

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 46
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The Treehouse School

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



Go on James...You can do it!

Name Labels

We would be most grateful if each family could supply half a dozen or so dishwasher and waterproof name labels that can be used to name children's flasks, water bottles etc.

Forthcoming Dates for Your Diary

Monday 14 th October	Rymans' Choice of Music
Tuesday 15 th October	Swimming
Wednesday 16 th October	PTA Meeting
Thursday 17 th October	Cycling (please bring bikes and helmets)
Friday 18 th October	Friday Forest Lollingdon (bikes and helmets).
Monday 28 th October	Half Term

Cleaning Teams

Just a quick note to thank all those who clean our school for us. The Treehouse Gang are very fortunate to have such a clean and well maintained environment in which to learn. Thank you all for your hard work.

We just wanted to say how lovely it was to meet you all this week and let you know how impressed with all of the children we were. Their behaviour and manners were impeccable and they were a credit to your school. Please pass on our thoughts to Lee and to the children and parents. We hope they all enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to future swimming classes.

Harriet and Angela - Dippers and Divers.

The Problem with our Education System?

Children aren't Feral Enough...

Your children are an absolute credit to you, and of course to The Treehouse. Over the last couple of weeks, whilst out and about, we have been inundated with compliments about the children's behaviour and their conduct. Members of the public also often make comments about how pleasing it is to see the children active and outdoors too.

This week an article in the Guardian reported that the best way to 'knacker a child's education is to force him or her to spend too long in the classroom'. An overview of research into outdoor education by King's College London found that children who spend time learning in natural environments "perform better in reading, mathematics, science and social studies". Exploring the natural world "makes other school subjects rich and relevant and gets apathetic students excited about learning". Furthermore the study revealed that time spent in the countryside improves children's long-term memory and their attention span. Ofsted have also reported that getting children out of the classroom raises "standards, motivation, personal development and behaviour."

The author concludes, 'I wonder how long it will take for the Government to stop treating children like geese in a foie gras farm? Confined to the classroom, stuffed with rules and facts, dragooned into endless tests: there could scarcely be a better formula for ensuring that they become bored and disaffected.'

No wonder The Treehouse Gang are so well behaved and doing so well!



Going for Gold!

Keeping You in the Loop...

One of the 'smart' areas that we really value is the ability to be **self-smart**, or for individuals to take responsibility for themselves and their actions. Learning how to do this is a tricky business. You can help your child to become more self smart by asking them to think through the consequences of their actions. For example, "You have a choice. You can get dressed quickly, and have some time to play before we set off for school, or take your time, and then there will be no play time. The choice is yours. Over the years, we have found this a very successful and positive strategy, particularly when a child's behaviour becomes challenging. The trick is to make sure that the consequence is suitable, and to see any consequences through. Next time you are feeling a little frazzled with your child at home, why not give it a try and let us know if it worked.

Trees

- Ask if you can see your child's reading passport...is there a reading task you could work on together?
- Continue to focus on number bonds, looking at the related subtraction facts e.g. if $6 + 4 = 10$, then $10 - 6 = 4$.
- When you are out and about, look at the number of tens and units in prices e.g. 25p 2 tens, 5 pennies (units).

Houses

- The math's focus on shopping, money and giving change has really **paid off!** The Houses are now learning how to ask their own money-related problems. Why not ask your child to give you a problem to solve?
- In spelling we have been looking for words inside words. Whenever you have the chance, e.g. when reading or writing together, please draw attention to this strategy.

How about...?

Number Smart

- Finding and identifying a leaf that measures less than 5mm from the tip to the end of the stalk.

Word Smart

- Finding some more collective nouns...e.g. A raft of otters, a bale of turtles, a ????? of red kites. Can you think of a good collective noun to describe your family?

- Music Smart

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

Self Smart

- Learning your telephone number and how to make a phone call on your own.
- Getting stuck into everything that you are asked to do so that we can achieve our star target.

Body Smart

- Go for a cycle ride or walk to see if you can find a geocache.

To Celebrate...

- Edith, Freya, Gracie and James for overcoming their fears and climbing an oak tree at Shotover.
- The fantastic entries in Herbie and Tess's conker competition - take a look on the blog.