

WESSEX WEEKLY

BUMPER ISSUE 11 : 28.11.08



“Mosaic From Dyed Eggshells” by Sophie White (30)

**This week:
Anti-bullying week, Football success, Clubs information and more....**



From the Head's Chair



This week brought back some happy memories for me as I was treated to my first 'class assembly' in nearly 8 years! I have always felt it is such a shame that many schools have dropped this important and enjoyable aspect from their timetable, and thoroughly enjoyed the 5S class assembly all about the water cycle. We were treated to songs, dances, a visual representation of the water cycle in action and a few good jokes along the way. Giving children the opportunity to learn creatively, whilst at the same time performing to an audience and building their confidence is hugely valuable, and an approach I intend to develop further at school for every child. Well done 5S and well done Miss Smith...I eagerly await our next class assembly!

In the same vein, I have enjoyed seeing our Year 1 children learning about different types of houses as part of their topic work this week, witnessing a 'mini building site' take shape as models of bungalows, detached houses, semi-detached houses and other dwellings have been constructed. I would encourage all Year 1 parents to come and view their children's work in the entrance hall of Lower School as 'Wessex Street' is built. Keep an eye out...we are just waiting for planning permission!

Years 3 and 4 have enjoyed taking part in problem solving week this week. In groups, the children have designed and made large advent calendars with a difference....behind each door is a different problem, question or challenge for the children to solve, with the answers on the following day. Y4 have made calendars for Y5 and 6 classrooms and Y3 have made them for our Lower School classes. The finished products are very bright and festive, I just hope I can have one for my office!! Well done staff and children, you have all worked very hard!



Finally on this theme I had the pleasure of accompanying our Y6 children to the Magnet Leisure Centre last night where they joined three other local schools to perform their own poems and display examples of their art work on the theme of 'Senses - Smell and Taste'. Although a little disappointed by the number of children who could make it, I was very proud of those who showcased our high standards at Wessex. They behaved beautifully and performed with confidence, which is always tricky when you are first on in front of an audience of 300! Thank you to Miss Mirza and Miss Razeghi for organising this fabulous event.

What If...

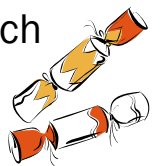
If your child is up for a real challenge, we are offering them the opportunity to apply for a new job for a day. For one day after Christmas, we would like some of our children to experience the role of School Secretary, Assistant Headteacher or even have a bash at doing my job for the day. Application forms have been circulated, along with an explanation in assembly and we will short-list all candidates after the closing date of **Monday 8th December**. Successful candidates will attend an interview and those children who are appointed will actually do the job for the whole day. As Headteacher, they will need to lead an assembly and work in my office, possibly giving prospective parents a tour of the school. As Assistant Headteacher they will have to lead the organisation in upper or lower school, including a staff meeting. As school secretary, they will need to answer the phones, help parents generally and take messages for all members of staff. Don't panic, we will support those who get the job and the school will be in safe hands, but at the same time our children will have a first hand experience of the real world. Remember, this is open to the children, so parents (and other teachers) need not apply!! Your child will hopefully tell you more....I look forward to reading the application forms!

Nick Stevens
Headteacher

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Christmas Lunch

Thanks to everyone that has returned their child's Christmas lunch envelope. We are delighted that *nearly* the **WHOLE SCHOOL** will be sitting down together for Christmas dinner! If your child has decided to have a packed lunch but wants to change his or her mind, please let the school know as soon as possible. Thank you.



Whilst on the subject of packed lunches, please could we ask parents to ensure that all lunch boxes or bags are named as some lunches get mixed up and are difficult to return to their rightful owners without the lunchbox being named. Many thanks for your help.

PTA Christmas Fair

The PTA would like thank those of you who continue to return raffle ticket monies. There is only one week left to return these so don't miss out on a chance to win the **£100 First Prize**. Thank you too for

the bottle donations we have received so far, however, we really do need more to ensure a great Tombola on the day. Many thanks, your support is much appreciated. Also a note to remind you of the Fancy Dress Competition - there is no theme and we are looking forward to seeing your creations!

Uniform

After more than 4 years without a price increase, we regretfully have to put up our uniform prices from **December 1st**. Items have increased by between 50p and £1, and new price lists are available in the letter stand outside the school office.

Football

Our Y6 boys played two league matches on **Monday 24th November**.



In the first match (against Holy Trinity School, Cookham) the score ended even at 2-2. In the second match, Wessex were the victors with a 2-1 win over Larchfield. The team has now played 5 of their 6 league games and are unbeaten this season, having won 3 and drawn 2 matches, scoring 14 goals so far with 'goal machine'

James Dover having scored 8 of them! Well done to the whole squad as your attitude and behaviour on and off pitch is a credit to the school. *Mr Battimelli – Football Coach*

Clubs : Finishing Dates

Club	Finish Date
Coerver Football	18 th December
Digismart	Already Finished
Science Club	1 st December
Morning Dance Club	3 rd December
Magazine Club	8 th December
Art Club	8 th December
Glass Painting Club	8 th December
Y5/6 Football	9 th December
Gerry's Multi-skills Club	9 th December
HSM Choir	1 st December
Christmas Decorations Club	9 th December
Cake Decorating Club	11 th December (Unless cakes finished earlier!)
Netball Club	1 st December

A new clubs list and booking form will be sent out in January.

Just a quick note of thanks to all those members of staff who give up their time to run such a wide variety of clubs for your children. I am amazed by the variety of opportunities on offer, and I know that more are on the way. Watch this space....

