

# THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

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The Treehouse School

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



*Cassie and her team making  
Christmas bunting*

## Christmas Carol Concert

Our Carol Concert will take place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm in The Scout Hall. Please do invite your relatives and any Friends of the School who you think might like to join us. Children should wear their Treehouse t-shirts and a dark, smart pair of leggings or trousers.

## Christmas Gifts

Unbelievably, our Treehouse Fleeces and T-shirts seem to have caught on and some adults have added them to their Christmas lists! If you require any items, please send your order to Karen by Tuesday (11<sup>th</sup> December) at the latest. Green Treehouse shopping bags with the logo on them are also available for £3.50. Finally, if you haven't seen the beautiful notelets that the children created during a Friday Forest session, please do take a look. Sets of twelve, representing each child's art work are available for £6.00.

## Santa Collection

After receiving a large donation from the 1155 Club recently from the proceeds raised at the Firework display, we have decided to relinquish the Santa Collection this year so that another local good cause can benefit. Cholsey Youth Club have been selected by the 1155 Club to take on this year's collection so please enjoy an 'evening off' on Friday evening and look out for Santa instead!

## 'The Road to success is always under construction...'

As you will have seen, I have sent a full copy of our inspection report with The Update this week. The report will also be available on the Ofsted website within the next few days. [www.tribalinspections.co.uk](http://www.tribalinspections.co.uk) The inspection report is helpful in that it gives a snapshot of what has been achieved at The Treehouse, as well as identifying some areas for development.

I believe that one of our main challenges is to develop a system that doesn't involve testing children but demonstrates clearly how much progress they have made **in all areas of their development** (Smart Areas). Data can be used to validate some of these areas e.g. reading but even that doesn't show how the children's attitudes towards reading have changed.

So whilst we are very grateful to Mr. Henry for his views and findings, it is without doubt just as helpful when a visitor, like Mrs. Day, a former teaching assistant who worked with members of the gang at Cholsey School, visits The Treehouse. She was bowled over by the children's conduct, progress and achievements. I reckon we must be on the right track.

## Dates for Your Diary

- 9.12.13 Heydon family music  
Sally and Jo covering while Lee and Shaz plan.  
3.00 pm Christmas Dance for Parents, relatives and Friends at the Scout Hall
- 10.12.13 12.45pm Swimming – parents welcome. Last session
- 11.12.13 Recorders  
1.30 pm Nativity at The Day Centre.
- 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
- 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

At this time of the year, with so much happening, no two days are the same. For some children the change in routine, additional demands made of them (plays, concerts, late nights, theatre visits, ice-skating trips) and excitement of Christmas can be a bit much and result in a deterioration in their behaviour. Whilst this is understandable, one of our goals over the next couple of weeks is to help the children to behave sensibly and appropriately throughout (**becoming more self-smart**), and to get the most from the planned experiences too (**becoming more learner smart**). In my experience preparing children by talking them through the day ahead and maintaining clear expectations, is the key to success, as well of course as plenty of sleep!

### Trees

The Trees need to begin to realise they are readers in the bigger sense of the word, so encourage them to read words around them in addition to their reading book.  
Working on correctly orientating numbers, play 'show me' with your child, ask them how this goes.

### Houses

Roll a dice three times and write the numbers down. Repeat and then add the two three digit numbers together. Can you remember how to partition numbers to help you to solve the problem?

## Looking for something to do. How about...

### People Smart

- **Visiting a Charity Shop to buy some more Christmas gifts for your family and friends.**

### Music Smart

- **Practicing your lines (Houses) or singing the songs (All) for our Christmas Concert.**

### Practically Smart

**Making a Christmas card for a friend or relative. Can you use your best 'Going for Gold' handwriting inside it to write a Christmas greeting or poem too?**  
**Creating your own Christmas decorations or nativity scene using peg dolls or plasticine.**

### Number Smart

- **Working out how many days until your birthday. Try using a calendar to help you.**

### Body Smart

- **Planning a local walk for your family. Can you use a map to help you?**

## To Celebrate...

- The children's Nativity Performance last weekend at The Wallingford Christmas Festival. What a confident bunch!
- The lovely Treehouse Christmas decorations that the children and parents made and put up last week.