

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 134
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The Treehouse School

Ollie and Grace sing a duet, accompanied by guitarist John Buckley, during an impromptu visit to St. Mary's Church



Golden Gang

It is always such a pleasure going out with The Gang; their behaviour and conduct are exemplary, and we often receive compliments from members of the public.

I was however most surprised during our 'charity Christmas shopping spree' when an assistant commented on the children's behaviour, telling me that she remembered The Treehouse from our visit to Wallingford last year because they were so well behaved! What a lovely note to end our week on.

For He's A Jolly Good Fellow...

Following a message of thanks, Marcus Harris who recently nominated The Treehouse for a £500.00 donation, writes:

'I am so chuffed that you benefited from this year's firework display. A couple of the guys who were there told me how well Alex spoke; he is by all accounts a credit to your school. Keep up the great work; it is an honour to be a friend.' Best Marcus.

Roll up, Roll up, Raffle Tickets for Sale

The Cholsey Golf Society is very kindly supporting The Treehouse School with their Annual Raffle again this year. We will receive the money from all the tickets that we sell, so this is an easy fund-raiser for school, plus there are some great prizes to be won. Tickets are £1.00 each, with a book of 5 costing £5.00.

Would you like to buy any tickets? Tickets are on sale at school or you can let Sally know and she will put some aside for you. The draw is straight after Christmas so ideally we would like to get all the tickets sold by the end of term next week. Thank you. Sally Eccleston (sally@eccleston.me.uk)

During the festive season, please save any bottle or jar lids (plastic and metal), also any Christmas cards. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diaries

Sat 12th Dec	Private function – Treehouse catering.
Mon 14th Dec	Evening of Thanks rehearsal – instruments and music please. 5.45 pm Children to arrive at Scout Hall for the Evening of Thanks. Treehouse T-shirt and dark leggings, tights or joggers please. 6pm: Treehouse Evening of Thanks. Scout Hall. All welcome. Drinks and nibbles provided. Secret Santa gifts to The Treehouse please.
Tues 15th Dec	No Tuesday Trading. Late start for those that need some extra sleep following a late evening.
Weds 16th Dec	8.45 am Arrival at The Treehouse for 9.00 am departure to see Treasure Island, Oxford.
Thurs 17th Dec	Christmas Lunch at The Red Lion. Wear your best clothes to school please. End of term.
Fri 18th Dec	Treehouse Christmas Party for volunteers and Friends of the School at The Pavilion.
Mon 4th Dec	9.00 am – Visit to Carterhatch Infant School for all those that fancy it. INSET Day.
Tues 5th Dec	School closed – INSET Day.
Weds 6th Dec	New term begins. Kennedy Music Choice.
Fri 8th Dec	Friday Forest: Lollingdon.
Weds 13th Dec	11.00 am Centenary of Remembrance at The Pavilion.

We hope to see you at our 'Evening of Thanks' on Monday 14th December at 6.00 pm in The Scout Hall.



Going for Gold!

Less Really is More - encouraging independence

There has been such a positive change in the children's attitude towards looking after their belongings over the last week or so. Thank you for setting up and implementing systems at home to help your children to take more responsibility for their belongings. All of the children have had everything that they needed **all week**, which makes life so much easier for us all, and more importantly, the children are learning how to become more independent and autonomous. It just goes to show what can be achieved when home and school work in partnership.

I was reminded at Millets Farm this week, of a visit that Shaz and I very much enjoyed, to Sweden some years ago. Highlights included observing children, from a very early age, climb into their high chairs to eat their lunch, which incidentally, they helped themselves to from serving dishes which they passed around the table to each other.

Making the most of the subzero temperatures, the teachers had poured water onto the playgrounds, creating temporary ice rinks for the children to skate on! Very young children, barely able to talk, put their own outdoor clothes and ice skates on, which they laced up themselves, before taking off around the ice rink. It made me realize what children are capable of when we give them the opportunity. The icing on the cake was when they had finished skating, these tiny children took off their skates, and hung up their damp clothes in purpose-built drying rooms. AWESOME on so many levels!

Looking for something to do at home....

Music Smarties:

- Practise our Christmas melody, with the CD accompaniment. If you are performing at our Evening of Thanks, please practise your piece too and bring everything you need to school on Monday.

Number Smarties:

- Brush up on your number bonds or times tables using a pack of cards and a timer. Can you beat a parent?

People Smarties:

- Play a board game with your family or some friends.

Picture Smarties

- Enter Tesco's 'Design a Christmas Jumper' competition. Entry forms are in the local store.

Practically Smarties:

- Wrap up and label the presents that you bought from the Charity shops. Apprentices and Houses could make gift bags for their presents.
- Make sure your Secret Santa is ready to bring into school on Monday.

Word Smarties:

- Can you find a word with more than seven words inside it? Tess spotted that washed contained: was, a, as, ash, wash, shed, washed.

Nature Smarties

- Plan a visit to Otmoor nature reserve over the holidays, wrap up warm and take your binoculars and a bird identification book. The starlings are a magnificent sight but there are many other species of birds to spot as well.

This week, a special mention to the children who have become Houses...well done! Also, to Lucy and Alex for the gingerbread stall, which was really busy and popular at The Festival last weekend.