT THOSE CUPBOARDS!!



Second Hand Uniform Sale

Some of our reception parents are planning a second-hand uniform sale in school, to recycle unwanted clothes, save money and raise money for the Great Tew School Supporters' Club at the same time. The exact details and timings are yet to be finalised, but please start sorting out good quality "branded" uniform, together with school uniform items such as trousers & skirts, white shirts and PE kit. Further information will follow after half term.

Bag2School

Our Bag2School collection will take place on Wednesday 20th April. Bags will be sent home on around 14th March. Please start tidying out those cupboards and let's try to make this our biggest collection yet.

The following 'good quality' items are accepted:

- Men's, Ladies and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Belts
- Soft toys

The following are not accepted:

- Duvets, bedding, blankets and household linen
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats
- Curtains
- Towels
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 9 th March	Year 1 Dance Festival – Chipping Norton Leisure Centre
Friday 11 th March	Year 5 Science Day at Tudor Hall
Tuesday 15 th March	Parents' Evening – 4.30 to 6.30
Wednesday 16 th March	Schoolympics for Year 2 and 3 children at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre
Thursday 17 th March	Parents' Evening – 3.30 to 5.30

Easter Events

Tuesday 22 nd March	Egg rolling and egg hunt (children to bring a decorated egg to roll!) Cake Sale in support of Helen & Douglas House
Wednesday 23 rd March	Easter Service at St Michael's Church (9am)– everyone welcome Followed by: Easter Bonnet Parade – children walk back to school in their Easter bonnets
Wednesday 23 rd March	Term finishes at 2pm
Thursday 24 th March	INSET Day – no school for children
Monday 11 th April	Summer Term begins



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