

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL AUTUMN TERM UPDATE

Issue 168
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**Official Opening of The Treehouse
September 2012 - Herb age 5
declares the school open.**

Treehouse Troopers!
As another year approaches, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the part you play at The Treehouse. We are extremely grateful to you all.

More Food for Thought

It seems like absolutely ages since I wrote the last Update and looking back, it would appear that the summer edition slipped my mind! Sorry about that. For anyone working in education, the summer break is a good time for reflection as well as the luxury of time to catch up with oneself. For me, this has included the opportunity to do some reading, for pleasure as well as to learn and find out more about different education systems. This summer, my research has focused on the Finnish education system where: children start their formal education at the age of seven; where there are no tests or exams before the age of fifteen; and where there is no inspection system either. For some time now, Finland has interested me, with its relaxed approach to educating young people and some of the best results internationally. My research has revealed that there is some overlap between our approach and the Finnish system, in particular, our shared desire for children's happiness to take priority. So, as we look forward to a new school year and the opportunities and challenges that it brings, we will bear that in mind ensuring that The Gang enjoy their time in school.

The Treehouse Auction of Promises Friday 3rd November 7pm

We would be grateful if you would consider offering an item/pledge for the auction AND persuade some of your friends or family to come along to the auction on Friday 3rd November. Tickets cost £8.50 and include a delicious Treehouse supper.

Term Dates for the Year

Wednesday 6 th September 2017	Autumn Term begins
23 rd - 27 th October 2017	Half Term
Thursday 14 th December 2017	Last Day of term
Thursday 4 th January 2018	Spring Term begins
Friday 9 th February 2018	Out and About Day
12 th - 16 th February 2018	Half Term
Thursday 29 th March 2018	End of Term
Monday 16 th April 2018	Summer Term begins
Friday May 25 th 2018	Out and About Day
28 th May - June 1 st 2018	Half Term
Monday 4 th June 2018	Inset Day
Wednesday 18 th July 2018	End of Term

Happy 5th Birthday Treehouse!

Please join us for some birthday cake and a cup of tea on Wednesday 6th September at 3.00 pm to celebrate the Treehouse's fifth birthday. **Members of The Gang:** can you find a fact, an activity, a task or game that involves the number five? Bring it along on Wednesday.



Going for Gold!

Keeping you in the Loop

After some time for reflection, our inspection and the accompanying report provided a valuable 'snapshot' of our practice. As well as endorsing certain areas of our work, the inspector, Ann Henderson who has a reputation for rigor, identified key areas for development, which we agree with and had been considering for some time.

We were thrilled with the comments and observations made about the children's attitudes and enthusiasm for learning, and that they enjoy school and feel safe when they are with us. Our challenge now is to strengthen some areas of our practice, such as providing the children with more regular opportunities to write at length and to practise and apply their math's skills, whilst maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum. One of the ways you can help is to support your child with their reading, writing and maths skills at home. We use the analogy of some of the very best athletes like Mo Farrah to remind the children that regular practise and hard work pays off. Furthermore, we aim for the children to take responsibility for this area of their learning, especially the older children, which will also help them when they move on.

Helping Your Child at Home...

Reading with Relish

We are so fortunate that all members of The Gang enjoy reading and listening to stories, regardless of their age, gender or reading ability. Hopefully, you are already aware that just before the summer holidays, each child brought a new reading journal home. In a bid to develop further the children's enthusiasm for reading, and of course their increasing ability to read and write with more independence, we decided to introduce a reading journal. The journal can be used to record responses to a range of reading material that your child has read with a member of the family or independently. Pictures, comments, clippings, extracts, notes, character descriptions...the list is endless... The journal should be kept in the child's 'Toughie' and brought to school every day. Please encourage your child to use their journal on a regular basis so that we can see what they are reading and enjoying at home as well as at school.

Tables Practise

Former members of The Gang tell us that one of the most important and useful things they learned while they were with us, was their times tables. The best method for this is regular practise, using a set of playing cards, until the tables are secure. Please help your child to establish a regular practise time, daily if possible, for a few minutes. They will soon see the results...

Three for One!

We capitalise on the strong link between spelling, handwriting and reading during one of our weekly 'Going for Gold' sessions at The Treehouse by teaching children common sounds and rules. Over the last year, we have been impressed with the quality of the work that the children have produced at home. Whilst we recognise that finding the time to support your child with this can be a challenge, and in some cases, motivating your child to undertake 'extra' work at home, we would like to thank you for your support with this. The children will continue to bring their books home on a Wednesday and should hand them in on a Tuesday.

At The Gang's request, the Autumn term will kick off with a focus on the Second World War. If you have any books, artefacts or know of anybody who would be willing to talk to the children about their experiences we would love to hear from you.