

# THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 25  
March 2013



The Treehouse School

Website: [www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk](http://www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk)  
Blog: [www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com](http://www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com)

Go Edith!



Have you heard... that the **Corn Exchange** only charged us £25 (instead of £350) to hire their theatre. This made the total raised from the Treehouse Film Festival a tremendous £1,000.00. What a result!

Many thanks to Cassie for organising the Abel and Cole orders; the weekly order raises £18.67 for the Treehouse.

Dear Lee,  
Please find attached a £50.00 donation towards the Treehouse School. I wish it had been available when my son went to school. I know he would have thrived in such an environment. The donation is from the sale of our Christmas trees, we decided not only to plant two trees for each one sold but also to donate money to a very good cause from each sale. It is always a pleasure to see you with the children out and about. Best wishes.

**Thank you all for your contribution to our Red Nose Day Five-Penny-Fete. It was a lovely event. We will let you know how much was raised when the children have counted their takings on Monday.**

## The Eagle has Landed...

The last week has been a particularly special one at The Treehouse. It started with the creation of our beautiful golden eagle sculpture, which local artist Nick Garnett worked on in partnership with the children.

The end result is stunning, and in conjunction with our current story 'Skymaster', has stimulated some outstanding imaginative discussion, powerful debate and creative writing by the children. It is gratifying to see the children so animated and engaged.

Mid-week, we received a couple of generous and most unexpected donations. Whilst financial contributions are always well-received, and indeed vital to the school's future at this stage, they also demonstrate a growing level of support for The Treehouse and its work beyond the immediate beneficiaries.

The Five-Penny-Fete was a really positive way to support the good work that Comic Relief does and to end our week. **Thank you all** for going to so much trouble to ensure that this event was such a success.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Sally is going to organize an Easter egg hunt on the last day of term at 3.00 pm. It will cost £2.00 per child. Siblings are welcome - please let Sally know how many children from your family would like to take part.

## Don't Miss...

**'The Friends of The Treehouse Meeting'** on **Monday evening** and **Sue Palmer** who will be giving a talk at Icknield College, Watlington on **Tuesday evening**. To book a free place, please contact **Helen Rints** Tel: 07504958334 or via e-mail: [helen.rints@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.rints@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## The More the Merrier!

Parents, younger siblings and Trustees are invited to join us for a turkey lunch this Friday (22<sup>nd</sup> March) at The Scout Hall. The fifteen pound turkey was kindly donated to The Treehouse by Mrs. Boshier. The cost is £2.00 per person. If you would like to attend, please let Karen Endean know by Tuesday at the latest.



# Going for Gold!

The children at The Treehouse practice basic and essential skills in English and Mathematics daily during our 'going for gold' session. Using the Olympic competitors as role models, they have come to understand that you have to work hard to achieve success, even if you don't always feel like doing it! Whilst we have never believed in primary aged children having set homework, I thought it may be helpful to share areas that the children could practice at home with a parent if the opportunity arises.

## Trees

Provide the children with coins from your purse and see which ones they recognise.

Letter formation: The Trees now have handwriting books so that they can practice the letters rehearsed at school

Number bond challenge: which two numbers make ten? Using objects e.g. counters, help your child to practice their number bonds.

## Houses

Provide the children with opportunities to make simple shopping trips so that they can practice calculating the cost of shopping and how much change they will receive.

Encourage your child to collect and make a note of 'good words' in their reading journals that they come across when reading and sharing stories with you.

Revisit times tables on a regular basis, focusing on those that your child finds tricky.

## Other Ideas

- Reinforce 'good listening' by asking your child to look at you when they are talking, to speak clearly and to keep their hands/feet still (!)
- Practice skipping with your child - how many skips can they do in a minute?
- Encourage your child to conserve energy e.g. by turning off lights when rooms are not in use, turning off the tap when cleaning teeth;
- Ask your child to count the change/money in your purse/wallet or their piggy bank.
- Play a board game with your child (some of them are interested in battleships at the moment);
- Play catch/down on one knee (weather permitting!)

## To Celebrate...

The level of engagement from children of all ages with our current story 'Skymaster' by Dick King-Smith