

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 146
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The Treehouse School



More Food for Thought...

It's lovely to be back at The Treehouse this week, recharged and raring to go again. Highlights for me have included observing children arriving at school with their noses in books on loan from Cholsey Library, and a phone call from Tess on Thursday evening asking if I would mind dropping her 'dog project' off, an extensive research project into the history of dogs, so that she could work on it that evening and over the weekend!

To put these highlights into context, during the month of April, ten and eleven year old children across the country in mainstream settings will be preparing for their SATs tests in May. In some schools, this comprises two maths lessons a day, and additional spelling and grammar 'booster' classes after school. Soul destroying. An e-mail from The Times Educational Supplement in my Inbox this week reads:

Hello Lee

Ensure your primary pupils are fully prepared for the upcoming Sats tests with these practice papers, worksheets and revision games...

No thanks, I think that I'll continue to work on developing strategies that will help to prepare The Gang for a happy and successful future instead.

We wish Wallingford School student, Lucy, all the best for the future after getting to know her during her work experience week at The Treehouse

Top Team

The school garden is now in use again. Our thanks to Lucy, Rich and Fred for helping us to reorganise and improve this space over the holidays.

If anyone has a spare plastic bin that they no longer need, we could do with one for the outdoor classroom. Also, any farm animals or equipment, or dolls that are no longer in use would be gratefully received. Thank you.

Tupperware Amnesty...

If you have any Treehouse containers at home, please can you return them. Thank you.

Wallingford Dance Festival Monday 18th April, 6.00 pm.

We hope that you are looking forward to seeing the children perform at this year's Dance Festival. They will need to wear **black leggings/jogging bottoms** to school on Monday, and bring their **white 'Peake V Vader' t-shirt** and a **healthy, packed tea**.

Dates for Your Diaries

Sun 24th April	Treehouse 10K! Good luck runners, bunny runners and the 10K team.
Mon 18th April	Lettuce seeds (from the International Space Station!) arrive at The Treehouse. 1.45 – 7.00 pm Children at Wallingford School for the 'Dance Festival'. 6.00 pm performance for relatives.
Tues 19th April	Optional late start for sleepy heads, 10.00 am. No Tuesday Trading. New Houses handwriting homework in please.
Weds 20th April	12.30 – 2.00 pm New Houses cycle refresher course with Michael. 2.00 – 3.00 pm Trees cycling with Michael in the park. Please collect your children from the Park.
Thurs 21st April	Happy Birthday Archie! Happy 90 th Birthday Queen Elizabeth II 12.30 – 2.00 pm Year Six cycle refresher course with Michael. 2.00 – 3.00 pm Trees cycling with Michael in the park. Please collect your children from the Park.
Friday 22nd April	Visit to Tiggywinkles, Long Crendon. Home drop off.
Mon 25th April	Wildlife photography competition ends. Bob and Roger Wyatt judging.

Treehouse 10K on Sunday - Fingers crossed for a successful event.



Going for Gold!

Keeping you in the Loop - Cycling at The Treehouse

Michael Townshend has kindly agreed to visit The Treehouse again to teach The Trees some basic cycling skills, and to give The Houses/New Houses some top-up sessions. These sessions will take place over the next fortnight (see below). **Please can you give your children's bikes a thorough check over so that we can make the best use of Michael's time.** Please note, all sessions will end in the park so collect your child/ren there at 3.15 pm. You would be most welcome to join us at any of the cycling sessions if you are able to, with your bike of course, so that you can reinforce Michael's training when cycling with your children at home.

Day	Trees (park)	New Houses (school)	Houses (school)
Wednesday 20 th April	2.00 - 3.15 pm	12.30 - 2.00 pm	No cycling
Thursday 21 st April	2.00 - 3.15 pm	No cycling	12.30 - 2.00 pm
Wednesday 27 th April	2.00 - 3.15 pm	12.30 - 2.00 pm	No cycling
Thursday 28 th April	2.00 - 3.15 pm	No cycling	12.30 - 2.00 pm

Treehouse Bookworms!

The children are really enjoying our regular visits to Cholsey library, an invaluable local resource. In addition to developing their reading (word smart skills), this is an excellent opportunity for them to develop their organisational (self-smart skills), taking responsibility for the books that they borrow, and making sure that they return or renew them on time. Please encourage your child to record the date they are due back in their school diary.

You may already be well aware of the '31 Days in May' month of events being organised by the library. We would like to invite you to join us for the launch of the 'Children's Reading Challenge' on Tuesday 3rd May at 2.45 pm in the library. Please also make a note of the date that the event ends (Tuesday 31st May) which is during half term.

Wallingford Festival of Cycling - 26th June 2016.

A whole day of cycling events both on and off road in and around Wallingford. The festival is for adults and children of all ages and abilities. For more details, and/or to register for any (children's) races, please go to: www.wallingfordfestivalofcycling.co.uk

Looking for something to do?

Learner Smarties

Find out as much as you can about water voles - they feature in our new story...



New House Homework

Work on your Take Five sheets...how many questions can you answer in five minutes?

Practise your part in 'The London Fire' play script ready to read on Wednesday.

House Homework

Identify any likes, dislikes, puzzles or patterns that you spot on the Census data ready to share at book club on Wednesday.

Treehouse Wildlife Photography Competition

Have you taken a photograph for our competition yet? Brothers Bob and Roger Wyatt will be judging the competition on Monday 25th April. Entries from children and adults of all ages welcome.

Congratulations Magnus for designing the winning logo to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday for the Cholsey 1000 Plus Celebrations in June. We look forward to seeing your logo on posters and the Queen's birthday cake in the summer.

