

End of Term Newsletter

Subscriptions for the Autumn term will be £27

Term Dates: Autumn term starts 5th September and ends 8th December. Half term 27 October.

Spring term starts on January 12th 2011



At the end of last term we said goodbye to Jessica Roberts, John Higgins, Elias Madzar and Kester Jacob as they went on up to Cubs, having all received their Chief

Scout Bronze Award. This term we have welcomed Indigo Gow, Rufus Shanagher, Jack Lambert, Joshua Day and Finlay Colin who are all settling in very quickly, with the help of their Beaver Buddies Emma, Hannah, William, Freddie, Archie Barribal and Michael.

This term we have been working towards the Outdoor Challenge Badge and our Adventure Activity Badge. We enjoyed doing these as we love keeping the **OUT** in **SCOUTING!** We enjoyed a fun scavenger hunt round the Recreation Ground, followed a tracking trail of chalk, stick, stones, leaves and grass around the village and did our bit for the community by litter picking – sadly, there was a lot to collect - in the woods off the Reading Road. We had a great fun riding our bikes round the Recreation Ground and bashing down a wall of boxes - a couple of Beavers really increased their confidence on their bikes.

We had a great sports evening playing tennis with Penny Parsons and Judy Fox, and playing cricket with Allan May and Ryan Bradley. The children really improved their tennis and cricket skills.

We are sure that visitors to Recreation Ground will have noticed the lovely bright red and white flowers adorning the pavilion which the Beavers planted before half term.

Our Nautical themed Beaver Colony Fun Day and Camp in Tarka's garden on 5th June was a huge success. We managed to keep in the shade during our hike and nautical activities, many organised by Tony, Tarka's husband. Tony set up an exciting obstacle course; each team had to go round carrying a pole between them, so lots of great teamwork! Both teams built an excellent shelter in the woods - we shall return to visit them in the autumn. We had a family barbecue at 6pm and the Beavers played non-stop till 8.30 when we sang and ate marshmallows around our campfire till worn out parents decided it was time to retire to our tents. Walking the plank and a hunt for Pirate treasure completed the camp on Sunday morning. Many children earned their Adventure activity badge – Nathan, Archie Nelson, Hannah, James, Indigo, Rufus, Jack and Finlay. Ten beavers camped and many earned their Nights Away 1 staged badge – Archie Griggs, Nathan, Archie Nelson, James, Indigo, Rufus,

Jack and Finlay. Thank you to the parents for their help at the Fun Day and Camp, and for clearing away the heavy equipment on Sunday morning.

Sue Bloomer arranged a fantastic 'hands on' visit to the Black Horse stables in Checkendon, run by Clare Morgan. With Clare's and Natalie's help, the beavers had a chance to brush and feed a pony, learn the names of different parts of its body, and learned not to stand behind their hind legs. The beavers had a visit round the yard and outdoor school, where they were fascinated by the base made of recycled rubber tyre chippings (the boys wanted to throw them – the girls wanted to do cartwheels in them - Children are kept happy with the simplest of things!) Archie's mum, Melanie, organised an evening of Healthy eating for us: we made healthy food and drinks and happily demolished them. We also tried to tie a couple of knots but got a bit knotted up ... more practice needed here!

Archie Nelson made us some delicious meat balls as part of his Hobby Badge and also told us how he looks after his dog – he has been awarded his Hobby and Animal Friend Badges. Archie Barribal has earned his Swimmers Badge Stage 2. Well done Archie and Archie! The Promise Challenge Badge has been earned by Archie Barribal, William Hybert, Emma Mortimer, Michael Croft, Archie Griggs, Billy, Arche Nelson, Max Roberts, Tim Wilks, Alex Dambrough, Nathan May, Nicola, Hannah and James. Well done Beavers! Indigo, Rufus, Jack, Joshua and Finlay have been invested. William Hybert has earned his Chief Scout Bronze Award, Archie Barribal having already received his last term. We shall be saying goodbye to Freddie Street as well as Archie and William on the 7th July and we wish them well in Cubs next term. We shall also be saying goodbye to Archie Griggs who will be going up into Cubs at Christmas.



It's been another really busy term at Cubs, and we've had a lot of fun doing what we like doing best - getting out and about, and developing our survival skills. In particular, a big well-done to all the new people who have joined Cubs this term - some from Beavers and some totally new to Scouting. We now have quite a few

new faces, and the pack is currently very full indeed, but I think everyone has settled down well, and is having a great time.

