

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

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The Treehouse School

Angie Walker, from the BBC, films the children reading before they get ready for Friday Forest.



Just before Christmas, The Treehouse were asked to cater for a 70th birthday party for 100 guests. Alison Robertson, Chair of The Trust wrote afterwards to congratulate the team:

I wanted to thank you all from a guest's point of view and as a very proud Chair of The Treehouse Trust.

The team - in their immaculate tee shirts and black aprons - were totally professional, calm and unobtrusive. The food, as many of us have come to expect, was absolutely delicious. To state the blindingly obvious, it just makes for a better party when you eat so well. The tee-shirt gave the game away - now almost the whole village knows who you are and your incredible skills - and they will indeed be asking for more.

Dear Lee and Shaz,

Just reflecting on the evening of thanks...It was brilliant, thank you. How wonderful it was for all of us in the audience... but also how lovely for the children to deliver such a brave and beautiful performance. It seemed they all rose to their challenge and I honestly think will have grown a little more as a result.

Happy days....

Love Cassie

New Year, New School...

Talk about hitting the ground running... After a really positive and stimulating trip to Carterhatch School at the start of the week, the BBC contacted us to see if we would like to be filmed for a feature on the local news at the end of the week!

As always, there was a positive response to the latest Treehouse challenge, and everybody rallied round to ensure that The Treehouse put on a good show.

This year, I very much hope that we can raise the funds needed to build our new school. Our 'New Year, New School' campaign should help to get the ball rolling, and coverage from the BBC will certainly help to raise the profile of The Treehouse.

Let's hope that all our hard work pays off and that this time next year, we are enjoying our well-insulated, spacious pods. Regardless, today I am reminded of one of my favourite quotes:

'Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, interested citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that has.'

Margaret Mead

Dates for Your Diaries

Sun 10th Jan	St. Mary's Church Tower Open 11 – 1.00 pm and 2.00 – 5.00 pm
Mon 11th Jan	Kennedy Family Music Choice.
Tues 12th Jan	8.45 – 9.15 am Treehouse Swap Shop – bring any unwanted/duplicate gifts to school for our first Swap Shop.
	Judo starts – please bring your kit in to school.
	10.30 am Agatha Christie Event (40 th anniversary of her death) at St. Mary's
Weds 13th Jan	11.00 am Centenary of Remembrance at The Pavilion.
	Lee on a training course – Jo covering.
Fri 14th Jan	Friday Forest: Lollington.
Sat 16th Jan	Barry creating new play area in The Treehouse garden.

Tune in to Radio Oxford at 7.00 am tomorrow (Saturday) morning to hear Lee give a live broadcast...or have a lie-in instead!



Going for Gold!

Keeping You In The Loop - Tinging!

Brain activity and synapse (cell) formation are at their highest when a child is deeply engrossed in something that fascinates them, challenges them, and makes them happy. Scans have revealed that many areas of the brain 'light up' when this is the case. Recently, when I showed The Gang images of a highly stimulated brain they described it as 'tinging', which I thought summed it up really well.

Every child is unique and we cannot predict or impose what will spark that deep fascination. Furthermore, each child is at a different level of their development and therefore something that will challenge one child may well be mundane for the next. What we do know, is that during periods of child initiated learning at The Treehouse, we see more 'tinging' than at any other time.

The visit to Carterhatch has given us much to think about; the environment, and commitment to child-led learning in particular. One thing that is clear though, is that our role as educationalists and parents is to get involved if we spot an opportunity to move children forward in any aspect of their learning during the course of their explorations and play.

Looking for something to do at home....

Learner Smarties

Visit the bell tower at St. Mary's on Sunday to learn more about campanology (bell-ringing). The tower is open from 11 - 1.00 pm and 2.00 - 4.00 pm.

Think about an idea for your next child initiated project. What do you want to find out...learn more about...make...?

Number Smarties:

Brush up on your multiplication skills, practising your times tables using a pack of cards and a timer. Can you beat a parent?

Self Smarties:

Get organised for next week's 'Swap Shop'. Look out any unwanted or duplicate toys, books or presents that you or your family received at Christmas and bring them into school on Tuesday.

Find your judo kit and give it a wash! You will need it on Tuesday when Steve joins us for our first judo lesson of the year.

Word Smarties:

Jot down any really good words that you come across whilst you are reading on your own or with a parent. You could create your own thesaurus so that you have a bank of really good words to use in your writing.

Gold with sparkles, fairy and pixie dust, unicorns, marshmallows and chocolate sprinkles for all involved in the BBC News broadcast today.