

# THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 50  
November 2013



The Treehouse School

Website: [www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk](http://www.thetreehouseschool.org.uk)  
Blog: [www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com](http://www.newschoolproject.wordpress.com)

*All Things Bright and Beautiful...by James*



## The Birds and the Bees!

The children have selected a wide variety of topics to study as part of their individual project work. They include the solar system, World War II, Australia, extinct animals, mythical creatures, Lego, bees, babies, William and Kate, schools, early people/creation stories, volcanoes and computers. If you have any relevant books or resources that may enhance their learning and understanding of these areas, or know of any experts that may be able to visit and share their knowledge with us, would be delighted to hear from you.

## Christmas is Coming...

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Vicky Beardall has booked the Scout Hall for a wreath making session. She will provide the materials needed to make a wreath as well as some refreshments. Vicky is charging £10.00 for the session with all money raised going to Sobell House. Please let Vicky know if you would like to join her as numbers are restricted.

## Time Flies!

We are very fortunate that we have many visitors to The Treehouse, which this week has included two members of staff from a local state school. One of the teachers was feeling justifiably miffed when the outstanding lesson that an inspector had observed her teach was downgraded to 'good' because one child didn't finish the writing in the time given. The fact that the child was only five years old, highly motivated, and had written a significant amount, wasn't taken into account.

I couldn't help but reflect and think how fortunate our children are to be given the time that they need to complete the projects that they undertake, often achieving outstanding results.

## A Stitch in Time...

Thank you Cassie for our beautiful wall hanging, which takes pride of place in the Meeting Room. Under Cassie's guidance, each child has created their own leaf 'hand' using a variety of techniques and designs. Please do pop in and see the finished results.

## Friday Forest Gear

Following last week's washout, we have decided that the children will bring their Friday Forest gear home (waterproofs, drink bottle/lid, soup flask sometimes) every Friday except Fix It weeks. We would be most grateful if you would dry, clean and return the items at the start of the week.

## Fancy Dipping In...

We would like to invite you to watch your children swim at the end of term on either Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like to join us, please let us know which session you would like to attend. Our lessons take place in Goring, starting at 1.15 pm and finishing at 2.45 pm.

## Forthcoming Dates for Your Diary

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Kennedy Family's choice of Music
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Swimming
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Recorder Session - please let us know if your child needs a recorder
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	3.00 pm Richard Pengilly presenting dictionaries from the Round Table
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Friday Forest at The Patch (bikes)
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	11.00 - 3.00 pm Have-a-go craft day at the Scout Hall.
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Nativity at Wallingford Winter Festival 1.30 pm and 3.00 pm.



# Going for Gold!

## 'BIG STEPS'

One of the best things that we can do for any child is to give them self-belief and self-confidence; without this, their ability to learn is seriously hindered. At The Treehouse, we focus on what children can do and are good at, as well as looking for strategies that will help them to move forward in the areas that they find more challenging. Of course, the best possible approach is when the children identify for themselves the areas that they wish to get better at. Some of the Houses have started to think about the next BIG STEPS in their learning and the results have been staggering. For example, one child wants to be able to do things without help from an adult; another to accept advice from an adult. Please talk to your child about their next BIG STEP to see if they have thought of one yet and/or how they are progressing.

### Trees

- Ask your child to write the numbers from 1 - 10 in their handwriting books. If you notice them forming any incorrectly, please help them to focus on them, one at a time, thinking about how they can remember to form them correctly.

### Houses

- Please practice doubling and halving two digit even and odd numbers (e.g. 26, 92, 45, 37), asking your child to explain how they did it. A pack of cards can help to generate different numbers.

Looking for something to do. How about...

#### Word Smart

- **Creating your own collective nouns for W, X, Y and Z? We only have four letters of the alphabet left!**

#### Body Smart

- **Practicing blowing bubbles lying on your tummy in the bath, with your mouth and nose under the water, looking down, to help you when we swim.**

#### People Smart

**Making a jigsaw puzzle with other members of your family. We have plenty at The Treehouse if you would like to borrow one.**

#### Learner Smart

- **Doing some research for your individual project.**
- **Thinking of some activities that you would like to do during our winter project.**

#### Practically Smart

- **Making a Christmas present for a friend or relative.**

## To Celebrate...

- **All of the children for their golden Log Book entries...what a difference a year makes!**
- **Alice for knowing all of her timetables up to 10 x 10.**