

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

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The Treehouse School

Website: www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk

Blog: www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com



Going Out With A Bang!

I am delighted to inform you that thanks to a great deal of hard work on Alison and Sally's part, we are in the process of finalising the arrangements for a summer concert. As well as celebrating the end of our first year, we hope that the concert will raise some funds for The Treehouse. We are most fortunate that Jean Paul Ekins (<http://www.jpekispianist.com>) a highly talented young classical pianist has offered his services for free. The concert will take place at St. Peter's church Wallingford, so that we can make use of their grand piano, on the afternoon of Sunday 14th July. It will start at 3.30 pm with a cream tea. We are hoping that the children will have the opportunity to sing with Jean Paul. Please pencil the date into your diaries and also let your relatives, friends and any Friends of The Treehouse know. We are keen to fill the church (120 seats). More details to follow.

Plastic Containers

We are in need of some plastic food containers with lids. If you have any spare, we would be most grateful.

Worms

This Tuesday, a worm expert will be visiting The Treehouse during the morning. Younger siblings (and anybody with an interest in worms!) would be most welcome to join us.

Can We Stay?

At the end of our Friday Forest visit to Lollington woods yesterday, Samuel asked if we could stay. On further discussion, it turned out that he and many of the other children wanted to stay at The Treehouse seven days a week because they love it so much.

Compare this conversation with the one that I had later the same day during a shopping trip to Tesco's where I met a family I knew with two children in mainstream schools. The child in year six said that she was 'fed up' with school because they were 'getting ready for SATs'. This involved daily practise of old test papers, with a selection sent home on a weekly basis for homework. The other child who is at secondary school and has significant special needs, was also 'fed up with school' because he had to miss his favourite lessons (PE, design and technology) to do maths and English interventions. For information, both schools have recently received 'good' ratings from Ofsted.

When I look at the rich diet of opportunities and experiences that our children are exposed to on a regular basis, and equally important, the progress they have made in a relatively short period of time in all areas of their development, I do wonder who has got it right. But of greater personal importance to me, knowing that the children are happy and want to be at school, makes all of the hard work that we all put into The Treehouse worthwhile.

I cannot thank you enough.

Cooking

We would like to offer the children cookery lessons on a Thursday afternoon. If you enjoy cooking and can help, we would love to hear from you.

Forest School Kit

Please return your child's Forest School kit (soup thermos, plastic cup, water bottle and lid, waterproofs and rucksack) on Monday.



Going for Gold!

Over the next week, we will continue to develop our grounds and in particular, the pond area, so that we attract more wildlife into the garden. As well as spending time learning more about wild flowers, the children will clean the pond out and sew some wild flower seeds to accompany the flowers that we have already planted around the pond. On Tuesday the children will get the chance to learn more about worms from a local expert and the vital role that they play in enriching our soil. This ties in well with our focus on how we find information and learn new things (books, internet, ask an expert).

The maths focus for the older children will be looking for patterns and relationships between numbers, with a focus on multiples (times tables) of 2 - 10. The younger children are looking at the properties of different shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, hexagon and pentagon).

In PE, we will continue with our skipping focus and also try to get better at catching a tennis ball with one-hand, learning in the process that you can't be good at everything straight away! Any practise at home with either of these activities will be useful. The children will need their scooters on Wednesday. We will end our week with a Friday Forest trip to Wittenham Clumps.

Trees

Please help your child to practise forming letters in the ladder' family (up and down) correctly - b, h, k, l, t,

Number bonds to ten - try using playing cards to practice (e.g. $9 + 1$, $7 + 3$ etc.)

Shape spotting at home and when out and about.

Houses

Continue to read to and with your child on a regular basis, asking them what they like/dislike about a book, as well as any puzzles or patterns that they can spot.

Play dice snap - roll two dice, add the two numbers together. Who can get the answer first?

Other Ideas

- Go for a local walk or cycle ride and see how many flowers/trees you can spot together and identify.
- Ask the children to tell you what they like/dislike/find puzzling and any patterns that they have spotted in our story, The Iron Man.
- Challenge your child to select and cook a simple recipe.
- See if you can find 10 facts about worms using a range of sources of information.

To Celebrate...

Managing without electricity for a day - thank you all for taking up the challenge at home.