

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 42
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The Treehouse School

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



Alex attempts to light a fire at Friday Forest, without matches...

French Club

Thanks to a local volunteer, Fliss Hoad, we are able to offer the older children French Club after school on a Monday. The club will start on the 23rd September running from 3.30 - 4.30 pm at Jo Heydon's house. Please let us know if your child would like to participate. A donation of 50p each week will help to cover the cost of some light refreshments.

A Treehouse for The Treehouse!

We have recently been given a beautiful miniature Treehouse for the children to play with (Thank you Sally and Paul). If you have any unwanted small figures or animals that you would be willing to donate to the school, or see any in charity shops, they would be the icing on the cake!

Forthcoming Dates for Your Diary

Please note, Shaz and Lucy are on a Forest School course next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday just in case you are looking for them!

Monday 16 th September	Chinese Day - Visitor Jane Lieu will tell us all about China
Thursday 19 th September	Cycling practice (bikes please)
Friday 20 th September	Friday Forest at Wittenham Clumps.
Monday 23 rd September	French club starts (for the Houses)

Judo

We have been given the opportunity to offer children judo lessons after Christmas on a Wednesday morning at a reduced rate of £2.00 per session. This includes the hire of the kit as well of course as the instructor's time. We propose that the session runs for a ten-week block providing the children with some exercise inside during the cold, winter months. Due to the costs involved, we would be grateful for your thoughts before we confirm the booking.

Time to Reflect

Over the summer holidays, Shaz and I had time to evaluate our first year at The Treehouse, thinking about what had worked well and any areas that we felt we needed to strengthen. This has led to a few changes at the school, which we believe will help the children to become even more effective learners.

Inspired by The National Trust's '50 Things you should do before you are 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ', we think that there are some things that all children should learn about or do while they are at primary school. We have also invited the children to think about what they would like to learn more about (endangered species - Alice, The Romans, Trees - Freya, Newspapers - Martha, Making day - Herbie) and would now like to invite you to contribute your ideas. There is no rush, you have all year, but if you do think of something, please complete a Learning Challenge which will be circulated electronically.

We can't wait to see what you come up with!

Going Once, Going Twice...!

This year's Auction of Promises takes place on Friday 8th November at 7pm (please note this is a change of date) so please keep that date free if you can. If you have any good ideas for pledges, for example babysitting, ironing, dinner for six, or something new that you are willing to donate, please let Jo Heydon know as soon as possible. Please invite your friends and family to the evening so that we can raise some funds for The Treehouse.



Going for Gold!

Keeping You in the Loop...

Thank you for spending the time helping us to assess your child's(ren's) strengths or smart areas, and thinking about the areas that they need to focus on this year. Any opportunities to reinforce or promote your child's 'smart' areas outside school will play huge dividends in the future. Over the next few weeks we will be finding out more about trees. This was Freya's suggestion. The children will be learning how to identify trees using a range of strategies such as leaf identification guides and keys, and at the same time starting to think about what helps us to learn best. Some people learn by doing, whereas others learn by listening or watching; some learners prefer to work collaboratively whilst others like peace, quiet and to work alone. Helping the children to understand how they learn best will help them to become even more effective learners in the future.

Trees

The Trees have been revisiting letters in the 'c' family this week (a, c, d, g, o, q) during their 'Going for Gold' sessions. They 'Take Five' (minutes) to see how many they can do - little and often will do the trick! Please practice at home if you get the chance. Measuring is also a current focus for The Trees as they think about what could be used to measure different things e.g. tape measure, ruler, weighing scales, a clock. Please look out for opportunities to capitalize on this at home.

Houses

The Houses are about to start a new style of handwriting at school, italic, which some of you may have learned when you were a child. They have been reminded that the more practice they put in, the quicker they will progress. Little and often and quality rather than quantity will definitely help; please encourage your child to bring their home/school handwriting book to school so that they can be given some patterns and letters to practice at home.

How about...?

- Thinking of a question or two that you would like to ask our Chinese visitor, Jane Lieu, on Monday when she joins us for the day.
- Going for a closely supervised cycle ride on the road to develop your road safety and awareness skills. Houses - don't forget what to do when there is a parked car in your way.
- Finding a small leaf for our new Treehouse competition. What is the smallest leaf that you can find? Currently Shaz is in the lead with a beech leaf measuring 9mm from the bottom of the stalk to the tip of the leaf. Can you beat her?
- Writing your own novel like Magnus is doing.
- Counting the money in your money box or parent's purse or wallet. How rich are you/they?
- Sending an e-mail to another member of The Treehouse Gang.
- Picking some blackberries and using them to make a crumble or some compote, which we have discovered is delicious when served with Greek yoghurt.

To Celebrate...

- James' sunflower which measured a magnificent 238 cm.
- The quality of the writing in the log book - what a difference a year makes!
- 0g of food waste since the start of term, compared with 2409g this time last year.
- Edith and Harry for cycling to Lollington and back in challenging conditions!