

# THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

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The Treehouse School



A traditional roast beef lunch is served for our visitors.

## Choko Shopping Trip

Hi everyone, it was a pleasure to bump into Tess, Freya and Alex this afternoon on their shopping trip to Wallingford. Their behaviour on both bus journeys was exemplary, and without any prompting they all thanked the driver when they got off.

We had a pre-arranged time to meet in case they had any queries, but when we met up they had already visited several shops and made all their purchases. They queried for themselves the exchange rate for the rand in the Bank and also explained why they needed to know. All in all, a lovely trip out and I know that the children in South Africa will be thrilled with their presents.

## Thanks to The Treehouse Team

Thank you all so very much for the very warm welcome you gave Ledile, Elizabeth and Rosina yesterday. What a great team effort. They were so impressed by the children's confidence and independence. I felt very proud to be a part of such an impressive team. It was gold with sparkles, fairy dust and rainbows. Eve

## Apple Harvest

The Robertsons have kindly donated some of the fruit in the orchard to the school. We intend to pick any ripe apples at The Old Bakehouse on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. If you can help, please let us know. The more the merrier!

Following the harvest, the children (and any adults that would like) will have the opportunity to create apple-related products for sale at The Day Centre on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, and a rescheduled Thursday Trading, the day after. Please make a note of these dates in your diaries.

## A Different Perspective

Meeting our South African visitors this week was such a great experience for us all, with much to reflect upon afterwards.

Elizabeth and Rosina were really interested in the amount of practical work that they observed: coin counting following trading; scone making for the afternoon tea; egg collecting for the Yorkshire puds; table laying etc. This approach was something that they both felt would be worth implementing in their schools, where the average class size comprises fifty children. Furthermore, they were impressed by the children's levels of confidence and their ability to work autonomously.

So as well as being reminded how fortunate we are to have good food, clean water and many of the other everyday things that we take for granted, I was also reminded how lucky we are to be able to offer our children such a rich, memorable and experiential education.

## Dates for Your Diaries

<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Casey Family Music Choice
	Week two of 'No car Fortnight.'
	11.00 am Centenary of Remembrance Houses and Apprentices attending
	Multiskills PE in Treehouse Garden
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Tuesday Trading
	Cycling- Houses and Apprentices
<b>Weds 7<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Martha joining us (Inset day).
	Apple Harvest at The Old Bakehouse. 9.30 am until it's finished!! All help gratefully appreciated.
	6.30pm Food for Thought Launch at The Partridge. Please come if you can. Year six to serve canapes if they would like to.
<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Cycling – Houses and Apprentices
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Open Morning at Langtree
	Free Choice Friday
	10.00 am Visit to Red Cow Cottage with Tony Rayner for 'Autumn Watch'.
	Langtree Open Morning
<b>Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Multiskills PE in Treehouse Garden
<b>Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Open Morning at Langtree
	Last Cycling Session

**Thank you Mike, JC and all those who collected hedgerow fruits for our jam making session. We produced 36 jars of deliciously fruity jam, enjoyed by us all at our afternoon tea.**



# Going for Gold!

## Keeping You and Your Child in the Loop...The New National Curriculum

Last year, the Government introduced a new National Curriculum comprising many changes, especially within the English and Mathematics curriculum. As well as a shift in content, with more emphasis on grammar, punctuation and spelling in writing for example, expectations about what children should be taught and learn at a younger age are even more demanding, and for many children, unrealistic. So for example an average year two child (six year old) should be able to read fluently. As well as being developmentally unsound, asking children to do things before they are ready for to, short and long term can have a significant impact on their learning, confidence and self-esteem.

At The Treehouse, we shall continue to observe children closely, so that we know where they are (in all areas of their development), what they need next, and, when the time is right for them to learn it.

Recently in an e-mail, Cassie wrote: 'The (country) dancing was really lovely-they tried so hard! That was a big deal for Grace and Ed. It was the highlight of Ollie's day, by the way. He worked away pretty much on his own on his log book entry last night. It has dawned on me that another positive outcome of keeping the log book, is that it focuses our attention to seeing the Treehouse school day experience through the children's eyes. I know that I'm about 3 years late in recognising that but it just really hit me with Ollie last night.'

If only the Government could see things through a child's eyes...Enough said.

## Looking for something to do at home....

### Learner Smarties:

**Apprentices:** Share your Learning Log with a parent, discussing any new entries with them.

**Houses:** Make an entry in your Learning Log capturing what you gained from your trip to IMPs on Friday.

**Trees:** Make a card for the Fraser-Jones family to thank them for inviting you to their house to learn more about looking after a kitten.

### Number Smarties:

**Apprentices and Houses:** Practise your Take-Five sheet, starting in a different place every time. Can you improve your personal best?

**Trees:** Roll a dice, every time you get a six write one down (starting with a 'c'). If you write it correctly, get a point!

### Practically Smarties:

Think about what you could make for our Apple Sale on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October. We will have eating and cooking apples to spare.

Thank you School Dinners team for providing the best meals in the country, including a delicious roast beef lunch for our visitors last week, and for excellent housekeeping so that any surplus food is put to good use.