

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 52
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The Treehouse School

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

A Chilly Dress Rehearsal!



Natural Notelets

You may have seen some of the beautiful images that the children created from natural materials when they were at The Arboretum one very wet Friday a couple of weeks ago. Lorraine has transformed these, with a little help from a local printer, into beautiful postcards, available from The Treehouse for £6.00 a pack (set of 12 representing all children's work) or 60p each. They will be on display in the conservatory from Monday. The cards will also be on sale tomorrow at the Wallingford Christmas Festival and available from The Treehouse next week. Please just send your order and any money in a named envelope and we will get your cards to you. They would make really lovely Christmas gifts for family, friends and lovely stocking fillers for The Gang too.

Otmoor Nature Reserve Visit

Weather dependent, Mitch is happy to lead a group of interested parents and children to Otmoor Nature Reserve next Friday (6th December) to watch over 30,000 starlings and their associated predators at work. The plan is to leave straight after school, taking supper, in a convoy with Mitch leading the way. The reserve is about a forty minute drive away and Mitch thinks that we are likely to be back in Cholsey at 6.30 pm approx. Please e-mail him directly if you would like to come along (mitchell.fraserjones@gmail.com).

Sorry for asking for money so close to Christmas, but to cover the costs of our theatre visit and the ice-skating at Millets Farm, please could we ask for a donation of £15.00 per child (£13.00 for the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, £1.00 for a cake at Millets and £1.00 towards the entrance fee). We are happy for families to pay in installments; please do not feel the need to pay before Christmas.

After a Storm comes the Calm...

Now that our inspection is out of the way and there won't be another for the next few years, we can refocus our efforts on our main goal, which is to provide an education that will equip the children with the skills, qualities and attitudes that will help them to live happy, positive and successful lives.

Every day, we get great pleasure as we watch individuals and groups of children progress in all areas of their development, and become increasingly confident and independent. We admire the way that they rise to the learning challenges that they are presented with, often achieving outstanding outcomes. But for me, one of our main achievements is to see the children racing through the school gate first thing, happy and looking forward to the day ahead. What a result!

Christmas Dates For Your Diary

- 1.12.13 Nativity at Wallingford Christmas Festival
1.30 and 3.00 pm (please be there 15 mins before each performance)
- 2.12.13 Green Family Music
- 3.12.13 Decorating The Treehouse/Lee on a course all day.
- 3.12.13 12.45pm Swimming – parents welcome.
- 4.12.13 Recorders
- 5.12.13 Cycling – bikes and helmets please
- 6.12.13 am Trip to Wallingford on the bus to visit charity shops and buy a Christmas gift (pocket money)
1.30 pm Nativity at The Day Centre
3.30 pm Otmoor visit
- 9.12.13 Heydon family music
3.00 pm Christmas Dance for Parents, relatives and Friends at the Scout Hall
- 10.12.13 12.45pm Swimming – parents welcome
- 11.12.13 Recorders
- 12.12.13 2.00 pm The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.
Children to be dropped off home at 5.30 pm approx.
- 13.12.13 Friday Forest at Wittenham Clumps
5.45 pm Santa Collection – Red Lion car park
- 16.12.13 7.00 pm Carol Concert at The Scout Hall (all welcome)
- 17.12.13 10.00 am start for those that need it!
Ice Skating at Millets Farm. Children will be dropped off at home at 3.15 pm approx.
- 19.12.13 12.00 noon Christmas Lunch at The Red Lion
Secret Santa. Early finish and end of term.
- 7.1.13 Spring term begins



Going for Gold!

Keeping You in the Loop

Thanks to some time with Sally, and the local vicar Andrew Petit, last week the children's interest and understanding of the Christian faith and now Judaism, is developing. The questions that the children asked Andrew Petit during our visit to the church showed real depth of thinking as they grappled to make sense of a range of concepts and beliefs (Who made God? If Jesus was Jewish, why do Christians celebrate his birth? Why does Father Christmas visit us at Christmas? Can you be a Christian if you haven't been christened?) This week we intend to build on this by looking more closely at The Bible as we prepare for our Carol Concert. We will work on a new reading strategy encouraging the children to try to work out the meaning of word by being a 'reading detective' and looking for clues in the

Trees

- Practice forming the 'bridge' letters h, m, n and r using pens, chalk, paint, sand etc.
- Count in twos, fives and tens in context e.g. counting apples into a bag, 10ps in a purse etc.

Houses

- Times tables in random order, revisiting previous tables too.
- Italic handwriting - try writing had, mad, had, mad, had, mad!

Looking for something to do. How about...

Word Smart

- **Writing a letter to Father Christmas.**

Body Smart

- **Cooking a recipe with a member of your family. Could you make the lunch or an evening meal with them?**

People Smart

Responding cheerfully and positive to what adults say to you without them having to repeat themselves.

Learner Smart

- **Finding out more about Christianity or Judaism.**

Self Smart

- **Doing some jobs around the house to earn some pocket money that you could spend on Fix-it-Friday when we visit the charity shops in Wallingford to buy some Christmas presents.**

Music Smart

- **Practice singing the songs for our Nativity Play**

To Celebrate...

- The children's progress during the swimming lesson last week – they were all fantastic!