

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 122
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The Treehouse School

Thank you all for the wonderful experience, it was brilliant on so many levels. Challenging for all the children, but fun and calm at the same time. At bedtime tonight, Grace said "I didn't know it was going to be that good"..... Cassie.



We all had a wonderful time at Camp Treehouse this year, enjoying a still, star-lit evening and such beautiful weather too. There wasn't a peep from the children all night, sleeping either in the shelters they had made, or under the stars in Tess and Edith's case!

This year's highlights included spotting Saturn through Mitch's telescope, enjoying songs around the campfire and the reappearance of the Snow Tigers!

The Orchard was the perfect setting for our first challenge of the school year. As well as providing opportunities to strengthen the new Treehouse team, it also gave individuals the chance to set and accomplish their own goals or milestones, ranging from sleeping without a parent present for the first time to sleeping in a hammock all night or without any shelter at all! The impact achievements like these have on a child are immeasurable and lifelong. My thanks to all those who helped to make this such a positive and valuable experience.

Cycling at The Treehouse

I am pleased that you all felt Michael's cycling session worthwhile last week. Thank you for taking the time to participate. In preparation for the week ahead, please could you give your child's bike/s the 'once-over'? The Houses cycling lessons with Michael start on Tuesday, and weather permitting, we are hoping to cycle to Lollington for our next Friday Forest session. Thank you.

New Challenges for The Treehouse...

New academic year, some new children, so..... time for some new challenges at The Treehouse. In discussion with The Gang, we have decided on two challenges to begin with. 1. Five consecutive car-free days (starting on Monday). 2. To read 150 books collectively by Christmas. If you have any helpful suggestions that may help Freya to achieve our first challenge (the offer of a sleep-over or loan of your magic carpet perhaps?) please let the Eccleston family know.

In Paradisum - Gabriel Faure

Are you enjoying my music choice? Please pass the music bag on as soon as you are able to. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diaries

Mon 14 th Sept	No car week begins... Visitor Helen Irving to The Treehouse Country Dancing in The Scout Hall
Tues 15 th Sept	Tuesday Trading commences Mags and Tess fruit shopping with Cassie Cycling Course for Houses Eve to meet each Tree
Weds 16 th Sept	8.30 am Bag-2-School Collection Alex cooking lunch with Cassie
Thurs 17 th Sept	Alex and Freya fruit shopping with Cassie Cycling Course for Houses Emma cooking seasonal soup pm
Fri 18 th Sept	Free Choice Friday – please bring a book in from home to read. Friday Forest at Lollington – bikes and helmets please if dry.
Sun 20 th Sept	WI celebrating their 100 th Birthday with cream tea at The Pavilion.
Mon 21 st Sept	Caseys on holiday Shaz's Music Choice Country Dancing

Still no food waste at The Treehouse, well done Archie, Eddie, Grace, Jess, Lewis and Will.



Going for Gold!

Keeping You and Your Child in the Loop...The Treehouse Garden

It has been gratifying to see the children enjoying and making the most of the new garden equipment and revamped outdoor spaces. The large wooden play blocks have been stimulating much imaginative play, transformed into a tank one day, and set of cabin beds the next. Negotiation and collaboration have been required in the sandpit as children create sand castles, landfill sites and farms and barns alongside each other. Nurturing and sustained concentration have been required in the beautifully restored play house, with 'babies' being well cared for and attended to.

Play such as this gives children of all ages and both genders the opportunity to progress in so many areas. Use of language (word smart); the development of relationships (people smart); the need to be resourceful (self-smart); and opportunity to be creative (self-smart), all spring to mind instantly, but I am sure there are many more.

I am delighted that we are able to give children of all ages the time, space and resources to be able to nurture and develop these essential life-long skills. Our thanks, once again, to the team that made this possible.

Learner Smarties:

- Research the planet Saturn, creating a poster to capture what you have learned and discovered.
- Use your Camp Treehouse compass to create a course for another family member to follow around your house. Hide some treasure at the end!
- Plan your next child-initiated project, setting yourself a new learning challenge. How about a 'mini individual project' focusing on something that you are particularly interested in or enjoy.
- Find out more about Morse code, and send some messages to your friends or family at home.
- Following our discussion about the length of the Hawk Moths tongue, undertake some family research. Who has the longest tongue in your family? Can you all roll your tongues? Cassie told us that this is genetic. What else have you inherited from your parents e.g. eye colour?
- Find more about Queen Elizabeth II, including key dates and/or pictures to add to our timeline.

Nature Smarties:

- Set up a moth trap. Record your sightings of moths and send them to <http://www.mothnight.info/> There are some very interesting species of moth around at this time of year which your children might enjoy. More at the link above, including some very easy to make moth attracting devices on the "recording techniques" page, although they might need some earlier preparation..

Self-Smarties

- Prepare or make something to sell at this week's Tuesday Trading. Challenge yourself by working out how much your materials or ingredients cost.
- Help to check your bike to make sure that it's in good working order for our cycling sessions and ride to Lollington on Friday (weather permitting).

Well done to all Camp Treehousers! You were people, self, learner and nature smart from the start to the finish of the Camp.