

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 133
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The Treehouse School



Slippers for Shelter

I would like to say a great big thank you to everyone who took part in slippers for shelter. You have raised £40.70 for a great organisation that will let more people have a home this Christmas. Because you wore slippers yesterday, and donated to Slippers for Shelter, not as many families will be homeless this year. Thank you again. Magnus

Hi Lee and Shaz

I wanted to just email you to let you know how I have been getting on at Wallingford School. We have Merits at School and you can collect these in years 7 and 8, up to 100 merits which means you get a platinum medal. My Dad thought it would take me 2 years to get to platinum. Ha ha I got my 50th merit this week.

I got merits for German, music, helping out in open evening, maths and interventions. Plus, I have not got a detention yet and hopefully I will never get one. The Treehouse has helped me to succeed at Wallingford School by teaching me the smart areas like Learner smart, Practical smart, Number smart and People smart. Good luck on the new school. Love Samuel.

Dear Treehouse,

We raised £100 each for The Treehouse and the Baby Bar at the wreath making.

Thanks to Louise for the food and mulled wine, and Eleanor and Sophie for mass greenery collecting.

Love Louise, Vicky, Eleanor and Sophie

Simple Pleasures...

From time to time, it is worth 'standing back' to watch children as they go about their business! Over the last week, I have learned a great deal from observing the children, as they reveal qualities and strengths that may have gone unnoticed. I am in awe of their ability to multi-task, solve problems, persevere, interact, create, assert and imagine, to mention just a few! Furthermore, I have learned that the more influence they have over their learning, the greater the quality. Back to the drawing board....

Dates for Your Diaries

Sun 6th Dec	Wallingford Christmas Festival. 12 – 5pm. If you visit, don't forget to look out for the Treehouse gingerbread stall.
Mon 7th Dec	Heydon's Music Choice
	Ellie and Louis Denno visiting.
	am: Evening of Thanks Practise – please can children bring music, instruments to school.
	Tim Taylor visiting (fundraiser)
Tues 8th Dec	Gang visiting The Green Unit to view an eco-pod and meet our architect, Phil. Home drop off.
	Ellie and Louis Denno visiting.
Weds 9th Dec	pm: Learning workshop for Houses and Apprentices with Eve and Andy King.
	Ice skating at Millets Farm. Children may bring money to do some Christmas shopping if they wish. Home drop off.
Thurs 10th Dec	am: Evening of Thanks Practise please can children bring music, instruments to school.
Fri 11th Dec	Charity Christmas shopping – bus to Wallingford. Children to bring money to spend on presents if they wish to.
Sat 12th Dec	Private function – Treehouse catering.
Mon 13th Dec	6pm: Treehouse Evening of Thanks. Scout Hall. All welcome. Secret Santa gifts to The Treehouse please.
Weds 16th Dec	Treasure Island at Creation Theatre, Oxford.
Thurs 17th Dec	Christmas Lunch at The Red Lion. End of term.

Look out for The Treehouse Gingerbread man stall at The Christmas Festival in Wallingford tomorrow. 12 - 5.00 pm.



Going for Gold!

An Investment for the Future....Less is More!

One of our goals as adults must be to help children to become more independent, taking responsibility for themselves, their learning and their behaviour. Becoming more autonomous or 'self-smart' is invaluable, saving them, and the adults in their lives, valuable time and angst come to that! Whilst it is easier and less stressful to do things for children, longer term we are not helping them, simply making them more dependent on us.

Like all areas of their learning, children need to be taught the skills needed explicitly and then practice. One of the most effective strategies to begin developing children's independence is to model or demonstrate how to do something, for example, getting their school bag ready, providing clear instructions and a strategy to help. In this case, a laminated list might do the trick, with a specified place for the bag to go once packed. As with all learning, some children will pick up new challenges immediately, and some won't. It depends on the child. Furthermore, as adults we have to accept that things probably won't be perfect at first, but with encouragement, children of all ages will progress. Showing children once of course, is never enough. Experiences like these need repetition, so that they are constantly reminded of the steps involved. However time invested here will save time later on.

Moreover, children also feel a great sense of pride and personal achievement when they no longer need the reminders.

Looking for something to do at home....

Learner Smarties:

- **Trees:** Please read your Learning Log with a parent. What have you become smarter at? Can you make an entry over the weekend?
- **Apprentices:** Crack on with your 5 minutes of handwriting practise (don't forget look-say-cover-write-check), and Take Five sheet, 5 x every week.
- **Houses:** Take Five 5 x every week, and three 5 minute paragraphs in your Learning Logs please.
- Can you find out how miners and moles dig holes and robust tunnels? It may help you when you are constructing your holes and tunnels in the garden.

Music Smarties:

- Practise our Christmas melody, with the CD accompaniment (remember to bring the words to school every day). If you are performing at our Evening of Thanks, please practise your piece too. Laura and Elizabeth will be in on Monday to see how you are getting on.

Practically Smarties:

- Make some Christmas cards or presents for friends and family. How about making a tin lantern, some felted soap or some bird cakes?

Word Smarties:

- Check your e-mails, and send a message to a member of your family or a friend.

Nature Smarties

- Take your family to Swyncombe woods (Ewelme). How many different fungi can you spot?

This week, a special mention to Vicky Beardall (and her team) for the wreath making workshops.