

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

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The Treehouse School

Owen, Bob, Roger and Mags spot a rare bird...!



Sad but True

After school commitments this week included an invitation to attend a book launch hosted by author and Early Year's Consultant, Julie Fisher.

It was a real privilege to be in a room filled with experienced early years practitioners and experts, all committed to high quality play-based learning at a time, when it seems to me, that quite frankly the education system is in crisis. Increasingly there is immense pressure on children of all ages, alongside a curriculum far beyond their understanding or interest.

Pancake Races



Tuesday 9th February at 10am
The Forty, Cholsey

All ages welcome – bring a pan!

For more information contact Jo Heydon Tel 652055

Get Well Soon

It's been an odd week at The Treehouse, with around a third of the children absent, as well as poor Fred.

Although business has carried on as usual, the school hasn't felt quite the same. Those of us who are still standing, would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a speedy recovery.

What a Result!

What a treat it was to host a visit from Bob and Roger Wyatt, and Mitch on Tuesday. The trio ensured that our 'Big School Garden Bird watch' was a really meaningful experience for the children. And **what** a result! I had no idea that we would see 15 different species on our patch. My hope is that we manage to plant or nurture an interest in the natural world, that will grow as the children do. I believe that this is more important than ever, and feel so fortunate to know, and be able to call upon, such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable bunch.

Practice Makes Perfect

Inspired by Roger Wyatt's stunning photography, we have decided to hold a nature themed photography competition. The closing date for all entries will be Monday 25th April when Roger and Bob Wyatt will join us to judge them. Roger's top tips include being patient and spending lots of time practising! Photographs from all ages and abilities welcome.

Dates for Your Diaries

Mon 8 th Feb	Ryman Music Choice
	Food for Thought Lunchtime meeting.
	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 9 th Feb	8.45 – 9.15 am Swap Shop at The Treehouse. Please bring any 'nearly new or new' toys, books or unwanted gifts to swap.
	10.00 am Pancake Race at The Forty.
	New Houses – Handwriting homework due in please.
Thurs 11 th Feb	Trees to visit Wheatley Farm, with lunch at Sue and Graham's (Archie's grandparents) house.
Fri 12 th Feb	Jane Liu visiting/The Chinese New Year End of term.
Tues 16 th Feb	Edith's 10 th birthday.
Weds 17 th Feb	6.00 – 7.00 pm Mitch hosting the first Treehouse 'Spacewatch drop in' at the park, (weather permitting).
Fri 19 th Feb	10.00 – 3.00 am Optional Forest School session at Lollingdon with fire lighting workshop. Gang members to e-mail Lee if they would like to attend by Friday 12 th February.
Mon 22 nd Feb	New term begins.

Treehouse Swap Shop this Tuesday
8.45 - 9.15 am



Going for Gold!

Keeping you in the Loop - Spelling Development

Stage of Spelling	Support
<p>Transitional</p> <p>YOUSUAL [usual], CORGHT [caught] strait [straight].</p> <p>Children use sounds and visual strategies too. This phase usually takes place between the ages of 7 and 11.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to read regularly, anything and everything, so that they are seeing different words.</p> <p>Remind your child to use the rules they know, or to break words down into syllables, when they ask for help with a spelling.</p> <p>Having three tries at a word and then selecting the word that 'looks right' is another useful spelling strategy.</p> <p>Ask your child to see how many improvements they can make to their writing when they have completed the first draft (this will include correcting spellings, punctuation, grammar and vocabulary).</p> <p>Draw attention and discuss words from different cultures and countries that have become a part of our language.</p>
<p>Correct</p> <p>Almost complete mastery of most spellings, with a range of strategies for checking and self-correcting words.</p>	<p>Praise the use of adventurous vocabulary, when talking and in their writing.</p> <p>If you child asks if a word is spelled correctly, tick the letters that are correct and in the right place.</p> <p>Play word games, complete crosswords and discuss words and their meanings/origins with your child.</p>

Looking for something to do at home...

Picture Smarties:

Make a card or gift to give to Jane to celebrate the Chinese New Year which this year, takes place on Monday 8th February. This year it is the year of the monkey! Jane will be visiting The Treehouse to tell us more on Friday.

Go out for a walk or cycle ride, taking your camera with you. Take some photographs, remembering the tips that Roger gave us (sun behind you, background, 'eye' in the centre of the photograph). Save the good shots in a file on a computer when you get home.

Body Smarties:

Practise tossing a pancake in preparation for the race on Tuesday. How many can you toss in a minute? Now, practise running and tossing your pancake.

Self Smarties:

Look out any 'nearly new' or new toys, books or unwanted gifts for Tuesday's swap shop. Bring them along to our swap shop on Tuesday.

Word Smarties:

Draw a 'story hand' to show what has happened in 'Sky Hawk' so far. What do you think might happen next? How do you think the story will end?
Email your weekend news to The Gang, Shaz and Lee. Perhaps you could attach a photograph too.

Number Smarties

Play 'Wild Jack' either on your own or with your family or older siblings.

Nature Smarties:

Go for an early walk (7.45 am) and watch the barn owl hunting from the top of the bridge(Wallingford direction) in Church road, by Cholsey School.

This week, a golden mention to Tess for her sterling work on our Film Festival Entry, and the promotional materials she is working on.