Read-a-thon

As you know Reception, Y1, 2, 3 and 4 have been taking part in the *Leonard Cheshire Disability Read-a-thon 2008*, to celebrate the National Year of Reading. I hope you have had lots of fun with your son/daughter choosing reading activities and raised some money at the same time. The Read-a-thon is due to finish on **Friday 12th December**, so please help your child to collect all the pledged sponsorship money and return it, together with the Sponsorship Form, to your child's teacher. This year half the funds raised by the Read-a-thon will be used by the school to buy new books. The other half will be used by *Leonard Cheshire Disability* to help create a better life of choice and independence for severely disabled people. A big thank you in advance of your support.



Big Book Bank

Year 5 and 6 have also been celebrating the National Year of Reading by taking part in Waterstone's **Big Book Bank** scheme. They have enjoyed bringing books in from home, talking about them, writing reviews and swapping them for new titles. We have been very impressed by the level of enthusiasm and participation. This scheme is due to finish on **30th November**, so if you have not done so already, make sure you claim your books before this date.

A big WELL DONE to everyone who has worked hard in school and at home, on their reading!

Lost Property

The lost property box in Upper School is way too full! All lost property will be disposed of on the last day of term, so please come and have a look and re-unite your child with their sweatshirt/lunchbox/PE kit etc.

Dib Dib Dib

Our local Girl Guide Units will be hosting a Christmas Market on the **10th December**, 7-9pm at Woodlands Park Village Centre.



21st Maidenhead Scout group are holding their Christmas Fair at the Scout Hut in Cox Green Road on **Sunday 30th November** from 2 -4pm.

A Few Gentle But Important Reminders...

Dogs

Please do not bring any dogs onto the school site, even lovely puppies! There have been problems with what dogs do (as it were) and we would like to keep the grounds as clean as possible for our children.

Cigarettes

For those of you that smoke, we have had a number of parents comment that some people congregate just outside the school gate to smoke, which means that children have to walk through the haze. Whilst we cannot ask you not to smoke, we would ask you to kindly consider our children and perhaps not smoke whilst collecting children from school.



Parking (Especially Parents of Nursery Children)

Please don't park in St Adrians Close. We have noticed that some of our Nursery parents are parking ON THE PAVEMENT during the middle part of the day. Please park instead at The Wessex Way shops – it is a good opportunity to begin teaching your child how to cross the road safely at the zebra crossing. Thank you to all those parents who have chosen to respect our neighbours.

Safety Notice

I would like to remind parents that the raised grass area in front of our lower school building is not a play area. Please help us by keeping your children off this area, especially toddlers at the beginning and end of the day. Thank you.

Anti-Bullying Week

The theme of this year's anti-bullying week is 'Being different, belonging together'. Across the curriculum teachers have used opportunities to ask what it is that makes people different and unique and also to focus on what unites and unifies them. The theme of this anti-bullying week has provided us with the chance to explore and celebrate all our differences. At Wessex we believe that every child should be able to learn in a school environment in which they feel safe and supported. If any parents or children have any worries, we want to know about it. Please don't hesitate to contact us, even though (particularly children) may not want to, so we can help. As Headteacher, I will not tolerate bullying of any kind, and pledge to work with all members of our school community to stamp it out if it occurs.

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
What's the last thing you think about before you fall asleep? What about when you wake up?	The answer is 'a ladybird'. What could the question have been?



Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Wednesday 3 rd December	Reception class trip to the Library - remember your Library card!	Yellow class
Wednesday 3 rd December	Christmas 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	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 School, 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	Rec - Y6
Thursday 8 th January	Term starts for existing Nursery children	Nursery

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

Visit to Lowbrook

The Lower School children have kindly been invited by Lowbrook Primary School to watch their Christmas production. Therefore, our Year 2, Year 1 and Reception children will be walking the short distance to Lowbrook school during the afternoon of **Monday 8th December**. We will be back in time for the end of the school day at 3.20pm. If any parents are able to accompany the children on this visit, please contact your child's class teacher. Thank you in advance of your help in this way.

Community Day



I was really pleased on Saturday last week by the smaller but determined band of parents who arrived to help us continue painting the outside windows and doors to our lower school building. Everyone worked exceptionally hard and we managed to get every classroom primed and undercoated. We are now more weather-tight, and have managed to gloss and colour Purple, Blue, Orange and Yellow classrooms. Green and Red classrooms need a coat of colour or gloss, as does the main front door. I will inform you of when we need your help to finish the job, which will of course be weather permitting. Again, watch this space...A huge thank you to those out there who spared the time to chip in!

Exciting News

I would like to finish our Bumper Edition this week by informing you that finally the first stage of our ambitious plans for Wessex will be beginning on Monday. Our ultimate aim is to link our Lower and Upper School buildings with a new entrance and administrative block. This will really provide us with a new heart, enable us to function more efficiently in every respect and enable us to improve what we have to offer still further. The first step is to move our ICT suite, and as I have mentioned, this will start on **Monday 1st December**. I must make all parents and children aware of the implications of these works to ensure the safety of all our children. All works areas will be secured and no children will come in to contact with builders or the works at any time. Please ensure that your children keep well away from any fencing or vehicles whilst on site and take extra care at busy drop off and collection times. This will be the first in a series of stages as we bring our exciting plans to fruition, and we are certain that any short term inconveniences will be dramatically outweighed by the longer term benefits for the school, its children and their families. This stage of our building plan will continue until the **16th January 2009**.



I promise exciting times ahead for everyone involved with Wessex, both now and in the future, and will continue to ensure that we strive to make the best even better.