

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 31
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The Treehouse School

Website: www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk

Blog: www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com

Taking in the sights and sounds on our dawn chorus walk



Fix-It-Friday Update

Our thanks to all those who supplied fabric or helped the children to make their fabric bags on Friday. The children were thrilled with their bags and are now thinking about how we can encourage more people to use a bag-for-life, rather than a plastic bag when they go shopping.

Unwanted Clothing

The Bags-2-School collection will take place this Thursday morning (16th May). If you are available to look through the bags for any saleable items before they are collected, please let us know.

Going Out With a Bang!

We are now in the final stages of organising our end of year celebratory concert which features a highly talented young pianist, and children from The Treehouse and Brightwell Schools singing together.

The concert will take place on **Sunday 14th July**, starting with a cream tea at 3.30 pm in the beautiful gardens of Bridge House, next door to St. Peter's Church, Wallingford, where the concert will take place.

As well as being a wonderful event in itself, this is an excellent opportunity for us to 'put ourselves out there' and spread the word about The Treehouse. With 170 seats to fill, we would like to challenge you all to sell as many tickets as you can to people that might be interested in our school and/or enjoy good music. More details will be circulated early next week.

Who Will Help Me to Plant My Seeds?

One of my (many) highlights this week was seeing our raised beds filled and planted.

Getting to this point has been a long process, involving a host of people and a range of skills and qualities, including patience and perseverance.

The wood was donated by a local company, collected by Friends Alf and Fred, and assembled by Barry. The manure was donated and delivered by my father and shovelled into the beds by Jo and I. The top soil was supplied and delivered by the team working on the new pavilion and barrowed into the beds by Kate, Lucy, Archie, Karen and Emma. The seeds, which were given to the school, were sown, nurtured and finally planted by Emma with help from some of the children.

This account exemplifies the way our school works, survives and indeed continues to thrive. Unlike the story of the Little Red Hen, who has to do all of the hard work on her own, we have become a strong and united team, working together for the good of the children....just as it should be.

Leg-It Update

The latest total for sponsorship from the Leg-It Challenge is £2,715.86. Thank you all for raising such a tremendous sum for The Treehouse.

Need Some Exercise?

We have acquired some old tyres which are going to be made into some additional raised bed. They need to be filled with the remaining top soil to create some additional vegetable plots. If you have an hour to spare next week, we would love to see you!



Going for Gold!

Over the next week, we will continue to develop our grounds so that they attract even more wildlife. Our early morning walk with The Wonderful Wyatt Brothers reignited the children's interest in birds, and we are delighted that a blue tit has chosen to nest in the garden. Following our trip to local conservationist Tony Rayner's amazing garden and nature reserve, we have placed some sheets of corrugated tin in the garden, in the hope that we may attract slow worms, grass snakes, voles and shrews. We now plan to transform our outdoor classroom into an information centre and to start thinking about the different habitats we already have at The Treehouse. We also plan to follow-up our findings from the plastic bag survey that we did outside Tesco's last week.

The maths focus for the older children will continue to be looking for patterns and relationships between numbers, using different ways, such as Venn diagrams to sort them. The younger children will continue to consolidate their knowledge of different shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, hexagon and pentagon).

In PE, we will continue with our skipping focus and visit the tennis courts again. The children will need their scooters on Wednesday to scoot to the tennis courts and back. We will end our week with a visit to The Millennium Woods for our Friday Forest session.

Our 'Star Target' continues to focus on manners; we aim for all of the children to remember their 'pleases' and 'thank yous' without the need for a reminder.

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/twenty - try using playing cards to practise (e.g. $9 + 1$, $7 + 3$ etc.)

Shape spotting at home and when out and about.

Houses

Continue to practise tables - we are getting there, but the more practise the children have the better.

Collect and list good sentence starters and/or 'wow' (good) words when reading with your child.

Other Ideas

- Try cooking Cassie's delicious spring vegetable risotto and celery bread with your child's help (recipe to be circulated).
- Visit The Forty to see how many different wild flowers the children can spot and identify.
- Write a sunflower diary, recording changes in the sunflower seedling on a regular basis (How tall is it now? How has it changed?)
- Find and list five facts about grass snakes or slow worms. Which is the most interesting? Where did you get the information from? How easy was it?

To Celebrate...

The beautiful sketches that the children did of the cowslips in Tony Rayner's meadows.