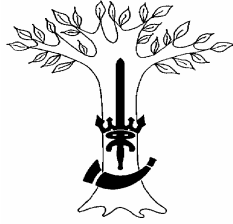


WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 10 : 21.11.08



This week:
Community Day II – Return of the Paintbrush,
Litter, Breakfast Club and more.....



From the Head's Chair



Well it's been another busy five days at Wessex and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of 'Mini-Enterprise' week in Years 5 and 6. The children have been challenged to work in groups to complete market research, set up a business, design and produce a product and evaluate their success. They have come up with a wide range of products, from stress balls to Christmas decorations and personalised coasters for teachers. They have enjoyed selling their products to our younger children today, and all profits will go towards a well earned treat! More importantly, it gives our children a snapshot of how businesses work and a greater understanding of the real world. I would like to thank those guests who came in to school to offer an explanation of running a business in 'the real world' which included a group of sixth formers from Altwood School. I would also like to thank Gill Alton who led an assembly for our Y5 and Y6 children about her mortgage business. A dry subject for primary school children perhaps, but the fact that she had to field approximately 25 questions, including 'How has your business been affected by the credit crunch?' showed me just how much our children are learning about the wider world! It is these experiences which I believe are vital for a well rounded education and we will work hard to ensure that these experiences continue to develop. A huge thank you to Miss Lugton and all the staff who helped organize the week and make it such a success!

As we continue our build up towards Christmas, I would like to let you know what has changed this year. We are all looking forward to our Nursery and Lower School Christmas and Nativity performances. The dates of these performances are in this week's edition and letters with all the details will follow. The change this year is that we will not be having an Upper School pantomime as well. This will allow us to focus on our Lower School performances more effectively, avoid taking children away from valuable curriculum time and enable us to end the year with a performance to remember in the Summer Term. We are this year holding our first 'Wessex Christmas Carol Service'. All the children are involved, and if our Harvest Festival is anything to go by, I know it will be an occasion to savour! The children will be working hard to prepare home made mince pies for the occasion so make sure you pop the date in your diary.

Finally, next week is 'Walk To School Week' at Wessex for all our Key Stage one and two children. You should have received a letter today which explains how this will work for your child(ren). Every day that your child walks all or at least part of the way to school will earn them a stamp in their STARS passport. These will come home with your child on Monday, but I must warn you that this year, stamps = prizes! Offers include stickers, free swims, free judo lessons, free basketball coaching, free football training, free Karate sessions and much more. If you don't receive the letter, please pick up a copy in the office or alternatively look out for your child's 'STARS PASSPORT' on Monday. Have a great weekend, and remember to pop in with a paintbrush tomorrow if you can spare an hour to finish painting the Lower School.

Nick Stevens
Headteacher

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Christmas Lunch

Envelopes should have been returned to the school by today but if you have not yet ordered a Christmas Lunch **please return your envelope on Monday**, as the lovely ladies in the kitchen need to order the turkey! This is always a fantastic, community time for the children when they sit down together for lunch so we hope that EVERYONE will join in on the day. The staff and I will, as usual, be serving the meals to the children and the PTA will kindly be providing Christmas crackers to add to the festivities. Please contact the school office if you have any queries.

RBWM Litter Wardens – You Have Been Warned!!

Cleaner streets as well as a cleaner school are something we all appreciate. In order to further improve the cleanliness of Royal Borough streets, from **Monday 1st December** the Borough is introducing a policy of zero tolerance on littering and anyone caught littering will receive a £75 fixed penalty notice, reduced to £50 if paid within 14 working days. Newly-appointed litter wardens are patrolling the busiest streets throughout the Royal Borough from mid-November onwards. At first they will approach litterers - including smokers dropping cigarette butts - and let them know about the new policy. From **1 December** they will be issuing the £75 fixed penalty notices. Please take care not to accidentally drop litter yourself - and please get the message out to friends and family so that they too can be aware of the new policy. I am proud of how our children represent Wessex in the wider community, so please spread the word!

