

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 57
January 2014



The Treehouse School

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

Joy explains how she created the animation 'Mouse and Mole at Christmas'



Out of the Mouths of Babes...

As you may be aware, the children have all been given a 'Smart Progress Report' summarising their progress during the Autumn term. After reading his report, Samuel wrote the following paragraph, unprompted and independently. He agreed that I could share it with you all in The Update.

"I do agree with what you have said about me as a year five. I never want to leave this school as it is so magnificent. When I leave this school I might raise money for it to keep it going. I think 2013 was a good year for me and it ends well because I got so good in the smart areas."

What a thoughtful, insightful and moving piece of writing.

Top Team

Once again, our wonderful friends and parents have helped us out with the latest DIY SOS at the Treehouse. Our thanks to: Barry for repairing the fence in the back garden; Alf for replacing our doorbell (we can hear you when you ring now!) and for attaching some hooks to the conservatory doors; and to Paul for fixing the draws and reinstating the carbon monoxide alarm in the kitchen.

The Show Must Go On!

In addition to the 'planned' learning at The Treehouse this week, the 'unplanned learning' i.e. how to cope when things go a bit 'pear-shaped' was just as valuable.

On Wednesday, swimming was cancelled because the teacher was unwell, and poor Shaz's car broke down on the way to school. As a result, it was a bit touch and go as to whether we would be able to pull the Day Centre's belated Nativity Performance off that afternoon (Would Shaz be back? Who would help the Trees backstage? How could I get all of the equipment and screen down to the Day Centre and give the children their lunch at the same time etc.?) Well I needn't have worried...As always, the children and adults at The Treehouse took things in their stride, made helpful suggestions as to how 'the show could go on' and we performed the Nativity on time to a very appreciative audience!

Dear Lee,

I can't tell you how impressed I was with your special school and delightful pupils. So much thought for the welfare of their minds and bodies. A huge kick start to life and immensely worthwhile as a life's work.

I had an unrequested windfall which I pass on to you for use as you think best. (Joy sent us £500) Please tell the children that I had to stop myself finishing their chocolates on the way home and will keep the beautiful wrapping paper in memory of a lovely morning with them.

My very best wishes to you all,

Joy Whitby (creator of Jackanory and Play School)

School Meeting

Our thanks to Alice (Chair) and Paige (Secretary) who have come to the end of their term of office as the Chair and Secretary of our School Meetings. They did a tremendous job. Congratulations to Martha and Tess who were voted in as the new Chair and Secretary respectively. If you would like to join us at any of our meetings, (Tuesday 11.30 am) you would be most welcome.

Dates for Your Diary

20.1.14	Eccleston Family Music
21.1.14	Lee visiting another school am
22.1.14	Swimming am
23.1.14	Judo am (£2.00 please)
23.1.14	Lou Poll (midwife) visiting
24.1.14	Friday Forest, Patch (cycling tbc)



Going for Gold!

Keeping You in the Loop

As well as being really engaged in their individual projects, the children are learning a variety of new skills: for example how to plan ahead; and to practice using some skills that they have already learned for example how to find information in a non-fiction book using the contents and index pages. They also have the opportunity to enhance their own learning by inviting a visitor into school or organising a school visit. Next week Martha has invited Lou Poll, a local midwife into the school to help her learn more about babies. As all of the children will get the opportunity to ask Lou questions so be prepared for some interesting discussions at home afterwards! In my experience the best way to deal with issues of this nature with children, is to be honest, as and when the opportunity arises, and to pitch the information you give them according to the child's emotional and developmental stage.

Trees

- Practicing the formation of number 9 and 5. Ask the children how they remember which way around to get these numbers and to show you how to play noughts and crosses using the numbers.

Houses

We have been learning how to divide this week. Ask your child to explain how we can work out the answers to the follow sums using our times tables:

$50 \div 10 =$	$21 \div 7 =$
$27 \div 9 =$	$24 \div 6 =$
$30 \div 6 =$	$36 \div 6 =$
$18 \div 2 =$	$12 \div 3 =$
$24 \div 6 =$	$45 \div 5 =$

Looking for something to do. How about...

Body Smart

Practicing your cartwheels, handstands and teddy roles for our Chinese Dance
Blowing bubbles in the bath so that you are an even better swimmer.

Self Smart

Coming up with an 'odd one out' for the daily board. For example, which is the odd one out? Whale Dolphin Shark, or which is the odd one out? 55 40 45.

Number Smart

Asking and answering your own 'How many...?' question.

Nature Smart

Taking some winter photographs (inspired by Ollie's photograph that he brought in to show us)

Finding out how ice patterns are formed and why we get such beautiful patterns.

People Smart

Playing a board game with the other members of your family. (Samuel's idea)

Learner Smart

Doing some research for your individual project. Can you find some more information in a book, from an expert or on the internet?

To Celebrate...

- James for persevering with his reading and finishing 'The Hobbit'; and Magnus for reading 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.