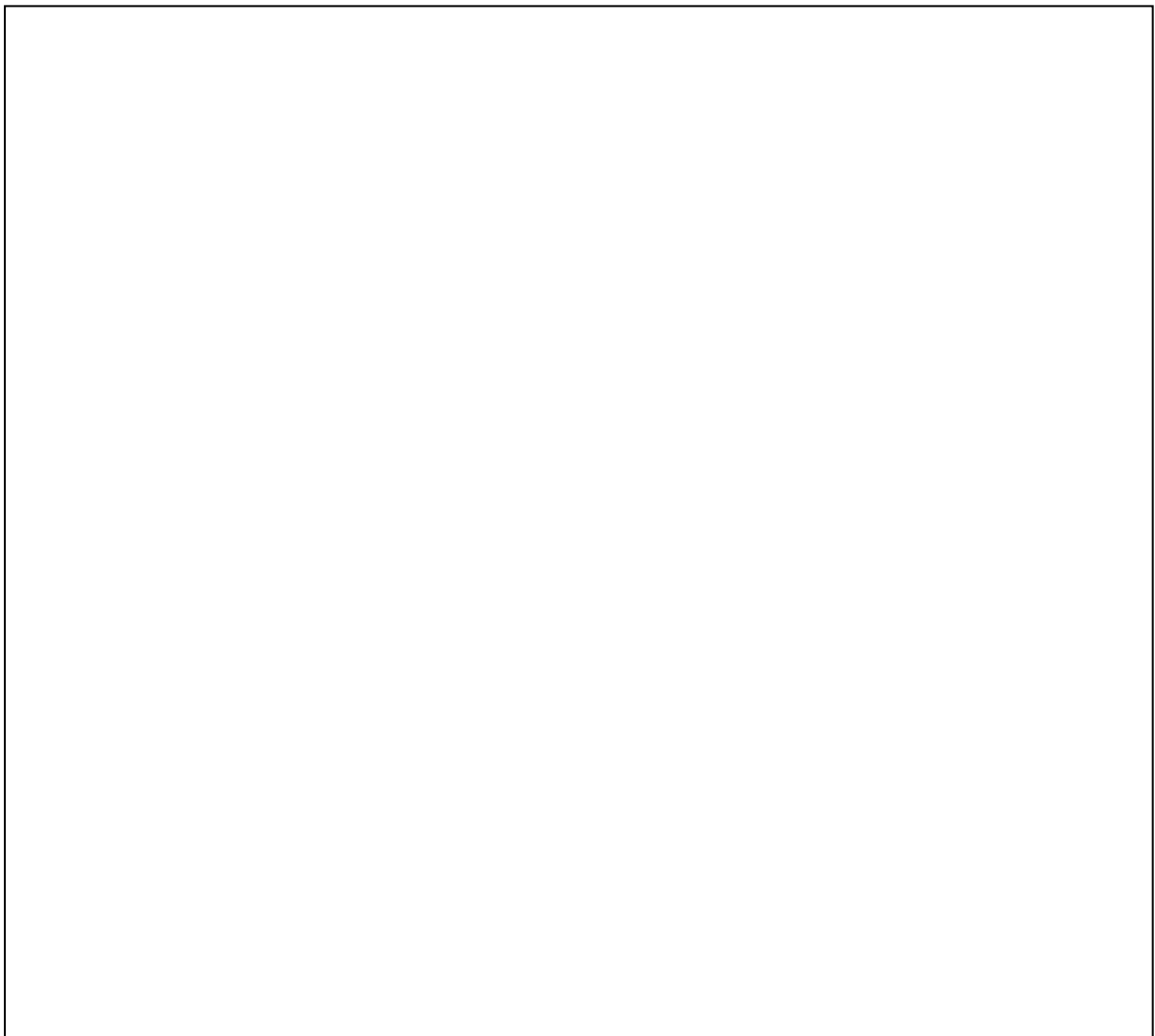


'XMAS' WESSEX WEEKLY

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Fun at the Breakfast Club Christmas Party!!

**This week: Children in Charge, Good Timekeeping,
Flora Tokens and much more.....**



From the Head's Chair



Well, we have made it! I hope you can spare a couple of minutes to read our festive edition – especially in colour thanks to the new photocopier!

