

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

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The Treehouse School

Professionals at work – Cassie and Alex prepare the vegetables for our first 'Food for Thought' lunch



More Food for Thought...

As our practice develops, and we learn more and more from observing, discussing and reflecting upon what we see unfolding at The Treehouse, increasingly I realize how far removed we are from the 'norm'. Drawing on educationalist Julie Fisher's analogy of learning being a bit like a jigsaw puzzle, I think that our role as educators of children is to expose them to different experiences, or pieces of the puzzle, which they then learn from and make sense of, with help from us if they need it. The trouble with this way of working is that it's not neat-tidy-tick-box-able or easily testable. With Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan currently mooting the idea of testing seven year olds, and OFSTED keen on box ticking, I wonder if we are doomed! Views, opinions or ideas most welcome.

Food for Thought Lunch at The Partridge Inn

What a wonderful achievement today. Walking into such a warm and welcoming atmosphere as always, was a real treat with wonderful food and amazing children. They were so friendly and professional, a credit to you all. Thank you so much. I always come away full of admiration for what you all manage to achieve with so few people and immense pride to be a small part of such a great team. Please can we book up for the March lunch !!! Eve Evans - Trustee

A Weapon to Change the World...

Thank you so much for the Choko trip and for all the help you have given us. Your time, commitment, co-operation and kindness is very much appreciated. We had a lovely week visiting different places and enjoying meals all the time. We learnt a lot from schools. I'm so grateful to everyone who supported and encouraged us to improve the standard of education in our schools. I hope and pray that all your gifts and donations will make a difference to many lives in South Africa- because Education is a weapon to change the world.

Regards to Cholsey School, Choko and The Treehouse School Rosina – Visiting Headteacher.

Dates for Your Diaries

Mon 9th Nov	Fraser-Jones Family Music Choice
	Visitors from Oxford Business Network
	Multiskills PE
Tues 10th Nov	Treehouse Trading
	Eve visiting am
	Dru and Alexandra visiting pm to demonstrate how to make felt soaps.
Weds 11th Nov	Remembrance Day
	Margaret Richards visiting am
	Prospective parent visiting pm
Thurs 12th Nov	2 – 3pm Tree Parents' Meeting with Shaz
Fri 13th Nov	Hedge Planting at The Old Bakehouse 9.30 am. Please bring gardening tools.
Mon 16th Nov	Multiskills PE
Tues 17th Nov	Treehouse Trading
	Christmas Craft workshop - Cassie
Weds 18th Nov	1.30 pm Country Dancing at The Day Centre
Thurs 19th Nov	Christmas Craft Workshop - Lyndsey Webb
Fri 20th Nov	6.30pm Treehouse Auction of Promises
Sunday 29th Nov	7.30 pm Wreath making with Vicky Beardall-Richards. Mulled wine and nibbles. Proceeds to The Baby Bar and The Treehouse.

Collectively, our 'Food for Thought' customers thought the delicious lunch that the team created was worth £470.35!



Going for Gold!

Keeping You and Your Child in the Loop...Helping Others...

Ai Weiwei, one of China's Most Influential Artists

In the lead up to Christmas, our focus at The Treehouse will be on thinking about and helping others, or 'becoming even more people smart'. We hope that this will help us to remember how fortunate we all are, and to focus less on ourselves and more on those who are less privileged.

Having recently discovered the work of Ai Weiwei, a Chinese artist who is currently exhibiting at The Royal Academy of Arts, London, I discovered that the artist, age 58, has been tortured, beaten and imprisoned for drawing attention to cultural and political issues in his homeland.

The Royal Academy of Arts has asked fans to donate Lego to the gallery after the Danish toy company refused to supply the Chinese artist with building bricks over fears that they would be used to make a political statement. Ai Weiwei was planning to use the bricks to create portraits of 1000 freedom-of-speech defenders, such as Nelson Mandela, made out of the toy bricks.

We plan to help Ai Weiwei, by using some of the children's Lego from home to create an image of the artist himself, which we will then take to a collection point at The Royal Academy. The children will also have the opportunity to view Ai Weiwei's exhibition. The proposed date for our visit is Monday 7th December (tbc). There is no doubt that this will be an invaluable learning experience for the children.

Do please note that due to the nature of Ai Weiwei's plight, children should be supervised if searching for images of the artist online.

Looking for something to do at home...

Learner Smarties:

Apprentices: Share your balloon wishes with a parent at home. Look through your Learning Log with a parent or older sibling to see how much smarter you have become.

Nature Smarties

I Player 'Autumn Watch' to catch up on the latest wildlife news and antics.

Number Smarties

Apprentices and Houses: Practise your Take Five Sheet every day starting in a different place. Can you complete the sheet in under five minutes?

Practically Smarties:

Create something for Tuesday Trading.

People Smarties:

Look out some Lego Bricks or a baseboard for our Ai Weiwei project (see above).

Word Smarties:

How many words can you find containing the 'er' sound? How many different ways can the sound be spelt?

This week, a golden mention to: Andrea, Alex, Cassie, Freya, Mags and Tess for working so hard at our 'Food for Thought' Lunch; Gilly and Maurice for their help with our 'Bonfire Party'; and Ellie for stepping in to teach for two days at The Treehouse. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx