

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 142
February 2016



The Treehouse School



Archie, dwarfed by a tractor during a farm visit.

What a Week!

We have enjoyed an eclectic final week at The Treehouse with: our annual pancake race around The Forty; a visit to the Hexagon to watch a ballet based on the story of the hare and the tortoise; a trip to Denton to visit Archie's Grandad's farm; a local maths trail; sightings of the International Space Station; and a visit from Jane Liu to learn all about the Chinese New Year.

I can't help but think for a school our size we don't half do well. Providing the children with such rich and memorable learning experiences is one of our key goals; however this simply wouldn't be possible without such a strong and committed team, who continue to go the extra mile for The Treehouse.

No wonder we're all feeling a little weary and looking forward to a well-earned rest over half term! My thanks to each and every one of you for the part you play in The Treehouse jigsaw.

Thinking Ahead...

Some of the children have mooted the idea of coming to Stackpole without a parent/relative so that they can enjoy some independence. If this idea appeals to your child/ren and/or you (!), please discuss it with Lee or Shaz.

Food for Thought Networking Lunch

Rack your brains, think long and hard, who do you know who might enjoy a delicious homemade lunch, served by our year six team, in lovely surroundings, with great company? Please invite them to our next 'Food for Thought' Lunch which takes place on Wednesday 2nd March at The Partridge Inn Wallingford, from 12.00 - 2.00 pm. This is an opportunity for friends and business acquaintances to meet up, find out more about The Treehouse and enjoy good food. Guests are asked to pay what they think the meal was worth. To book a place or table, please go to our website www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk and follow the 'Food for Thought' tab.

Dates for Your Diaries

Tues 16th Feb	Edith's 10 th birthday.
Weds 17th Feb	6.00 – 7.00 pm Mitch hosting the first Treehouse 'Spacewatch drop in' at the park, (weather permitting).
Fri 19th Feb	10.00 – 3.00 am Optional Forest School session at Lollingdon with fire lighting workshop. Meet outside the Fraser-Jones house at 10.00 am.
Mon 22nd Feb	New term begins. Nixercise – please wear PE kit to school, and bring a hat, gloves and waterproof coat.
Tues 23rd Feb	Tuesday Trading
Weds 24th Feb	Year sixes to visit Triaser (local company) in Wallingford
Thurs 25th Feb	Ian and Kate Caseys birthdays (Kate is 40 today!) 2.30 pm Archie and Will film premiere at 10 The Forty.
Friday 26th Feb	Friday Forest at Wittenham Clumps, home drop off.
Sun 28th Feb	Beat the Winter Blues 3 – 7pm at The Pavilion. Tickets from Vicky Beardall (vickybeardall@hotmail.com)
Mon 29th Feb	Nixercise – please wear PE kit to school, and bring a hat, gloves and waterproof coat.
Tues 1st March	Phoenix Comic workshop for the Houses in Wallingford Year sixes to The Partridge to prepare for the Food for Thought lunch.
Weds 2nd March	12 – 2.00 pm Food for Thought Networking Lunch

Tickets now available for The Treehouse Film Festival (7th/8th March) on the Corn Exchange website.



Going for Gold!

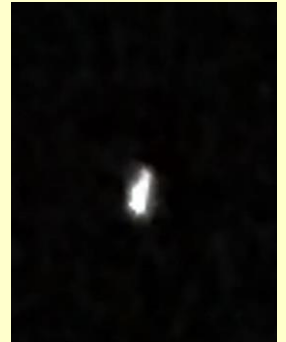
Keeping you in the Loop - Brain Compatible Learning

In recent years, scientists have discovered a great deal about how the brain works. As we become more informed, we are able to make better decisions about how to support children best with their learning. One certainty is that basic skills (reading, spelling, mental arithmetic) need to be practised regularly if they are to transfer to the long-term memory. I describe this to the children as a pathway between brain cells, the more they are used, the better. Whilst it can be a bit of a drag practising some of these skills on a daily basis at school and at home, it will make a huge impact on the children's learning longer term. With this in mind, Shaz and I have asked the children to complete some half term homework (see below).

Nature Smarties Wow! What an amazing view of the International Space Station (on the right). It's hard to believe that Tim Peake is up there. I hope you all got to see it but in case you missed it, here's a photo Mitch took on his phone as it passed overhead on Wednesday evening.

And below there's one that Tim Peake took of us the other day! If you look carefully, you can see the shape of the UK, with London clearly visible.

By the way, if anyone wants to set themselves up for email alerts so that they can track the ISS, you can do it here: <http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/> Follow the link and instructions to sign up for "Heads up alerts" – clever name...



Half Term Homework for The Houses

Please practise your 'Take 5' sheet, and handwriting daily (New Houses). Please also write a Learning Log entry about three (or more) of the following:

Our visit to Otmoor; the pancake race; The hare and tortoise ballet; the maths trail; Waterside Café; Chinese New Year something you enjoy during half term.

Use a variety of sentence starters, some strong verbs, capital letters in the right places, and of course a full stop, exclamation mark or question mark at the end. Double check your writing to see if you can improve it.

Half Term Homework for The Trees

The Trees are tinging all over the place just now. Their new diaries have really helped them to practise basic skills, little and often. Please encourage them to keep this up over half term, a little each day, as 'practise makes perfect'!!

It would be great to keep up the momentum if you could encourage your child to:

- Practise reading - special mention to Archie for rushing home and reading his new book (please encourage your child to look at any words they come across in the environment too);
- Practise handwriting (serious praise needed if you see this in their own independent writing - special mention to Lewis for his lovely writing in a thank you card);
- Revisit their tables - special mention to Eddie who is even doing this in his sleep(!);
- Think about the orientation of numbers - special mention to Grace who uses numbers in the environment to help her (e.g. The clock or a ruler);
- Record their efforts in their diary - special mention to Jess who is very organised about doing this;
- Continue to being self smart - special mention to Will who is very organised and makes sure his toughie and diary in the right place.

If their efforts could be recorded in their diaries, The Trees can share and celebrate their hard work after half term.

This week, a golden mention to Mags for cooking chicken noodle soup for us all to enjoy, also to Sue and Graham for going to such a lot of trouble to ensure that the farm visit was so enjoyable.