As my first term draws to an end I have been reflecting on what we have achieved and look back with very fond memories. This week alone, we have welcomed the choir from Lowbrook in preparation for the Carols Around the Tree at Cox Green. Although I missed my opportunity to accompany the children for 'Good King Wenceslas', I'm glad that there doesn't appear to be any evidence of a photographic nature supporting the rumour that the French Hens are certainly alive and well! Thanks to those parents and children who attended...I was very pleased with the contribution we made. We raised £75 in donations which will be presented to the 'Get Together Club' at Cox Green Community Centre

The children have thoroughly enjoyed Christmas parties this week, and Father Christmas has popped in at least twice. I would like to thank him at what I know is a very busy time of year and I'm really glad that our children have been good enough! Christmas lunch was a big hit on Wednesday and every child enjoyed their first cracker of the season.

We have lots of plans and ideas for next term, so make sure you have a good rest over the break. Our building work continues at full speed and the outcome will mean huge improvements to what we can offer both you and your children. I will be monitoring late arrivals at school, as the gate seems to be as busy at five past nine as it is at five to. We have two classrooms and the front door to finish painting at Lower School so at some point, when the weather improves enough, I will get in touch for more willing helpers. Furthermore, I would like to investigate the possibilities of installing a school pond, a new environmental area, the orchard from Harvest Festival and perhaps even a few chickens! I believe first hand experiences are a vital part of your child's education and want to develop the potential of our school site to ensure we continue to provide something a little bit special and over and above. Ambitions, ambitions.....watch this space. If you can help / advise in any of these areas, I'm keen to hear from you.

I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. There is a lot of sickness about at the moment, so if you are suffering, I hope you get well soon. Keep warm, look after each other and enjoy the festive season.

Nick Stevens
Headteacher

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Children in Charge

Sincere congratulations go to Corey Ford, Jack Dwyer, Robert Pilling, Prachi Raizada and Yusuf Mohammed. These children have been appointed as Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers and School Secretaries on Monday 26th January. We had some very strong applicants and the decision was very difficult for the interviewing teams. Well done to everyone that got through to the interview stage and a big thank you to school governor Kenton Barnard who helped to make the interviews 'very official'!



School Meals – Moving Fish and Chips

Please note that **Thursday 8th January and Friday 9th January** menus will be swapped so that fish and chips will be served on Thursday. This is because the kitchen is due for its annual deep clean on Friday afternoon and over the weekend and the deep fryer will need to be completely cold.

Starting School in 2009-2010

Do you have a child whose date of birth is on or between 1 May 2004 and 31 August 2005? The closing date for Primary School Applications for entry in 2009/10 is 9 January 2009. If you have not already completed a common application form (CAF) you will need to contact the borough.

Late Again....?

We have noticed how some children are late by five or ten minutes *nearly every day* and a (very) few children are often later than that! This is unacceptable as children arriving late disrupt lessons and miss out on the important social time before school. They might miss important messages during registration and find themselves at a disadvantage as a result. Please do your very best to get children to school on time – I expect them to be on the playground with all they need and ready to start the day by ten to nine at the latest. Upper School starts at 8.55am and Lower School at 9am. Similarly, please ensure that children are collected on time (3.20pm). I will start monitoring lateness in the new term and will keep a record of persistent offenders. Remember, timekeeping is a very important life skill which will be important throughout your children's lives and now is the best time to teach them. Thank you for your help.



Flora Cookery Tokens

I am very pleased to inform you that Wessex is currently **top of the table** amongst Maidenhead schools in The Flora Cooking with Schools scheme! So far, £70.40 has been collected - £6 more than the 2nd place school! Thank you to all of you who have helped with the collection.



Through this exciting initiative, Flora will provide millions of pounds worth of resources to primary schools to support health in education. This will include:

- FREE cooking equipment
- FREE multimedia teaching resources
- Practical fun in their cookery road show

How you help?

You can help us get lots of useful free cooking equipment by:

- Collecting tokens from specially marked packs of Flora
- Redeeming your tokens and pledging them to Wessex

You must have registered all token codes no later than **31st December 2008** in order to be included in the final token count. No further token entries can be accepted after this date. Any tokens received after this date will be deemed invalid. I am reliably informed that they have lots of tubs of Flora including the tokens in ICELAND, Maidenhead for anyone who wants some ! Get collecting!

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
How many different ways are there to deliver your Christmas greetings?	If you could live on land, in water or in space, which would you choose and why?

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the staff at Wessex Primary School.



Mr. Stevens and his three French hens!!!

AAAAAGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!