

# THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 162  
September 2016



Children set and achieve their own challenges in pool at Shillingford.



## Heads-Up

This is the last weekly Update, with monthly versions from now on. Dates for the next month; our latest news; ideas and activities for families to get stuck into at home; and information about initiatives and strategies will continue to feature in the Update. Please check your inbox on a regular basis for any 'Heads-Up' messages, which we will circulate via e-mail as and when needed.



## Partners in Crime!

Congratulations to **Herb and Ollie** for winning joint first prize for their murder mystery stories. Invited to learn more about Agatha Christie, and to meet her Grandson Mathew Pritchard, the two boys were presented with their prizes at The Corn Exchange recently. Afterwards Herb said: 'It was very exciting to meet Agatha Christie's grandson because it's as close as you could get to meeting the author herself.'

## Keep Calm and Carry on Camping!

Sunshine, swimming and storytelling by day, thunder and lightning by night, suffice it to say, this year's Camp Treehouse is one that we won't be forgetting for a while! However, what really stood out, and I mean **REALLY**, was how cool, calm and collected The Gang were throughout the experience/ordeal!

Woken from their sleep in the early hours, disorientated, and probably a little frightened by the distant rumbling of thunder and flashes of lightening, the children quickly settled, on the floor and furniture of our hosts' front room. Uncomfortable and anxious I have no doubt, experienced and inexperienced members of The Gang, between the ages of five and ten, demonstrated levels of acceptance, resilience and strength of character that were a privilege to witness. What an unexpectedly challenging and positive and start to our new school year.

We are in awe of the amazing **Ambling Amigas**, who completed their 52 mile walking challenge last weekend, raising funds for Sobell House and The Treehouse. Awesome.



## Out and About Days

This academic year, we are trailing three 'Out and About' days, an opportunity to take your child/ren for a day out during term time to learn, explore, investigate or do something different, or to visit somewhere new. The dates fall just before each half term:

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Why not involve your child/ren in planning their first day out now.

## Crowd Funding

Look out for news from Andrea, who is in the process of planning a crowd funding campaign to raise funds for the next phase of our new school build.



# Going for Gold!

## Keeping you in the Loop -The Brain

Did you know that while you are awake, your brain generates enough power to illuminate a light bulb? Or that there are over one hundred billion neurons in your brain that let messages flow backwards and forwards between the brain and the body?

As we learn more and more from neuroscientists about the brain and how it functions, not only do we realise what an awesome piece of kit it is, but also how we can get the best from it. This is very powerful stuff, even more so if you share it with children so that they learn and understand how to get the best from their brains. Currently, The Gang are watching a short animation, a little at a time, about the brain and how it works and functions. We are hoping that this will help them to understand important concepts like why practise pays off, and how important sleep and a healthy diet are for effective learning. Google 'The Learning Brain' on YouTube to find out more.

## Looking for Something To Do?

**Treehouse Trading Returns on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, between 2.45 and 3.15 pm.** This regular 'market' was founded by former Treehouse Pupil, Alex Robson, when he decided to sell some unwanted Lego, donating 25% of his profits to The Treehouse and keeping 75% for himself. Alex's idea took off, and Tuesday Trading is now the place for children and adults to sell and buy home baked goods, gifts, good quality second hand books, games and toys, anything goes really!

Popular ideas from the past have included: homemade cakes (and dog biscuits!) and chutneys; curry spice mixes; local free-range eggs; Tombola and Lucky Dip; handmade pencil cases and purses. As well as being an excellent context for developing and practising a vast range of skills, the market has a great buzz! Why not come along and see for yourself on Tuesday.



### Picture Smarties

Collect some autumn leaves, and arrange them into a design of your choice on a laminator pocket. Seal. A black card window mount will help to create a lovely layered carpet of leaves for your window.

What was your biggest challenge at Camp Treehouse? Why?



### Learner Smarties

What did Emily tell us about India that made you think hard?  
What can we learn from the Indian Culture?

Where are the UK in the Paralympic medal table? How many more medals would the UK need to win the Paralympics?



Vicky and Fin would like to know why garden spiders are only seen in the autumn...Any ideas?

## Month at a Glance

Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9.30 am	Robertson's Move Part I and Yard Sale
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9.45 am	Our day starts at The Treehouse (not Scout Hall).
	3.15 pm	PE: Skipping. Please collect your child from the park (weather permitting).
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	8.45 am	Move to Learn (Scout Hall)
	12.00	Benson Café for Lunch to celebrate our Camp Treehouse Adversity Challenge!
	2.45 - 3.15 pm	Treehouse Trading
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	8.45 am	Move to Learn (Scout Hall)
	11.00 am	Centenary Service at The Pavilion: Private Robert Clark. Harry reading.
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	8.45 am	Move to Learn (Scout Hall)
		The First Day of Autumn
		WORLD CAR FREE DAY - Can you find an alternative?
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	8.45 am	Our day starts at The Treehouse (not Scout Hall).
	10.00 - 12.00	Visit to Red Cow Cottage (Reptile Focus). Please collect your child from The Treehouse at the usual time.
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	8.45 am	Robertson's Move Part II and Yard Sale
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sep		11.00 am Centenary Service at The Pavilion: William George Hanson. Herb reading.
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept		Andrea away on holiday.
	8.45 am	Our day starts at The Treehouse (not Scout Hall).
	3.15 pm	PE: Skipping. Please collect your child from the park (weather permitting).
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	8.45 am	Move to Learn (Scout Hall)
	2.45 - 3.15 pm	Treehouse Trading
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	8.45 am	Move to Learn (Scout Hall)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	8.45 am	Move to Learn (Scout Hall)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	8.45 am	Treehouse start.
		Forest School at Streatley Hill.
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> October		INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH. Let's go for it!
		Happy Birthday Maurice and Cassie birthday
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	8.45 am	Treehouse start.
		Shaz walking to school from Kingston Bagpuize - wow!
	2.45 pm	Library visit, please collect your child from The Pavilion (weather permitting).
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	8.45 am	Move to Learn (Scout Hall)
	2.45 - 3.15	Treehouse Trading
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> October	8.45 am	Move to Learn (Scout Hall)
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> October	8.45 am	Move to Learn (Scout Hall)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am	Apple Harvest at The Old Bakehouse.

*Please note: Dates, times and events all subject to change! Please check the blackboard and your e-mails for any changes.*

