

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 123
September 2015



The Treehouse School



Archie and Will's hearty bacon and lentil soup being enjoyed at Lollington

Phew!

A couple of weeks in, The (New) Gang are starting to bond, working and playing more collaboratively together and demonstrating increasing levels of patience and consideration towards one another. Furthermore, it's lovely to see some new friendships and relationships emerge, and to observe some of the less confident but more experienced members of The Gang stepping into the shoes of their absent older siblings. Our new arrivals are making great strides forward, quite literally yesterday, when three of them walked to Lollington and back for the first time. A tremendous achievement. So a really positive start to the academic year at The Treehouse, and whilst we always thought this would be the case, it is always a relief when it happens.

Food for Thought...

An opportunity for local businesses and organisations to find out more about The Treehouse, and sample some of our food, will take place on Wednesday 30th September from 6.30 - 8.00 pm at The Partridge, Wallingford. Fliers will be sent home early next week; please invite any contacts or colleagues who may be interested in finding out more about our school.

PE Morning at Wallingford School

Alex, Freya, Mags and Tess will be visiting Wallingford School on Wednesday morning to participate in their PE morning. Please can the children wear their PE kit (jogging bottoms, t-shirt, fleece, trainers, inhaler if needed) and be ready to leave The Treehouse at 8.45 am

An Invitation

You are invited to meet our South African visitors and to join us for a cream team at The Scout Hall, on Thursday 1st October from 3.30 pm. The Gang will be performing a country dance too. Please invite friends, neighbours and relatives on our behalf.
Note the change of time.



Dates for Your Diaries

Mon 21 st Sept	Caseys on holiday
	Ellie Denno visiting
	Shaz's Music Choice
	Country Dancing
Tues 22 nd Sept	Ellie Denno visiting
	Treehouse Trading
	Cycling – Houses/Apprentices
	Eve meeting Trees
Weds 23 rd Sept	First day of Autumn
	Year Six PE morning at Wallingford School
Thurs 24 th Sept	Cycling – Houses/Apprentices
Fri 25 th Sept	Friday Forest – Millennium Woods
	11.00 am World War One Centenary of Remembrance at The Pavilion
Sat 26 th Sept	CHOKO Beer Festival
Mon 28 th Sept	Jam making – please bring jars and hedgerow fruits to The Treehouse.
	Country Dancing
Tues 29 th Sept	Caseys back from their holidays
	Treehouse Trading
	Cycling – Houses/Apprentices
Weds 30 th Sept	Food for Thought Event 6.30 – 8 pm
Thurs 1 st Oct	CHOKO visitors. 3.30 pm Cream Tea at The Scout Hall.

**Thank you JC for doing the washing for us every week.
We are all most grateful.**



Going for Gold!

Keeping You and Your Child in the Loop...Capturing Children's Progress

One of the areas that we are developing this year is our assessment system. Our aim is to capture, celebrate and record the significant achievements, or milestones, that children make in all areas of their development. Along with Eve, the trustee with responsibility for this area of the school's work, we have been refining our approach so that it is practical, useful and sustainable. Discussions with some members of The Gang during the summer break confirmed what we already felt, which was that many of the children's achievements were difficult to capture or record, for example, discussions and debates that had taken place, or significant steps observed during periods of play. We want to avoid spending all day with clipboards, cameras and post-its at the ready! The answer of course is to involve children even more in their own learning.

Yesterday I was reminded of this when I received the following e-mail from Freya, who had been at home unwell:

Hi freya is really EPIC the treehoise on the see is rallying like a pig and I don't know how many ice creams are in a Apple. Many of my souls have gone to Nederland and I did the goat in three monuments. Hi.

Wondering if I needed to update my antivirus software, or of more concern, if Freya had a high temperature, I contacted Sally who explained that Freya had been working on her 'balloon wish', and was learning how to touch type! I should have known there would be a satisfactory explanation. *Note to self: teach Freya that e-mails need an introduction and a conclusion!*

Smart Work at Home

Learner Smarties:

- Find out what minor and major roads are so that you can tell Michael on Tuesday.
- Go for a bike ride and teach another member of your family the 'M' check before you set off. How about heading for the park to have a 'slowest' wins bike race! Can you improve your scooting technique?
- 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 how long it takes for a hawk moth to complete its life cycle. The Kennedys found a hawk moth caterpillar in their garden and we are hoping to watch it metamorphose into a moth.
- Find out as much as you can about South Africa so that we are prepared for our African visitors.

Number Smarties:

- Practice your new Take Five challenge. How many questions can you answer in 5 minutes? Can you improve next time?

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.

Word Smarties:

- Practice writing letters in the 'c' family (Trees).
- Remember to read the next two chapters of 'Why the Whales Came' (Houses)
- Collect words containing the letter 'a'. How many different sounds does it make? Sort your words according to the sound the letter 'a' makes (Houses/Apprentices).

A golden mention to Freya for (literally) going the extra mile during our 'No Car Week'. Also to Archie, Grace and Jess for walking all the way to Lollington and back on Friday. Awesome.