

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 58
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The Treehouse School

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



Your Views Please...

We do hope that you will be able to join us at one of our judo sessions before half term (Thursday 11.00 am). As this was a pilot, I should be grateful if you would let me know if your child would like to continue with the sessions after half term. As an alternative, Steve runs lessons for children at Fir Tree School in Wallingford early on a Saturday morning or at 6.00 pm on a Wednesday.

Dippers and Divers

The Gang are making excellent progress with their swimming thanks to Harriet's input. Currently, they are spending a lot of time under the water, 'blowing bubbles' or breathing out. For this reason, Harriet has suggested that the children bring goggles with them to future swimming lessons.

We would love to share the children's swimming progress with you and have set aside the last session before half term (Wednesday 12th February) for you to join us if you can 9.30 - 11.00 am. Please share cars to ease congestion and because it's better for the environment.

10K Team

Sincere thanks to the 10k team for working so hard to organise this event, and to you all for your help in amending the fliers. We now need to recruit as many helpers and runners as we possibly can to make all of the hard work pay off. Please involve any groups/organisations that you belong to. The more the merrier!

Food for Thought

Last Thursday we enjoyed a meal of braised lentils, colcannon and roasted squash, with a delicious lemon cream pie for dessert. Lovely, but 'so what?' you may be thinking. Well:

The first day that The Treehouse opened, Cassie introduced the children to braised lentils and we had 1585g of waste; just over a year later we had none, in fact, we have had no food waste for 86 days now!

Poor Cassie was unwell so Karen, Jo, Shaz and Lucy stepped in to cook the lunch for the children (do you know of any other school's parents or teachers that would do that?);

The lemons (and a large amount of other fruits) cost nothing because they were being thrown away by a large supermarket (the children and adults were horrified).

I am sure that you would agree that there was so much more to that meal than met the eye.

Wacky Hair Day!

Freya suggested that we have a wacky hair day at The Treehouse, which was agreed at a recent School Meeting. This will take place on Tuesday 11th February. Children may do what they like to their hair and make a contribution of £1.00 which will be given to a charity of The Gang's choice.

Need a Baby Sitter?

Angie Regan (a Cholsey parent and keen supporter of The Treehouse) has asked me to pass on her son James's contact details. James has been babysitting since he was 14. He is now 16 and a half, at Berkshire College of Agriculture (studying Exotic Animals) and is keen to extend his sitting circle, as this would fit in well around college. James's mobile is 07732 392391. The Regan's home number is 01491 651702. James has his own transport - (moped) and is happy to make his own way to and from. He is also happy to provide referees if required.

Dates for Your Diary

3.2.14	Shaz's Music choice
5.2.14	Swimming am
6.2.14	Judo am (£2.00 please)
7.2.14	Chinese Day at The Treehouse. Please join us at the Scout Hall to see our dance at 2.45 pm



Going for Gold!

Keeping You in the Loop

Some of the best educational practice I have seen on my travels has been in Early Years settings. Here children make decisions for themselves; spend a great deal of their time learning through play; select what they are going to do, and decide when and how they will do it; and are given the time they need to complete projects. As a result the children are highly independent and thrive academically and emotionally. Currently, in our education system, the older the children are, the less independent they become and fewer decisions they make about their learning.

As you know, we do give the children 'child-initiated' time, when they select what they will do. Initially this time was not used very productively by all of the children, but we have seen a real improvement in the quality and depth of their self-selected projects. We now ask them to plan and review their achievements, so that they are also learning how to evaluate their own learning.

Trees

Take turns to roll two dice and write the number down, making sure the digits are the right way around. The winner is the player with the biggest/smallest/odd/even (you choose) two digit number. Repeat.

Houses

Phew! The children are really going for it with their times tables (thanks to Lucy's encouragement). Please ask them which tables they are currently learning and help them to practice the tricky ones.

Looking for something to do. How about...

Word Smart

- Practicing using your French vocabulary (Paige)
- Practice answering the door and telephone at home.

Number Smart

- Playing 'Wild Jack' with your family or friends. Who can be the first to get 50 points?

People Smart

- Making conversation at mealtimes (Samuel)
- Turning the television off for a week! (Herbie)
- Find some more facts for Lorraine about Brazil

Practically Smart

- Making a model theme park (Edith and Herbie)

Nature Smart

- Sketching some wildlife (Gracie)

Learner Smart

- Doing some more research for your individual project or thinking about a visit or visitor that we might all enjoy.

Picture Smart

- Draw a picture with a Judo theme for Steve's competition (bring it along to the session on Thursday 6th February)

To Celebrate...

- The Gang's physical stamina and positive outlook during our Friday Forest trip to the Hollies.