

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 92
December 2014



The Treehouse School



Michael signs a book while being gently persuaded to visit The Treehouse!

What an Opportunity!

We are delighted that Rob Howarth, a talented Cholsey musician, has invited us to see him conduct part of Handel's Messiah at The Royal Festival Hall this Tuesday. The Gang should come to school as usual on Tuesday, leaving later to travel to London by train. We will return early evening, when we will walk the children home. There is a 10.00 am start the next day for those that need it!

Can you believe it? The Christmas enterprise most recent total is a staggering 774.67!

Santa's Helpers...

Ho, ho, ho! Santa will be visiting Rothwells Close, Goldfinch/Ilges Lane, and Panters/Queens road on Monday (8th December) between 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Please ask your friends and relatives to look out for him (all proceeds to The Treehouse). If you have volunteered to assist him on his rounds, please meet at The Red Lion on Monday at 5.15 pm. Wrap up warm in your Christmas/fancy dress outfits!

Fancy a Get Together?

The ACE Team are hosting a Christmas supper & drinks evening on Friday 19th December 7pm at 10 The Forty to thank you for the hard work and support that you put in to The Treehouse. Please let Jo Heydon know if you are would like to attend (01491 652055 or joryman@btinternet.com).

It's Not Rocket Science Really...

Hearing Michael Rosen, children's writer and former poet laureate talk last Saturday, reminded me again why The Treehouse had been founded. During the question and answer session at the end, a parent described how frustrated she had become with her son's school, which was fixated on preparing children from a very early age for their SAT tests. This had made a negative impact on him, and he no longer enjoyed learning or wanted to go to school. Michael's response was to do 'lots of lovely things with him' at home to compensate. He then appealed to the audience asking any teachers present if they could find the time to do 'lots of lovely things' with their classes at school too, because he surmised, this is how children learn best. He is of course quite right; our job as educators and parents is to provide a 'buffet' of experiences and contexts that will satisfy and nurture our children's inquisitive minds and their thirst for learning. Thanks for the reminder Michael.

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 7 th December	Nativity at Wallingford Christmas Festival 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm. Please be there ten minutes before.
Monday 8 th December	Robertson's Music Choice 5.30 – 7.30 pm Santa collection – Red Lion
Tuesday 9 th December	Trip to London to see Handel's Messiah. 5.00 – 5.30 pm return at the earliest. Home drop off.
Wednesday 10 th Dec	10.00 am start for those that need it.
Thursday 11 th Dec	Charity Christmas Shopping in Wallingford. Please bring some pocket money to spend.
Friday 12 th December	Friday Forest Wittenham Clumps
Monday 15 th December	Gilly's Music choice Deadline for Short Story Competition
Tuesday 16 th December	Wind in the Willows Theatre Trip, Oxford. 5.00 – 6.00 pm Home drop off, depending on traffic.
Wednesday 17 th Dec	Carol singing around the village Please bring secret Santa gifts in.
Thursday 18 th Dec	Christmas Lunch at The Red Lion End of term
Tuesday 6 th January	New Term Begins

Advanced Notice - A Date for your Diaries

Andrea has kindly volunteered to lead a dance workshop for children who would like to help choreograph a dance for The Gang to perform at the Refashion Event which takes place in Oxford. The Refashion Dance Workshop will take place during half term on Tuesday 17th February at Crowmarsh Village Hall from 12 - 1.00 pm.



Going for Gold!

Trees

Why don't you write a letter to Father Christmas using your best joined handwriting? Don't forget to include a (writing) sandwich, and to use capital letters at the start of each sentence and a full stop at the end. Father Christmas likes pictures too. You might like to get an adult to write it out in rough first for you to copy.

Houses

Why not write a letter to Father Christmas, making sure you include a (writing) sandwich and some perfect paragraphs? Try being an author in rough first, then checking your writing yourself, before asking an adult to double check it for you. You could really impress him with your best cursive or italic handwriting.

Keeping You and Your Child in the Loop...

As you know, we are very keen to keep the children active throughout the year, and have been planning next term's PE programme. The swimming sessions have been highly beneficial, with all children making phenomenal progress thanks to the excellent tuition that Dippers and Divers have provided. Although our school lessons have come to an end for the time being, I would urge you to continue to take your child to swimming lessons (Dippers and Divers may be able to help enquiries@dippersanddivers.co.uk), or to a swimming pool on a regular basis.

Next term, we are going to take the children to Crowmarsh to play netball on a Monday afternoon, and are hoping to be able to offer the children judo lessons with Steve again. Along with our weekly visit to the woods, when the children are on the go for between three and four hours, we should be able to keep the children fit and active at school during the winter months.

If you are looking for something to do, how about:

Alice: Making some Christmas accessories;

Mags: Making your Secret Santa gift;

Samuel: Making a craft;

Alex: Making your enterprise as gifts for your family;

Herbie: Making some decorations for your tree;

Edith: Christmas cooking for family and friends;

Paige: Looking at craft books to find some new ideas;

Martha: Making your own advent calendar;

Lee: Making a gift bag out of recycled materials;

Tess: Enjoying a walk...when it is below freezing!

Shaz: Asking what you could do to help with your family's Christmas preparations.

This week, a special 'golden' mention to the musicians who volunteered to play either the hand bells or recorders at The Nativity. Well done Alex, Alice, Edith, Gracie, Magnus, Martha, Paige and Tess.

