



Great Tew Primary School

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Another busy (and musical) week in school with the children in Key Stage Two doing their very best to drown out the sound of the roofers overhead. Our band of four brass players were certainly in fine form on Thursday morning - I think you could have heard them from the pub - and the Year 3&4 children had their very first djembe lesson on Thursday afternoon (see over-leaf). We've been thinking about competitiveness this week, in particular how being overly competitive with a friend can be damaging to your friendship. Rather than worrying about who is faster, stronger, better at maths, better in goal, better at singing etc, the children were encouraged to recognise their own strengths, as well as those of their friends, and to focus on building people up by paying them compliments. The children agreed that they didn't really want their friends always to strive to be better than them—it can be a little bit wearing!

Backwards, forwards—we can count!

Year One and Two children have been busy this week counting backwards from any given number to 100. We have worked in pairs to count forwards and backwards on a number line. The children have also been building relationships in our new classroom. They have particularly enjoyed the new areas where they can play alongside each other. There has been a sense of calm, purpose and ownership. They are very proud of their new classroom, and it has been lovely seeing a strong sense of community growing across Year One and Two. We have loved seeing the children be creative in their play and organised in their learning.



Coming Up This Week

Mon 15th	No Recorder Club
Mon 15th	Y6 to Junior Citizens—packed lunch needed
Mon 15th	Y56 Meet the Parents—3:30pm
Tue 16th	Y12 Meet the Parents—3:30pm
Wed 17th	Y34 Meet the Parents—3:30pm

Coats

At risk of stating the obvious, children do need to have a coat and wellies in school every day. Unless the rain is torrential, we take the children outside come rain or shine, and we've had a fair few children this week with no coats. With the weather as it's been this week, one minute sunshine, the next a torrential downpour, we've not been able to take the KS2 children onto the green if they've not had a coat.

Dates Coming Up

Mon 15th Sept, 3:30	Y5&6 Meet the Teacher
Mon 15th Sept, am	Y6 to Junior Citizens
Tues 16th Sept, 3:30	Y1&2 Meet the Teacher
Weds 17th Sept, 3:30	Y3&4 Meet the Teacher
Mon 29th Sept, pm	R-Y3 Second Hand Uniform (age 4-5, 6-7, 7-8)
Weds 1st Oct	U11 Football Festival at CNS
Thursday 2nd Oct, pm	Chipping Norton School Open Evening
Mon 6th Oct, pm	Y4-6 Second Hand Uniform (age 8-9, 9-10, 10-11)
Tues 7th Oct	Reception trip to Little Rollright Farm
Thursday 9th Oct	Y1&2 trip to Woodstock Museum
Friday 17th Oct	Whole School Art Trip – Headington
Mon 20th Oct	CNS Family Focus week
Mon 20th Oct, 3:30-7:00	Parents Evenings (Y1-6)
Tue 21st Oct, 3:30-7:00	Parents Evenings (Y1-6)
Weds 22nd Oct, 8:45	Harvest Assembly in St Michael's Church—all welcome

Putting the Rock and Roll Into Learning

This week, our Y56 children took a step back in time during an exciting dance class that had everyone tapping their feet and shaking their hips! The room was alive with the sounds of Elvis Presley and other rock and roll legends, as the children learned the basics of swing dancing and mastered the energetic moves of the hand jive. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to not only have fun but also build confidence, coordination, and teamwork. If you haven't already, please ask your child to demonstrate what they learned, they were all absolutely excellent. Strictly has some serious competition!



Breaking Barriers and Reaching for the Stars: Mary Jackson's Story of Perseverance

In English, Y56 children explored the life of NASA scientist Mary Jackson, a pioneer who overcame racial and gender barriers to pursue her dream of becoming an engineer. The children recreated powerful scenes from Mary's early life, focusing on her determination to attend college at a time when opportunities for Black women were severely limited. Through this activity, children gained a deeper understanding of perseverance and the importance of standing up for your dreams, no matter the obstacles. Mary Jackson's story left a strong impression and reminded us all of the power of resilience and courage.

Hair!

Hair that is long enough should be tied back, well away from children's faces. This makes a huge difference in reducing the spread of head-lice, which are an interminable problem in school!

Spreading Our Wings in Reception

Wow, how time has flown by in Reception! This week we began to spread our wings a little and explored the climbing frames on the big playground. It was lots of fun trying out the monkey bars and understanding how to keep ourselves safe. We found out that if you do the monkey bars too many times... you get sore hands! So, it was back to the classroom for lunch. Everyone has impressed us with lovely table manners and only a few reminders of 'please' and 'thank you' were needed. We have tried really hard to notice how much water we have drunk from our bottles and to attempt to do things for ourselves before asking for help. We can't wait for all of the new things that next week will bring; the adults just need a little rest first!



A Busy Week for Years 3&4—Both In and Out of the Classroom

Despite a lot of absences due to illness, Year 3 and 4 have had a wonderful week full of fun both inside and outside the classroom! I have been impressed with the way the children settle into their seats first thing in the morning and get on straight away with their handwriting. We have started our whole class reading sessions based on the beautiful book *The Lost Spells*, and in English we have been enjoying venturing into the wild through our writing related to the book *The Wilderness*. I was especially impressed with the children's letters to the character Oktober, and also their poems which included fantastic noun phrases! In maths we have been looking at numbers up to 10,000 and becoming more secure in the understanding of place value. Hockey with Carol on Wednesday was great fun; the rain didn't stop the children from getting stuck in to learning new skills. To add to the fun, we are very fortunate to be receiving djembe lessons on a Thursday afternoon with Noah Stone. Yesterday was our first lesson and I even got to join in with the children. I am not sure who had the most fun, them or me!