Our outdoor activities have been pretty extensive this term, including putting up tents, building shelters, fire lighting and campfire cooking, orienteering and map-reading, bike-riding, hiking, and naturalist stuff, as well as some games and learning some new stealth tactics! And the District Go-Carting event in May was a huge amount of fun (although we will hopefully do even better next year when we have some new carts!)

Other activities in recent weeks have included an evening spent identifying photographic clues around Stoke Row (then working out the six-figure map grid references - quite a tall order, even for Duke of Edinburgh students!), and we had a really interesting wildlife hunt (we found a lot in the Cherry Orchard - including a female Great Crested Newt) as well as a wonderful (and quite eventful!) 5-mile bike ride through the woods and up and down the local hills, in which everyone did remarkably well, especially the younger Cubs, for whom this can be quite a challenge.

A highlight of the term was the wonderful weekend that we spent camping at Larchdown Farm in Checkendon. Thank you so much to David and Cally Horton for having us again, to Nikki Steiger, for feeding us all so well, and to Shere Khan and Mowgli, Bagheera, Baloo for making the weekend so much fun! We crammed so much into the weekend (playing manhunt in the woods, pond-dipping, nature hunting, orienteering, doing some craft, singing songs around an enormous camp fire, and enjoying a wide game), and even had time for a riotous game of Rounders and some other games too - no wonder we were all so tired afterwards!

This was followed up by a fantastic District Camp, held in a beautiful location in Little Stoke. The camp theme was 'The Movies', and Stoke Row chose **Robin Hood**. The Cubs and Leaders all dressed up and got into the spirit of the event - Kyri was Maid Marian, Shere Khan was Little John, Bagheera was Friar Tuck (suing his costume frighteningly well!), and Akela donned green tights and gave us the master bowman himself, Robin Hood. The Cubs had a lot of fun, and they even got to make and fire their own bows and arrows (that's something else they don't teach you in school!)

And there's still some fun left to look forward to, as for the final two weeks of term, we will have our Annual Rounders match in Checkendon, followed by one 'extra' evening on 14 July, when the Cubs will be meeting for an evening of Athletics at Langtree School, trying for our Athletics badges.

So, a very busy term, which has been made possible only through the fantastic help and support that we have received from so many people this term, including our

'regular team', Bagheera, Shere Khan, Mowgli and Baloo, but also Tuc and Anette, Matt Peachey, Steve Wray, as well as Tom Hughes, our D of E student, who sadly leaves us after helping out for the whole year. Good luck at uni, Tom - and many thanks to you, and to everyone for all your help! Enjoy the summer break!

[SCOUTS]

With the longer evenings, we have enjoyed some exciting activities such as Go-Kart races with our 5 completed Go-Karts, backwoods cooking and bivouac building.

On Sunday 13th June we helped to raise funds at the Stoke Row Motor Club Rally at Vanalloy's Park in Stoke Row.

We have also completed a number of challenging fundraising activities to raise money for Children with Leukaemia. The Scouts took part in a 26 kilometre overnight hike, some Scouts swam 26 lengths, and some did a 26 km cycling challenge. Between us, we raised £1029 for this very worthwhile cause.

The Scouts enjoyed backwoods cooking this term. We paid two visits to Longridge in Marlow, where Scouts had the opportunity to enjoy kayaking and wall climbing.

Sadly, our Scout Leader, Barry McGrath, retires at the end of this term, but we are very pleased to have one new Scout Leader, two new Assistant Scout Leaders and one Assistant Cub Scout Leader who have volunteered to join our team. Great news!

Three of our scouts have completed their Gold Awards this term - two were presented at our AGM, and there is one to present on our last evening of term. Well done to all of you! Most of our older Scouts are well on the way to gaining their awards.

It has been a good year for the Scout Troop and the Group as a whole, with an increase in numbers and an excellent range of activities, so with a new Scout Leader and new Assistant Scout & Cub Leaders, the Group should be secure.

I would like to thank Julia, Jackie, & Nicola from Beavers, Jan, Mike and Tom from Cubs and Tom & Chris from Scouts for their great effort and support, also, all the parents who have provided such sterling support, without whom many activities could not be completed.

We hope you all have an excellent summer and we will see you all in September.