

# THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 158  
July 2016



Happy 'Unofficial' 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Fred!



Time Flies If You're Having Fun...

Yesterday, as our final forest school session of the school year ended, one of the adults present passed comment about how quickly the year had passed.

It is hard to believe that our second cohort of children, who were only seven when they joined us four years ago when we opened, are about to move on.

Unusually, this week I had the opportunity to meet teachers from five different settings, ranging from the mainstream to the private sectors. I was very sorry to hear that some excellent, very experienced teachers were taking early retirement because they had become so disillusioned with the education system, with its continued emphasis and focus on children passing tests and meeting targets.

Perhaps the new Education Minister, Justine Greening, might give teachers more autonomy so that they can take children out to the woods every week, and celebrate special occasions, like a very special volunteers 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. You never know...

Hi Gang,

Thank you very much for inviting me to Fred's birthday party. I am sure that Fred was thrilled to have, like the Queen, two birthday celebrations. Although Alison was there too, I shall make sure all the other Trustees know how impressive the Gang were with their good table manners, good behaviour throughout and thoughtfulness not only to each other, but also to all the adult visitors who were lucky enough to join you for the party. Your costumes of the era were also great. Well done, once again. Gilly

**Treehouse Bake-Off**

Entries from any child very welcome. This year's theme is 'Fit for a Queen', please bring your goodies to The Treehouse on Wednesday.

## Dates for Your Diaries

Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> July	1.45 pm Cricket in the park – all welcome, please join us if you can!
	2.45 pm Library Visit – please bring your library books to school.
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> July	No Trading this week – Bake Off tomorrow!
	1.00 pm Children may go home to work on their Bake-Off entries if helpful.
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term.
	Treehouse Bake-Off! Bring your goodies into school for the judges to sample! Good luck.
	2 – 3pm Assembly of Celebration. All welcome.
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Treehouse Supper – 7.00 pm at The Treehouse.
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Stackpole Visit

**We hope to see you at The Treehouse Assembly of Celebration:  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2 - 3pm at The Scout Hall.**



# Going for Gold!

## Keeping you in the Loop - Summer Holiday Challenges

The end of term, and summer holidays, are very definitely a time to relax and unwind...however, this year, in order to keep The Gang's smart areas ticking over, we are setting some 'Summer Holiday Challenges'. The children will be encouraged to complete some tasks that will help them to keep their brains and bodies active over the long summer break. Some of you may like to create a guide, like the one opposite, which a parent posted on a social media site recently, helpful:

### School Holiday Guide

You may have some (free time/screen time/friends to play) when you have:

- Made your bed;
- Had breakfast;
- Dressed;
- Brushed your teeth;
- Brushed your hair;
- Read for 20 minutes;
- Coloured or written for 20 minutes;
- Tidied up your bedroom/the garden...;
- Played outside for 30 minutes;
- Made or built something creative (Lego, sand, craft);
- Helped someone in the family (ask if there is something you can do if you can't think of anything).

## Looking for something to do?

### The Big Butterfly Count

Good Friend of The Treehouse, Marina, sent us some information about **The Big Butterfly Count**. Recording the number of butterflies is important because they react very quickly to change in their environment, which makes them excellent biodiversity indicators.

Butterfly declines are an early warning for other wildlife losses. That is why counting butterflies can be described as taking the pulse of nature. To find out more and take part in this important survey, please take a look at:

<http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

We have now had two great entries for the Agatha Christie Story Writing Competition. Don't forget your mystery story should be no longer than 500 words. How about writing a mystery story using one of the following titles:

- Murder on The Forty...
- Who stole the Bodleian Map?
- Tom the Ghost Lives on...
- Where did the Island in Cholsey Go?

All entries must be received by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July, and should be sent to [su-ej@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:su-ej@hotmail.co.uk) or by post to: Children's Story Competition, 8 Pound Lane, Cholsey OX10 9NR. Good luck!

### Yum - Delicious Pickled Recipes!

Many of you enjoyed the delicious homemade pickles that we ate at our 1920s lunch last week. So here are the recipes that Cassie used:

#### Pickled cucumbers:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/pickledcucumber\\_11033](http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/pickledcucumber_11033)

#### Pickled red cabbage:

Finely shred red cabbage (one will make about 5 jars). Spread a layer onto a large colander, sprinkle with 1 tsp coarse salt, repeat in layers using a total of 5 tsp salt. Leave for a few hours or overnight. Rinse under cold water and drain. Pack into sterilised jars and top up with spiced vinegar. You can buy ready spiced or make your own.

#### Spiced Vinegar

1 litre distilled malt vinegar  
25 peppercorns  
8 cloves  
6 bay leaves  
15g bruised root ginger  
2 tsp mustard seeds  
Large cinnamon stick  
1 Tbsp salt

Bring all ingredients to the boil in a large saucepan. Boil for 3 minutes. Strain and cool. Note: use cold for crisp pickles; use hot for soft pickles. Allow vinegar to cool a little before pouring into jar.

This week, we recognise Fred's contribution to the maintenance and upkeep of The Treehouse. Thank you 'Fantastic Fred'.