

# THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

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The Treehouse School

Website: [www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk](http://www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk)

Blog: [www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com](http://www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com)



Finding a letter from Skymaster  
in Lollingdon Woods

## Shabby Chic at The Treehouse!

Pooling expertise, Cassie has started purchasing interesting items of second-hand furniture, which are then refurbished by a team comprising Val and Alf. Our first Lloyd Loom ottoman was transformed by Val and raised £50.00 for the Treehouse. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their contribution to this project.

## It's a tough Job but someone's got to do it...

Huge thanks to all involved in dealing so quickly with the sewage problem at The Treehouse on Friday.

## Sutton Courtenay Trip on Monday

Following our successful last visit to Sutton Courtenay Nature Centre, we look forward to finding out how we can become even more 'nature-smart' during our second visit on Monday. Please ensure that your child is dressed warmly, has their full set of waterproofs, wellies, hat and gloves with them. Each child will make their own healthy packed lunch at The Treehouse before we leave. In an effort to avoid using any packaging at all, please send in a named lunch box, with some smaller containers inside it.

## Leg-It for The Treehouse

We are looking for some people to 'meet and greet' those taking part in the Leg-It challenge this year, back at The Treehouse. Please let Kate Robson know if you can help.

## Astounding...

The last couple of weeks have been some of the best that I have witnessed, during my entire career, in terms of the depth and quality of children's learning. It has been a real privilege to see children of all ages and abilities so animated and engaged in their own learning.

Our story, Godhanger by author Dick King-Smith really captured the children's imagination resulting in some highly sophisticated discussions, imaginative drama and some outstanding extended writing.

Coincidentally, the story concludes at Easter with the death and rebirth of the main character, Skymaster. This has provoked some deep-thinking and child-initiated discussion around topics such as life, death and different religious beliefs, as well as the opportunity to think more deeply about concepts such as friendship, trust and disappointment.

I have been overwhelmed by the level of the children's response to this challenging novel and have been reminded once again that we often underestimate what children are capable of.

Thanks to our fab 'meal and film' night we raised £105.00 last Friday evening. Our next film will be 'Skyfall' on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Jo Heydon.

## Here, Here!

I just wanted to say a big "thank you" to Jo for the amazing turkey lunch on Friday. I am sure you will agree with me that taking on the task of cooking for 34 people is pretty scary!  
Emma (on behalf of us all)

## My Heroine...

Even after listening to the same talk on two previous occasions, Sue Palmer's 'Toxic Childhood' presentation last Tuesday evening really got me thinking. Too many important issues to mention here, please do take a look at her website: <http://www.suepalmer.co.uk>  
essential reading!



# 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

Please continue to read regularly to and with your child.

See how many of the letter 'o' 'c' or 'a' they can write (correctly) in a minute.

Practice throwing and catching beanbags and balls to help the children to improve their hand/eye co-ordination.

## Houses

Revisit 'pairs of numbers' that love each other (number bonds to 20!) e.g.  $4 + 16$ ,  $15 + 5$ , and then as a subtraction e.g.  $20 - 4 =$ ,  $20 - 5 =$

Look for words inside words.

Practice 'Going for Gold' handwriting in books at home or when writing cards, invitations, thank you letters etc.

## Other Ideas

- Decorate and egg for the Easter Egg competition (Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March);
- Reinforce our new star target by reminding your child to attempt to sort their own problems out, rather than ask an adult too;
- Show your child where your energy meters are and ask them to record and measure how much energy your family uses on a weekly basis;
- Read a good quality novel to your child, asking them to identify likes, dislikes, puzzles and patterns as the story unfolds;
- Encourage your child to e-mail another member of the Treehouse School;
- See if your child would like to write their own story extended story over the Easter Holidays, which could be published and illustrated.

## To Celebrate...

The quality of the children's story writing that they did this week.