

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

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The Treehouse School

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



On your marks, get set, go!

The Grass is Greener....?

Speaking to colleagues recently has reminded me how fortunate I am to work at The Treehouse. As they slog away writing their annual reports; participating in 'on-line leadership training'; and awaiting the dreaded SATs results, Shaz and I are able to spend our time focusing on providing the children at The Treehouse with meaningful learning experiences. AND we are able to have a bit of time to ourselves outside of school too – heaven!

So who has got it right...? I believe that visits and visitors are able to provide a more objective view than we can. This week staff at the WWF Centre commented on how engaged and eager The Gang were during their visit. They were also extremely impressed with the way that the children ate their lunch (a healthy picnic) and how well behaved they were.

Marianne Stanley, the head of Holmwood nursery, the location for this week's Friday Forest session, was also full of praise for The Gang, commenting on how well they communicated with each other, and interacted with very young children. Whilst a visiting teacher couldn't believe how independent the children were, and how good they were at solving their own problems. So whilst we are the first to admit that there is always room for improvement, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

An Initiation

We would love you to join us for our

Smart Awards

Celebration Assembly 2014

on Friday 11th July at 2.00pm

at

The Scout Hall, Cholsey

where we will recognise the achievements of

The Treehouse Gang

and celebrate the end of the second year of

The Treehouse School

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Treehouse Bake-Off!

We would like to invite all members of The Gang to show off their baking skills at the First Treehouse Bake-off. Budding chefs and cooks are invited to bake a 'tea-time treat' (cake(s) or biscuits), that could be served with a cup of tea. Georges, the new chef at The Red Lion, will judge the entries on Friday 11th July and a trophy will be awarded to the winner(s). Children may enter individually or in family groups. They may have some help from an adult, but should try to do as much of the baking as possible independently. The tea time treats will then be sampled by our guests in the afternoon, at the Smart Awards' Celebration Assembly.

Dates for Your Diary

- 21.6.14 Midsummer Stroll 6pm (Cholsey 1000 plus)
- 23.6.14 Fraser-Jones family Music Choice
- 24.6.14 Treehouse Wildlife Club, Rymans/Greens.
- 25.6.14 Swimming
- 27.6.14 Camp Treehouse
- 28.6.14 Camp Treehouse
- 30.6.14 INSET Day
- 01.7.14 Green Family Music
- 01.7.14 Treehouse Wildlife Club, Ollie, Harry, Gracie
- 03.7.14 7.30 pm PTA Meeting
- 04.7.14 Treehouse School Disco 6.00 – 8.00 pm
- 11.7.14 **Treehouse Bake-Off!**
- 11.7.14 Celebration Assembly (All welcome)
- 15.7.14 Seaside trip tbc
- 16.7.14 **9.30 – 11.00 am Swimming Gala tbc**
- 18.7.14 End of term
- 21.7.14 Stackpole visit.
- 03.9.14 New School Year begins



Going for Gold!

Keeping You in the Loop

Over the next few weeks, the children will be writing their own school reports. The main reason for doing this is to build on their developing ability to reflect upon their own learning within each of the smart areas. This is a very powerful strategy as children take ownership, and increasing levels of responsibility, for their learning. Traditionally teachers have put a great deal of effort into writing individual pupil reports, which are often filled with jargon, include meaningless statements, and make little if any impact on the child. In order to focus on reports and to do them well, we have decided to cancel the chocolate exhibition (10.7.14), dedicating the time instead to producing high quality reports.

Trees

The handwriting homework is making a real difference, so please keep up the good work; however the Trees still need to read daily. This can be their reading scheme book, a picture book or pointing out environmental print e.g. reading road signs, cereal packets, shopping lists, pub signs etc.

Houses

Girls: timetables practise (I have e-mailed a PowerPoint to help).

Boys: rainforest mark making due in on Monday – golden standard please.

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

Body Smart

- Making up a dance to go with your music choice at the disco.

Learner Smart

- Trying to find an animal, plant, bird or insect that inhabits the rainforest for each letter of the alphabet.

Nature Smart

- Gathering some elderflowers to make some elderflower cordial.

Number Smart

- Estimating how far it is from your house to The Treehouse, and then using one of our trundle wheels to measure the distance.

Practically Smart

- Trying out a recipe or two for 'The Treehouse Bake-Off'.

Word Smart

- Making a list of homonyms – how many can you find? Can you find a word with more than two meanings?
- Trying to add another entry to your reading passport.

To Celebrate...

Alex, Alice, Martha and Tess for swimming 200 metres (20 lengths) on their backs...
Phew, what stamina!