

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

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The Treehouse School

Website: www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk
Blog: www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com



The AlfFred Extension

The children's play equipment is now complete and being enjoyed by us all. Our thanks to Barry, John and Geoff and his team for working so hard on this.

Forthcoming Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 25th June

Visit to local organic garden at Preston Crowmarsh.

Wednesday 26th June

Tennis in the park. Children will need their scooters.

Friday 28th June - Camp Treehouse

5.30 pm. Final details to be circulated.

Monday 1st July

Optional rest and catch-up day.



If You Go Down to The Woods Today...

No two weeks are ever the same at The Treehouse, but last week felt particularly surreal at times, especially on Friday.

Having managed to get the whole school and three visiting teachers to Lollington on a collection of bicycles and tag-alongs, we looked forward to a visit from MP Ed Vaizey. Ed had been invited to the woods to see The Treehouse in action, share some lunch and to find out what the children thought he should try to change. I often feel that we underestimate children, and on this occasion was proved right. Their unprompted responses focused mainly on the changes that they would make to the education system so that young people would become more 'nature' and 'body' smart. Martha added that she would like all children to go to a school like The Treehouse.

Later when I asked Ed about the future of the education system in this country, he reported that the Government were looking at how they could give teachers more freedom so that they could open schools like ours. Perhaps Martha wasn't so far off the mark (and pigs might fly!)

The day ended with our first 'Sports' Night' which was a tremendous success thanks to the children and adults' support and participation. On a personal note, I was thankful that I managed to (just about) keep my trousers and pants on during the wheelbarrow race. It was a bit of a close call I can tell you!

Bug Hotel

With help from a Friend of The Treehouse, we will be making our bug hotel early this week. If you have any natural or manmade materials that we could use to fill our hotel (straw, carpet, wood, bamboo, tubing), we would be most grateful.



Going for Gold!

The main focus of our week will be creating our bug hotel and thinking about the wildlife that might be attracted to it. Our visit to Mark Powell's organic vegetable plot will help the children to learn more about seasonal produce and also how Mark controls pests without the use of insecticides. We also hope to finish our greenhouse and start painting the outdoor classroom.

In mathematics, The Houses will learn more about 3D shapes with a new challenge from Lisa. They will continue to work on their times tables (up to 5x) in random order. The Trees will consolidate their number work.

In PE, the children will continue to learn how to play Tennis. They will need their scooters and helmets on Wednesday.

On Friday, we will spend most of the day at school preparing for Camp Treehouse! The children will go for a cycle ride around the village. Please bring bikes and helmets.

We have a new star target which involves being 'people smart' and sharing things with others. Please reinforce this at home if you get the opportunity.

Trees

- Please continue to read with and to your child on a regular basis.
- Number bonds to 10 and 20.
- Find opportunities for your child to count in twos and spot odd and even numbers in the environment.

Houses

- We have started to learn italic handwriting so please encourage your child to bring their purple books in to school so that they can be given patterns to practice at home.
- Help your child to learn their times tables up to 5x so that they know them instantly.

Other Ideas

- Go for a walk and see how many different trees you can spot and identify. Discuss the features of different trees - what do their leaves look like?
- Encourage your child to continue to skip and learn new tricks and skills. Skipping is brilliant for developing children's co-ordination as well as being good exercise.
- Try out some of Cassie's delicious recipes, with your child helping.
- Encourage your child to make an entry in their reading journal - some news, a comment about the book that they are reading, a word search...

To Celebrate this week...

That we all cycled to Lollington and back - a first!