

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 63
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The Treehouse School

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



Gracie paints the view at lollingdon

Hi Gang,
What a great show you put on this afternoon. I am sure that Tesco Express will be more than pleased with your efforts and perhaps we shall now get a car park where all the brambles were.
Well done too for running so well in the pancake race. I talked to lots of villagers after the race and they were all pleased to see Cholsey have it's own pancake race after so many years without one. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.
Gilly

Go Green for The Leg-It Challenge

The Leg-It Challenge takes place on Sunday 1st June this year, starting at The Head of the River pub in Oxford, and ending at The Treehouse. This year's theme is 'Go Green' with a prize for the most original interpretation! The event has become very popular, especially with the children who take part. The Challenge has also become one of our main annual fundraising events, raising around £10,000 for the school since it started three years ago. In order to make this year's event just as successful as previous years, we challenge every family and trustee to either participate in the Leg-It, or to recruit a new individual or organisation to join in. Please send participants' details to Shaz (e-mail address/telephone number) who will be co-ordinating the Leg-It this year.

Swap Screen-Time for Green-Time

As we sat in the sunshine, taking in the view at Lollingdon on Friday, whilst eating a delicious vegetable stew that Cassie, Gracie, Herbie and Magnus had made, I couldn't help but reflect upon how fortunate we are. Going back to basics and spending time away from the hustle and bustle of regular life, our Friday Forest sessions continue to be one of the highlights of the week for many of us. Children enjoy unsupervised free play where they can explore, discover, create, be rained on, climb trees, dig holes, jump puddles, catch insects, balance on logs, make dens, take risks and enjoy the excitement and freedom of being a child.

We now know that most modern children are not getting enough time in nature and that this really affects their health and wellbeing. Organisations like the newly formed 'Wild Network' are very keen to raise awareness about the issue and running a week when they encourage families to swap screen-time for green-time from 5th to 11th May 2014. Why not take part just so we all think about how much screen technology has changed our lives and in particular, the amount of time that we spend outside.

Treehouse Film Festival

As you are aware, the Festival takes place this week on Monday and Tuesday evening, starting at 7.00 pm at The Corn Exchange. Tickets are still available on-line or from the box office, so if you know anybody else that would like to attend, please bring them along! An optional late start on Tuesday is available for families who are able to give their children a lie-in.

Dates for Your Diary

10.3.14	Fraser-Jones Family Music choice
10.3.14	7.00 pm Film Festival
11.3.14	7.00 pm Film Festival (optional late start)
12.3.14	Swimming
12.3.14	Chinese dancing at The Day Centre
13.3.14	Judo
14.3.14	Friday Forest: Watlington
17.3.14	Trustees' Annual General Meeting



Going for Gold!

Keeping You in the Loop

For some time now, we have been pleased with the way in which members of The Gang interact with each other, regardless of their age or gender. One of our aims this year is to provide our children with opportunities to mix with similar aged-children from other schools. It was heartening therefore to see The Treehouse children socialising with members of The School Council from Cholsey School after the pancake race last week. We hope to be able to run some joint Forest School sessions after Easter, and for the community allotment project and school disco to provide more opportunities for The Gang to mix with others. In the meantime, encouraging your child to invite 'old' friends around to play, and to participate in clubs like Brownies and Beavers will help them to become even more 'people smart' than they already are.

Trees

The Trees are making good progress with their writing, learning how to become 'good authors' or to write without worrying too much about 'secretarial skills' such as spelling, punctuation and handwriting. If your child shows an interest in writing at home, for example whilst playing, please promote and encourage this.

Houses

Playing around with sentence structure is something that the Houses have been learning to do over the last few weeks to make their writing more interesting. They have learned that putting the verb or noun at the beginning of the sentence makes it more interesting. Please encourage them to do this when writing in the log book or their journals.

Looking for something to do? How about...

Body Smart

- Training for 10k run/bunny run (Martha)

Number Smart

- Playing countdown (Gracie)
- Making a maths game (Herbie)

Picture Smart

- Drawing your dream house (James)
- Tracing a picture into your journal (Paige)
- Drawing a detailed picture (Mags)

Nature Smart

- Going on a Spring Watch walk (Lucy)

Practically Smart

- Making a marble run out of lego (Shaz)

Word Smart

- Add an entry to your reading passport.

To Celebrate

The Treehouse for hosting the first pancake race in Cholsey (as far as we know!)