

# 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)

## All Aboard! Did Owen stay afloat?



## Judo Lessons

A good friend and excellent teacher Steve Hutton has offered to give the children some taster judo lessons on a Thursday morning until half term (5 sessions in total). The cost of each session is £2.00 which covers kit hire and tuition. If you would like your child to take part, please let me know by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

## French club will start again this Monday.

### Friday Forest Sessions This Term

Our Friday Forest Sessions continue to be one of the highlights of our week, with opportunities for children to develop a range of skills. You are very welcome to join us at any of the sessions.

Thank you for ensuring that your children are appropriately dressed on a Friday and for providing a delicious lunch when it's your turn. This term we intend to visit the following settings for our sessions:

|         |                            |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 10.1.14 | Lollington                 |
| 17.1.14 | MilleniumWood              |
| 24.1.14 | Emma'sPatch                |
| 31.1.14 | Streatley The Holies       |
| 7.2.14  | Fix it Friday              |
| 14.2.14 | Wittenham Clumps           |
| 28.2.14 | Shotover                   |
| 7.3.14  | Lollington                 |
| 14.3.14 | Watlington Sculpture trail |
| 21.3.14 | Emma's patch               |
| 28.3.14 | Fix it Friday              |
| 4.4.14  | Arboretum                  |

## Reflections for a New Year at The Treehouse

Our first week back has been a really positive one, with the children 'getting back into the groove' seamlessly. Sometimes it takes a break to enable us to see how well the children are doing. There is no doubt that their levels of independence, confidence, social skills and ability to learn have come on in leaps and bounds since they joined The Treehouse. The children are a cohesive team, drawing strength and learning a great deal from one another. As Shaz and I continue to evaluate and adjust our practice, we do so with the confidence that our approach does work, and most importantly, equips the children with the qualities and skills that they will need for a positive and successful future.

## Help!

Due to a change in circumstances, we are unable to borrow Cranford House's minibus in the future. This is a bit of a blow because we had come to rely on it for our trips to Friday Forest in particular and Cranford kindly kept the costs to a minimum. If you are able to help with transport in the short term, I would be very grateful if you could let me know. It is worth informing your insurance company, although as a volunteer, it is most unlikely that you will incur any additional charges. Longer term, it would be great if we could find another minibus that we could use. Please let me know if there are any other organisations that may be willing to lend us theirs.

Our thanks to Lorraine, Cassie and Jo for providing transport and stepping in to make sure that our swimming sessions could continue to take place this week.

In order to improve our communication, please could you copy Shaz and I into any e-mail messages that you send us. Thank you.

## Let's Get Organised!

Due to swimming and Friday Forest, the children will only need to bring their reading books and journals into school on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

## Dates for Your Diary

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 13.1.14 | Casey Family Music                     |
| 13.1.14 | Joy Whitby visiting re: Mouse and Mole |
| 15.1.14 | Swimming am                            |
| 15.1.14 | Nativity (!) at the Day Centre pm      |
| 17.1.14 | Friday Forest, Lollington (walking)    |



# Going for Gold!

## Keeping You in the Loop

It is mind blowing to think that the period in our lives when we learn the most is between the ages of 0 - 5. We learn from observing, listening and doing or trying things. The next phase, between 5 - 10 is also prime learning time and so it's essential that we capitalize on these vital years. One of the areas we have been keen to develop is the children's ability to learn so that whatever the learning challenge, they have a bank of strategies for engaging with it. The children's individual projects are designed to help them to become more 'learner smart', as they follow their own interests, with support from an adult as necessary. Please ask your child how their project is going from time to time.

### Trees

- Doubling a two digit number e.g. 12 and explaining how. "two lots of ten is twenty, two lots of two is four. Twenty add four is 24."

### Houses

- Practise adding on 9 to any two digit number, by adding 10 first and then taking away 1. e.g.  $19 + 9 = 19 + 10 = 29$  and then  $29 - 1 = 28$   
How many can you do in a minute?

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

### Body Smart

- **Practising your bubble blowing in the bath; tell your parents what you are going to do, lay down on your tummy in a shallow bath, and blow bubbles under the water, with your nose touching the bottom of the bath. Count to three and then come up for air! Then repeat. This will help you to become an even better swimmer.**

### Self Smart

- **Creating an animation to be shown at the Treehouse Film Festival in March.**

### Word Smart

- **Asking and answering your own questions so that we can find out more about panthers.**

### Nature Smart

**Creating an ice picture. Arrange some winter foliage on a lid or plate. Lay some string just inside, and pour in some water. Leave outside to freeze.**

### People Smart

- **Asking your parents or grandparents if they watched Jackanory and/or Play School when they were younger. What do they remember about the programmes? Do a 'You Tube' search and watch some clips together. How has children's television changed? Why do you think this might be?**
- **Making our Chinese friend, Jane Lieu, a card to celebrate the Chinese New Year, which takes place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January. Jane will be visiting The Treehouse later this month to help us learn more about the Chinese culture.**

## To Celebrate...

- Harry's lovely expressive voice when he is reading a story (word smart).
- Herbie's clever explanation of how he doubled 16 (number smart).