



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



*Attaching messages to our Skymaster Sculpture in response to a letter that arrived unexpectedly.*

### **Decorate-an-Egg-Competition**

Our thanks to all those who took part in this competition, to Sheena for judging it, and to Tesco Express for donating the prizes.

First prize in the adult category went to me (rather embarrassingly) and to Herbie in the child's category for his goldfish entry, with second place awarded to Tess for her dog entry. This competition was organised by Martha, Gracie and Tess. If you have an idea for a summer competition, please let us know.

Please return your child's PE kit, change of clothes, waterproofs and wellies (if they took them home) when we start the new term on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April.**

### **Taking the Lead**

One of our main goals for the children at The Treehouse has always been to equip them with the skills, qualities and attributes that they will need for a happy and successful future. Quite a challenge in a world that is ever-changing and where we are told that 80% of the jobs that this generation will go on to do, do not even exist at the moment!

One thing we can be certain about though is that all children will need to be able to think for themselves or 'take the initiative'. This is something I believe most of my generation, and indeed those before us, learned to do quite successfully during our childhoods.

However in our current education system, the older a child gets, the less likely they are encouraged to make choices and decisions for themselves. As an example, compare a child in a nursery school setting, with a pupil in a secondary school. For much of their school day, the nursery child is encouraged to choose what they do and when they will do it, whilst the secondary school pupil is told. Even going to the toilet can be a problem in a secondary school. The good news is the children at The Treehouse are actively encouraged to take responsibility for themselves, their behaviour and their learning.

This week we were delighted then when unbeknown to us and his parents, James decided to write a letter at home, as if from Skymaster, which he placed discretely under our sculpture. His letter was both reassuring ('I got shot but I am not dead') and gripping ('don't contact me or you will be in great danger') which increased the tension and excitement that we had experienced at The Treehouse over the last few weeks. Animated discussions followed as we explored different options as to how we should respond, agreeing on attaching feather-shaped messages to the sculpture.

What a breakthrough! We are so thrilled that a nine year old child took the lead, showing such initiative in the process.

**Go on...you know you want to!**  
**We hope to see you all at The Leg-It Challenge on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00 am at The Head of the River Pub in Oxford.**



# 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 help your child to practice forming letters in the 'c' family correctly - c, d, a, o, g, q

Number bonds to ten (e.g.  $9 + 1$ ,  $7 + 3$  etc.)

1 more than, 1 less than with numbers to 20/30 in real-life situations if possible;

Reading...each child has been given a new book and some picture books to enjoy with you over the holiday.

## Houses

Ask your child to teach you how to play the math's game 'Strike-it-out'. Can you find a winning strategy?

Revisit times tables already learned using playing cards;

Read together encouraging your child to listen out for and note in their reading journal any good vocabulary/sentence starters.

## Other Ideas

- Playing board games together;
- Planning, shopping and cooking a well-balanced meal together (google 'food pyramid' for information about different food groups);
- Setting up a bird hide in the garden and seeing how many birds they can spot;
- Looking for frog spawn when out and about;
- Preparing for the Leg-It challenge (increasing children's stamina);
- Skipping;
- Providing some junk so that the children can create their own models;
- Providing opportunities for the children to meet up and play with other children;
- Writing a book review to share at The Treehouse;
- Spend time thinking about how many things your family reuse (e.g. plastic bags), recycle and how you can reduce the amount of waste you create even further.

## To Celebrate...

The children's developing ability to solve their own problems, rather than 'telling' an adult. This was particularly evident during our visit to Snakes and Ladders.