

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 61
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The Treehouse School

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



Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud!

'Hi Lee, Just got back from the mud fest and thought I'd say it was epic and great to join the Treehouse Gang. Your kids are awesome!
Thanks James and Ben'
(members of The preschool Friday Forest group)

Dear All,
Can you believe that 295 meals will have been served since The Treehouse opened by the end of the week. The children have come a million miles with their attitude towards new foods. Huge thanks to our amazing school cooks for continuing to make delicious school lunches and for pushing the boundaries. As Sally remarked the children can now be served a plate of vegetables and enjoy it!
With sincere thanks,
Jo Heydon (on behalf of us all)

Hi Lee,
A big thank you to the Treehouse Gang for letting me share your wonderful celebration of the Chinese New Year on Friday and for inviting me along to share your delicious Chinese lunch cooked by Jane and Emma. I was so impressed by you all, especially the way you all work together like a big family.
See you soon
Jane Randle

What's the Point of School?

For as long as there have been schools, people have been asking what is the point of them. Quite a lot of children have asked that question too of course. But some notable grown-ups have pondered the matter, too.

In 1947, Dr Martin Luther King gave a lecture entitled The Purpose of Education in which he told his audience that the goal of true education was, "intelligence plus character".

Now comes a report from a parliamentary group on social mobility making a similar argument - that along with history and maths, teaching 'character and resilience' should be an essential part of every school's ambition. Perhaps we are ahead of the game at The Treehouse where we want more for the children than academic success alone.

We believe that our job is to prepare the children for adulthood and provide them with the skills to have the most fruitful and fulfilling life possible. In contrast, in the majority of mainstream schools the development of attributes associated with character and resilience, that is, the development of the child as a rounded individual - are neglected or, at best, given second billing.

Britain's top public schools trade on their reputation for moulding self-confident and resilient individuals as much as exam results. And with good reason. Research has shown that the most powerful childhood predictor of adult life-satisfaction is the child's emotional health. Next comes the child's conduct. The least powerful predictor is the child's intellectual development.

Perhaps we have more in common with Eton than we thought we had!

Top Team!

Yippee! We raised £717.50 at the Top Gun evening. Our thanks to all involved in this successful and enjoyable event.

Dates for Your Diary

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 24.2.14 | Robson Family Music choice |
| 26.2.14 | Swimming am |
| 27.2.14 | 11.00 am Judo |
| 28.2.14 | Friday Forest: Shotover, Headington |



Going for Gold!

Keeping You in the Loop

Our new star target is to practise being 'self-smart' (sensible/independent) when at adult is not present. On the whole, the children at The Treehouse are exceptionally good at this, and we can trust them to make good choices whether we are around or not. Please reinforce this target at home and if you notice your child or children behaving appropriately and sensibly, particularly when something 'out of the ordinary' or exciting happens, please let us know so that we can acknowledge this at school.

Trees

I spy a word...encourage your child to look out for words in the environment so that they relate the reading that they are doing in their books, to the words all around us.

Houses

I Spy a fraction....Please draw attention to fractions in everyday life. For example, you could make a fruit salad with your child, drawing attention to the fractions involved.

Looking for something to do. How about...

Body Smart

- Going on a bike ride (Alice)
- Doing some training for the 10K race (Gracie)
- Being body smart...try trampolining or something else physical such as scooting (Harry)

Practically Smart

- Trying some Chinese paper cutting (Martha)
- Trying other Wacky Hairstyles and take a photograph(Paige)
- Revamping some clothes you have grown out of like we did for our Refashion event last year (Herbie)
- Using half term to make a landmark for the competition suggested by Samuel and James (Shaz)

Self Smart

- Working on our star target at home (Samuel) see above
- Looking in a charity shop for clothes you could recycle (Freya)

Nature Smart

- Going for a walk and doing a spring watch (James)
- Completing one of the 50 things to do before you are 113/4! How about making a trail with sticks or going on a really long bike ride. Did you know...research has shown that children today are spending 60% less time outdoors than we did at the same age.

Learner Smart

- Making a poster on a subject of interest (Alex)

To Celebrate

The Quality of child-initiated projects - all children are using this time really well.