

# THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 104  
March 2015



The Treehouse School



Dressing up at The Story Museum

## What a Week!

In the past week we have enjoyed book marathons, story museums, film festivals and a solar eclipse! All in a week's work at The Treehouse you might say...and you would be right.

Although some weeks are busier than others, our intention remains the same: to provide the children with rich learning opportunities and experiences that they will learn from, but also never forget.

So whilst some of us might feel a bit done-in, and in need of a lie down in a darkened room at the end of a busy week, I hope like me, that you reckon it's all worth it, and, after all, that's what weekends are for, right?

## Dates for Your Diaries

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	PE: Dance
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Jill Hanson - Poetry workshop. 2.30 pm Grans and Grandads, parents, friends and neighbours invited to join us to hear some poetry.
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Dress up as a fictional character from the past. Please provide a picnic dish from a story for lunch.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Egg Hunt Wittenham Clumps.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm Bookworm Event, Oxford
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Lion King costume workshop 10 – 3.00 pm at The Treehouse, lunch provided. Adults/Gang
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April.	New Term starts

So glad the Film Festival was so successful. Thank you all for the lovely card and box of goodies. Looking forward to next year!  
Kind regards John Warburton, Corn Exchange.

## Film Festival Photographs

Robert James Photography (ROJA) kindly offered to photograph the children on the red carpet at our Festival this year. If your child was photographed, it will be uploaded to [www.robertjamesphotography.co.uk](http://www.robertjamesphotography.co.uk). They are available to download for free from Saturday morning. Thank you Bob for doing this.

## Fancy That!

Hello, I have just discovered your school via the internet and I felt compelled to write and say how amazed I am by your journey. I am an early childhood teacher in Western Australia and my teaching philosophy seems very much aligned with yours. I am inspired by the work of Sir Ken Robinson and like you, have also dreamt of creating a school, without fees, that embraces nature, creativity and hands on learning. Up until now I doubted it was possible. So thank you for your inspiration. I look forward to following more of your journey. Congratulations on your achievement!

Dear Gang,

I was lost for words, and that does not often occur, when I saw the photographs of your plasticine competition on the weekly up-date. Although I had seen some of the entries being worked on during my weekly visits to the Treehouse School, I had never seen a finished version. Such a high standard was achieved by you all that I was very pleased that I was not a judge on this occasion, and I think you all earned a golden cushion to sit on. Wow! Gilly

**We would love to see you all at our Poetry Assembly on Tuesday afternoon in The Scout Hall at 2.30 pm. Refreshments served afterwards.**



# Going for Gold!

## Trees

After a busy week, please add an entry to your Learning Log. Perhaps you could write about the Film Festival or eclipse.

## Houses

After a busy week, please update your Learning Logs. What has the week helped you to become smarter at?

### Keeping You and Your Child in the Loop... Quality rather than Quantity?

I have been reminded on several occasions over the last few weeks, just how well The Gang are doing, and thinking about why this might be.

- It could be the small ratio of adults to children;
- It could be that we are not bound by Government initiatives and so can be more flexible with our curriculum and provision;
- It could be that we have mixed ages learning alongside each other;
- It could be that that we have some of the most supportive, positive and proactive parents in the UK;
- It could be that we focus and build upon what the children are good at, rather than focusing our time and attention on their weaker areas;
- It could be that we spend lots of time outdoors and off-site;
- It could be that we know the children really well after spending nearly three years with them;
- It could be that we ensure the children have a good meal every day...

My conclusion is that it is all of the above and many other factors too. However, one of the things that I think does help, is giving the children the time and input they need to do things well, for example their stunning plasticine models, The Wombles film, learning their lines for our Lion King production. What do you think?

With Easter just around the corner, the Gang were asked to think of some activities that they could do during the holidays:

- **Make an Easter egg hunt for younger siblings**
- **Plan an egg rolling competition**
- **Blow some eggs and decorate them**
- **Make a pompom Easter chick**
- **Make your own egg using a mould and melted chocolate**
- **Create your own Easter scene**
- **Make some jelly!**
- **Use broken coloured egg shells to make a picture**
- **Design an Easter trail using natural resources as clues**
- **Paint your own egg**

**This week a golden mention to Jo and The Gang for The Wombles Film. Also to Sally and Paul for organising our third Film Festival.**