

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 127
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The Treehouse School



Learning how to press apples for juice

Sad but True

Last week I heard on the news that 50,000 teachers leave the profession every year. Reasons cited for this were that the Government has made teaching unsustainable; pay is not comparable with other profession, and teachers' workloads have reached an untenable level. Coupled with the Government's continual changes to educational policy, at great cost to the tax payer I might add, and the vast numbers of children and young people who dislike school, I do wonder when somebody in a position of power will work out that the system has had it. Meanwhile, unhappy teachers and disaffected pupils will go through the motions, until the time comes when they can escape. What a dismal picture...

Welcoming, Interested and Delicious!

Hello Treehouse Gang. Thank you for inviting me to your happy school today to demonstrate how to press apples.

There are three things I'd like to comment on. Firstly thank you all for **welcoming** Elspeth (*Andy's grandchild*) and being with her to show her round and play with her. Secondly thank you for being so **interested** in the apple pressing, for asking great questions and making eye contact. The new words were the hopper and the scrapper. You also showed great estimating and maths skills - especially working out how many apples are needed to make a litre of juice. Thirdly food - thank you for a **delicious** lunch, and for bringing seconds Will.

With best wishes, Andy King (Visitor)

The Treehouse Auction of Promises Friday 20th November

6.30 pm viewing, 7.00 pm bidding

If you haven't already managed to make a pledge for The Treehouse School's Auction of Promises there is still plenty of time to do so. Please invite your friends and family along; with tickets being £8.50 for a delicious two course Treehouse meal, it is sure to be a great evening...

Dates for Your Diaries

Mon 19th Oct	Eccleston Family music choice. Multiskills PE in Treehouse Garden
Tues 20th Oct	Treehouse Trading cancelled due to Apple Event. We are very happy for your child/ren to stay at home to cook/prepare their apple fare.
Weds 21st Oct	Country dancing and visit to Huntercombe Residential Home with some apple cakes! Apple Sale at The Day Centre 1.30 – 2.30 pm. Please spread the word! Optional early finish.
Friday 23rd Oct	Harry's birthday. Treehouse Pet Show at The Scout Hall 10.30 – 11.30 am. All welcome.
26th – 30th October	Half Term
Sat 31st Oct	10 am Allotment Tidy – adults only.
Sun 1st Nov	First Aid Course in the Scout Hall
Mon 2nd Nov	Craft Taster week at The Treehouse
Tues 3rd Nov	Lee visiting D'Overbrooks School
Weds 4th Nov	Food for Thought Lunch at The Partridge
Fri 6th Nov	Friday Forest at The Holies
Mon 9th Nov	Fraser-Jones Family Music Choice
Wed 18th Nov	1.30 pm Country Dancing at Day Centre
Fri 20th Nov	Treehouse Auction of Promises 6.30pm

**We hope to see you all at our Apple Sale on Wednesday.
Cakes, crumbles, chutney, apple juice for sale....1.30 - 2.30 pm at
The Day Centre.**



Going for Gold!

Keeping You and Your Child in the Loop...Developmental Learning

Learning is an incredibly complex and interesting subject. As you are probably aware, at The Treehouse we teach children according to their stage of development (where they have got to), not their age (where we think they should have got to). It occurred to me it would be worth exploring this further so that you understand why we have made this decision. Educationalist and Friend of The Treehouse, Julie Fisher writes:

‘The construction of a child’s learning has many parallels with the construction of a traditional wooden jigsaw puzzle. At first, the pieces of the child’s ‘learning jigsaw’ are picked seemingly at random. Sometimes the piece fits straight away, sometimes it is turned round and round with astonishing patience - before the fit is finally made. Sometimes a fit is made and only subsequent pieces show that piece to be in the wrong place. Sometimes the piece is turned round and round, does not quite fit but is jammed in anyway because it is more satisfying for the learner to have reached a solution than to start again. It is the skill of the educator (parent, grandparent, coach, tutor or teacher) to be aware of the pieces of the jigsaw that the child already has in place, and whether or not they have been fitted together appropriately.

If we ignore this, we are ignoring a child’s stage of development. Imposing connections can lead to the learner becoming confused. It would be like picking a child up from a stepping stone and placing them far away down the stream, leaving them powerless to know where they are, how they got there, or how they could use that pathway again. Choosing instead, (as we do at The Treehouse) to support connections between existing understanding and new understanding can speed some children in certain situations more swiftly towards their personal learning objectives.’ I found this analogy really helpful; I hope that it is of interest to you too.

Starting from the Child - Julie Fisher.

Looking for something to do at home....

Learner Smarties:

Trees: Share your Learning Log with a parent, reading and responding to the entries that have been made. Perhaps you might like to add another entry?

Number Smarties:

How much will you sell your apple sale products for? Can you work out the cost of the ingredients? How much does your product sell for in the shops?

Practically Smarties:

Think about how you can package your apple sale products so that they keep your product fresh, look attractive and are environmentally friendly too. Can you add some information, facts, labels? Look at other products to get some ideas.

Word Smarties:

Apprentices: Practise your handwriting and the spelling of the high frequency words with two ascenders.

Read a book so that you can add a ‘leaf’ to our Reading Tree.

Golden mentions to all members of The Gang This week...

Houtstanding Houses: For demonstrating great control and decision making when cycling.

Awesome Apprentices: For walking to Brightwell with such positive attitudes.

Treemendous Trees: For their excellent Log Book entries.