Charity Donations

We have just about stopped seeing spots in front of our eyes after last weeks Spotty Day in support of **Children In Need**. The children raised £268 which is not bad at all for voluntary donations! Well done everybody!

Thank you also to everyone that provided a box for **Operation Christmas Child**. We sent of a total of 115 boxes which was fantastic!

School Community Day

A reminder that we will be holding our second 'School Community Day' at Wessex tomorrow, **Saturday 22nd November**, when we will hopefully finish painting our Lower School doors and windows before the really bad weather sets in. Just come along and bring a brush / ladder / dust cloth / whatever you can and we'll provide the rest. If the turn out is as good as last week, we should be able to get it all done, no problem! Children are very welcome to come and play in the playground (which those who joined us last weekend thoroughly enjoyed).

Breakfast Club

New parents may not know about our Breakfast Club which runs every day in term time in the Lower School hall from 8am. Children are able to enjoy a healthy breakfast and play various games (the club has just taken delivery of a football table and mini pool table!). The cost of the club is £3 per child per session (booked and paid for at least 24 hours in advance) and you may book as many or as few sessions as you wish. Booking forms are in the letter rack outside the school office or please speak to anyone in the school office if you have any questions.

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
If you were Headteacher for a day, what would you do and why? (I would appreciate some suggestions in writing if you have the time!!)	If you could have any dream, describe what you would like to dream about.

PTA

The PTA would like to thank those who have returned raffle tickets for our Christmas Fair this week. Please keep them coming in along with any bottle donations which we would appreciate by the end of next week if possible. Thank you again – your support is very much appreciated.

Free Credit Advice – Helping in the Crunch!

We will be holding a free information evening with consultants from Alton Mortgages, providing advice, hints and tips on how to keep control of your finances during the credit crunch. You will receive a letter with further details, but the event will take place at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 3rd December** in the upper school hall.

Clubs

Please note that **Science club** is cancelled on **Monday 24th November**.

Drama Club will have spaces for the new term starting in January. If you are interested, please pick up a form from the school office.

Some dates for your diary: (Advanced Christmas Warning – Please Note!!!)

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Thursday 27 th November	5S Class Assembly	Parents of children in 5S
Wednesday 3 rd December	Credit Crunch Survival Seminar 7.30pm	All
Sunday 7 th December	PTA Christmas Fair 2pm	Everyone!!
Monday 8 th December	Nursery Nativity 11.00am / 2.45pm	Nursery AM / PM
Tuesday 9 th December	Lower School Nativity 9.30am – adults only!!	Rec, Y1, Y2
Wednesday 10 th December	Lower School Nativity 9.30am	Rec, Y1, Y2
Thursday 11 th December	Wessex 'Carols By Candlelight' 5pm (NEW!)	All
Tuesday 16 th December	Nursery AM Closed / Nursery PM Party	Nursery AM / PM
Wednesday 17 th December	Nursery AM Party / Nursery PM Closed Community Christmas Carols at Cox Green, 6pm	Nursery AM / PM All
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas lunch	Rec – Y6
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Party Day	All (Children only)
Friday 19 th December	End of Term – School Closed 2pm	All
Monday 5 th January	INSET DAY – please don't send your children in to school!	All
Tuesday 6 th January	Term starts for children	All

Further information re tickets, timings, details etc. will be published prior to all Christmas events.

Just to finish this week, I was really touched yesterday when I accidentally overheard Callum Young in Year 5 cheerily say 'Good afternoon Ray' to our former crossing patroller whilst he was in the office, having come in to school to listen to some of our children read. It was a completely spontaneous moment of perfect respect and manners which reassured me that the messages and lessons we are teaching your children are both effective and worthwhile. It's small things like this which continue to make me feel very proud. Keep it up!

Have a good weekend and I hope to see you in the morning!