

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 45
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The Treehouse School

Website: www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk

Blog: www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com



Happy Birthday Maurice

A Chip off the Old Block

The children would like to do some wood work at school. If you know anybody who has some spare time, is patient (!) and would be willing to help us, please let us know.

Forthcoming Dates for Your Diary

Monday 7 th October	Ecclestons Choice of Music
Tuesday 8 th October	Swimming commences
Thursday 10 th October	Cycling (please bring bikes and helmets)
Friday 11 th October	Friday Forest - venue to be confirmed.
Wednesday 16 th October	(Postponed) PTA Meeting
Monday 28 th October	Half Term

Going, Going Gone!

As you know, our Auction of Promises takes place on **Friday 8th November** in the Scout Hall at 7pm.

Pledges so far include a Mexican dinner party for 6, babysitting, bake a cake a month for a year, a collection of pickles and chutneys, half a dozen eggs a week for a month, a 'forensic taster session' (approx 1-2 hrs) at the chemical laboratory at Thames Valley Police HQ in Kidlington and a day's child care. Please rack your brains and ask around for more pledges, as well of course, as inviting your family and friends along to the evening.

Our Unsung Heroes and Heroines

Never a day goes past when Shaz and I don't thank our lucky stars in recognition of the fantastic team of Parents, Trustees and Friends of the School that we have around us. We will never be able to thank you all properly for everything that you do, both behind and in front of the scenes.

Take Maurice for example, who accompanies us on our Friday Forest forays; gathers sticks, conkers, berries and anything else needed for our various projects; has recently demonstrated how to make pea shooters, bows and arrows and conkers on a string; and mucks in and helps out, if he is able to, whenever we need him. This is just one example of dozens that I could describe.

Our sincere thanks to you all for the time, energy and commitment you continue to give The Treehouse.

Food Glorious Food!

Thank you Cassie for the delicious Indian Take Away you organised for us last week. The total raised was an amazing £128.63.

Our Young Apprentices

Our Apple Event was an excellent opportunity for the children to hone a range of skills including their ability to work effectively in groups, and to work with money in a real context.

Our thanks to the Robertsons for kindly donating the bramley apples from their tree, and to all those who helped with the apple and blackberry picking, shopping and baking involved.

The grand total raised at The Apple Event was a tremendous £179.31! The winning team, The 'HOE's' (Harry, Herbie, Owen, Ollie and Edith) raised a staggering £60.61 from the sale of their toffee and chocolate apples. As for the other groups, despite doing a great job, unfortunately they're fired!

Thanks to Lorraine's organisational skills and tenacity, Dippers and Divers swimming lessons start this Tuesday in Goring. Please make sure that you child has their costume and towel with them every week. Cranford House have kindly agreed to lend us their minibus; due to the timing of the sessions, we will drop the children off at home between 3.15 pm and 3.45 pm every Tuesday after school.



Going for Gold!

Keeping You in the Loop...

Our focus on Howard Gardener's Multiple Intelligences or smart areas (**body, learner, music, nature, number, picture, people, practical, self, word**) is really starting to take off. Most of the children are now able to identify the different smart areas and some are starting to be able to describe their achievements and progress using 'smart language'. For example, "This week I think that I have become more self-smart because I challenged myself to climb a tree and did it, even though I was really scared."

You may recall that the reason we have adopted Gardener's work is because we believe that every child is smart in at least one area, and if that area is acknowledged and valued, their confidence and self-esteem will grow. Without this, there is very little chance that a child will become a successful and positive learner.

Trees

Reading is coming on a treat; please keep doing what you are doing! In addition we would ask you to use the environment to help the children to practise their reading skills. It is always a bit of a revelation when children realise that they can read the words around them and not just those in a book. Trees have continued to explore place value using bags of ten and loose apples this week, any opportunity to continue to discuss this at home would be useful.

Houses

The times table practise has been paying off, with most of the children motoring on. Thank you for helping your child at home. In maths this week, the children have been solving problems involving money, calculating how much has been spent and the change that would be given from a £5.00 or £10.00 note. Any further opportunities to practise at home, or whilst shopping will be helpful.

How about...?

Practically Smart

- Baking or making something with bramley apples (there are some under Lee's log store, help yourself)
- Collecting some conkers and making something for Herbie's conker competition.

Number Smart

- Going to the shops to buy something. Can you work out how much the item(s) cost and how much change you will get?

Word Smart

- Teaching somebody new how to play conkers.
- Looking through your 'Reading Passport' to help you to decide what you will read next.
- Practising your news for Monday Morning...do you have something that you could bring it to accompany your news?

Music Smart

- Listening to Vivaldi's Four Seasons 'Autumn' track. How does it make you feel?

Self Smart

- Doing something kind or helpful without being asked.

To Celebrate...

- The House's cooking skills have really improved. They are able to cook simple recipes with minimal help from an adult.