

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 138
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The Treehouse School

Put out to Pasture? Lots of high tech stuff going on at The Treehouse this week, mainly of course led by the children (just as well really!). Aps, Ipads, green screening...I have to admit that I'm well out of my depth, and marvel at the children's levels of competence, independence, and ability to make use of the technology available, learning from each other in the process. Who needs teachers?

Our Feathered Friends

Thank you all for the bird feeders and bird food; we have created a bird café in the front garden which has already attracted some new visitors. I hope you find time to take part in The Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend (30th and 31st January), which involves counting the birds that visit your garden for an hour and then sending the results to the RSPB. This year, we will be taking part in the Big School birdwatch at The Treehouse on Wednesday morning, and have decided that it would be a fantastic end to our week if we take the children to Otmoor nature reserve on Friday to see the stunning starling murmurations. **Please note: To avoid a long day, and over-tired children, we would like to start the day at 11.00 am, and bring The Gang home early evening (6.00 pm approx.).** It is extremely exposed at Otmoor, so the children will need to wrap up warm. They may like to bring binoculars and a camera with them too. We would be grateful if you could let us know if this is convenient so that we can go ahead and organise the trip.



Tim Peake, aka Alex, prepares to take off!

Wallingford Children's Film Festival 2016

We are very excited about our Film Festival entry this year, which features Tim Peake and Darth Vader! Please invite your children's friends and relatives along to the Festival which takes place on Monday 7th March and Tuesday 8th March at 7.00 pm. Tickets available from the Corn Exchange website.

Dates for Your Diaries

Sat 30th & Sun 31st Jan	Big Garden Birdwatch – if you take part, please bring your results into school on Monday.
Mon 1st Feb	Boot Camp at the park. PE kit to be worn to school please, with hat, gloves and waterproof coat. 3.15 pm - Collect from the park.
Tues 2nd Feb	Tuesday Trading
	Judo
	New Houses – Handwriting homework due in please.
Weds 3rd Feb	Big School Birdwatch at The Treehouse with Mitch and Roger Wyatt. Bring your binoculars and a camera if you have one.
Thurs 4th Feb	Filming at The Scout Hall
Fri 5th Feb	Visit to Otmoor Nature Reserve: 11.00 am start at The Treehouse. Home drop off 6.00 pm approximately. Bring your binoculars and a camera if you have one.



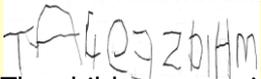
A family party with music and a meal. Sunday 28th Feb, 3 – 7 pm at Cholsey Pavilion.

Please join us for a happy, heart warming family party! With live music, a hearty meal and a bar to warm your cockles....plus activities for kids. All proceeds will go towards building the new school. Please buy your tickets in advance so we know how many meals to cook! Family tickets (£15) available from Vicky (vickybeardall@hotmail.com)



Going for Gold!

Keeping you in the Loop - Spelling Development

Stage of Spelling	Support
<p>Precommunicative</p>  <p>The child uses a series of random letters and numbers.</p>	<p>Respond positively to all attempts at 'writing'. Talk to your child all the time and read as often as you can with them.</p>
<p>Semi-phonetic</p> <p>R [are], U [you], B [be], YL [while] RSK [ask], KS [kiss]</p> <p>The child represents the main sounds in the word, often with only one or two letters.</p>	<p>Praise the child for all their writing attempts, and encourage them to read it back to you if they can. Please don't correct anything (even if it's for the Log Book!)</p> <p>Draw attention to words everywhere. Continue to talk and read with your child as much as you can.</p> <p>Show your child how to write their name. Encourage your child to 'stretch' a word into sounds e.g. th - i - n - k (think).</p> <p>Scribe for your child, writing down exactly what they say, with them watching as you do it. Encourage them to write their name or the odd word that you think they could try. Get them to draw a picture to go with the writing.</p>
<p>Phonetic</p> <p>DUN [done], JOORS [jaws], HOPT [hopped], ACSITING [exciting]</p> <p>Typically between the ages of 5 - 7, the child starts to include all of the main sounds in the word.</p> <p>Next week, the final two stages.</p>	<p>The more the child reads and writes, the better so continue to praise the child for any time spent on both.</p> <p>Provide or display some common words for them to refer to (high frequency words).</p> <p>Encourage your child to break words down into syllables when spelling, checking for a vowel or a y in each syllable.</p> <p>If they ask you to check their writing, ask them to underline three words that they think look wrong for you to correct. Tick the letters that they have put in the right places, before you talk about the part of the word that contains the error.</p> <p>When you give your child a spelling, encourage them to look-say-cover-write-check.</p>

Looking for something to do at home....

Nature Smarties:

- Take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch - this weekend (30th- 31st January) for an hour. Submit your results online and also bring them into school for us all to look at.
- I Player 'Winterwatch' which is set in Scotland this year, and features golden eagles, foxes, hares and much more! Don't miss it.

Word Smarties:

- Can you think of a good title for our Film Festival entry? Please let us have your suggestions by Friday 5th February. There will be a prize for the title that we select.

This week, a golden mention to the Star Wars animation team: Eddie, Herb, Harry, Mags, Ollie and Owen. We all enjoyed the premiere, and were particularly impressed with your teamwork.

