

# THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 100  
February 2015



The Treehouse School



*Netball Match on Monday: Parents Versus Gang 12:7*

## Judokas (Have) Got Talent!

Judo has gone down really well with The Gang this term thanks to 'Sensei' Steve, who is a committed and talented teacher. During their gradings this week, Steve was delighted to see such determination and some good techniques being employed. As a result, all those who took part were successful in their grading. If you would like to order the appropriate belt for your child please let Lee know by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February (there is no obligation). Belts cost £5.00.

Additional judo clubs take place at Fir Tree on Saturdays from 8.45 - 9.30 and Wednesday evening from 6.30 - 7.30 pm if your child is interested.

## Refashion Update

**Oxford Town Hall - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2.30 pm.**

**This is a really great event, and I would encourage anybody interested in recycling or upcycling to attend. It kicks off at 1pm and The Treehouse will be walking down the catwalk in their 'upcycled' outfits at 2.30 pm!**

There is one more refashion workshop in school after half term with experts Anna, Cassie, Emma and Zoe. If your child needs to finish anything for their outfit, or wishes to make some accessories to wear, and you are able to help them, please do so over half term. Otherwise we will help them in school.

## Three Cheers for The Update!

One hundred editions of The Update, who would have thought it? The timing of this milestone couldn't be more apt as we start to think seriously about the school's future.

When Shaz and I first set up The Treehouse, nearly three years ago now, we wanted to be able to offer an alternative primary education to local children, and to prove that doing things in a different way could be just as effective. Well it is. So what next? A bigger school? More children? I very much look forward to seeing you on Tuesday evening when all will be revealed!

In the meantime I am going to enjoy, as I always do, updating you all. Here's to the next 100 editions!

## Dates for Your Diaries

Half Term	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Pancake Race – 10.00 am The Forty, all welcome!
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Optional Dance Workshop with Andrea– 12.00 -1.00 pm. Crowmarsh Village Hall
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Cornerstone Event: 5.45 pm for 6.00 pm start. Children to wear their 'posh' clothes please.
New Term	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	pm Refashion Dance with Andrea
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Robin McClelland (former head of Cholsey school/Brookes lecturer) visiting
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Refashion workshop pm Gardening commences with Vicky tbc
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Judo Lesson Dru cooking with Mags
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Lion King auditions. Please help your child to learn a short Lion King extract to perform at the auditions.

**Pancake Race 10.00 am at The Forty on Shrove Tuesday. Bring your family, friends and neighbours along!**

Thank you Rose for the garden matting that you generously donated to The Treehouse.

**This is the 100<sup>th</sup> Edition of The Update!**



# Going for Gold!

## Trees

Roll a dice, and practise writing the number correctly in your reading log. How many can you do correctly in a minute? Try rolling two die...three die...four die...

## Houses

Take Five Challenge - Can you start anywhere on the sheet and get 28 questions correct in five minutes or under?

## Keeping You and Your Child in the Loop...

We are delighted with the way that the child initiated sessions have been developing this term, and reckon that we are probably one of the only schools in the UK that uses this approach with older child. We have always wanted to replicate the best practice seen in early year's classrooms where children take responsibility for much of their own learning, are engaged, highly motivated and as a result, make good progress.

In any educational setting, we believe that there is a need for both adult-led and child-led learning, and that what children gain from each is unique. It is one without the other that is an impoverished educational experience. If children only ever learn what someone else tells them they need to learn, then we make children very passive as learners. The initiative, problem-solving, negotiation, collaboration, motivation, thinking etc. that comes from following your own interests is lost. Yet the workplace wants these skills. Humans need these skills - in every context of life - so we want to give our children the chance to develop them. We are now at the point where our timetable allows for both adult led and child led periods, throughout the week, which is proving to be really profitable as we see all children make steps forward in all 'smart' areas. You can find out more by sharing and discussing your child's learning log with them.

**If you are looking for something to do at home, how about:**

- **Teaching your family and friends some French!**
- **Writing and illustrating a story with Topper as your main character. What mischief will he get up to?**
- **Finding an extract from Lion King and learning it off by heart ready for the auditions.**
- **Thinking about the outfit you are going to wear during our book fortnight (a character from yesteryear!)**
- **Practising your pancake tossing and running ready for Tuesday!**
- **Brushing up your cycling skills and checking that your bike is roadworthy.**
- **Working on your plasticine model for Herbie's competition.**
- **Knitting.**
- **Creating accessories, for example a bag, to wear with your refashion outfit.**
- **Entering the 100<sup>th</sup> Update competition (see attachment with the Update)**

**This week, a golden mention to Gracie, Harry, Herbie, James and Mags for superb 'Golden Standard with sparkles' Log Book Entries. That's nine in a row!**