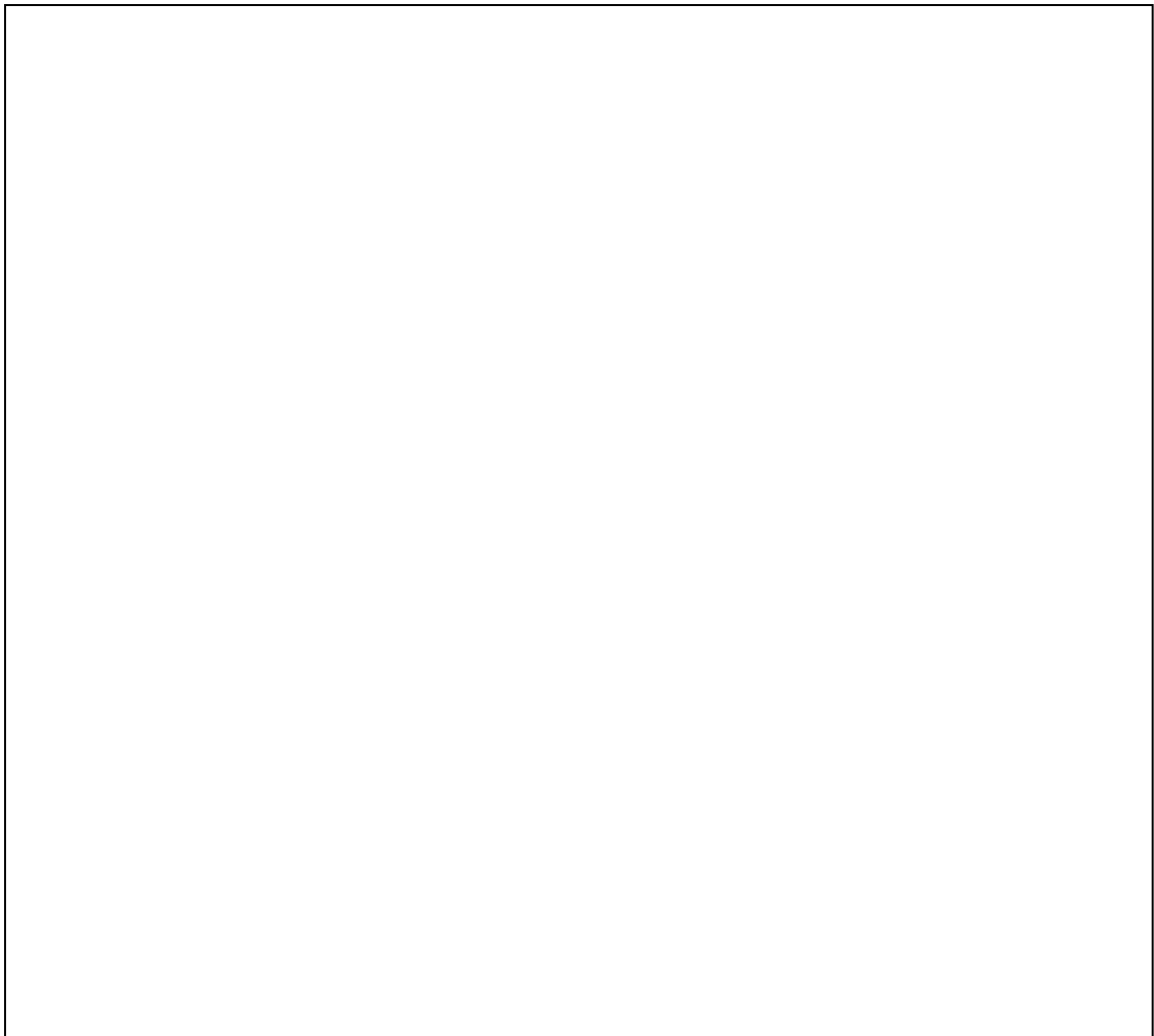


WESSEX WEEKLY

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Tree by Alessia Locke, Y3

This week:

Trophy Amnesty, Parachute Jump, Cash For Wessex,
Helping Me : Helping You and much more.....



From the Head's Chair



Welcome back to a new term at Wessex! I hope that you have all had a great festive break, had many opportunities to enjoy time with friends and family and have returned to school refreshed and ready to work as hard as last term. It's been a decidedly chilly start to the year and I have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming our children and parents back through the gates suitably buried under hats and scarves of all descriptions! Please continue to wrap up warm to help keep out the coughs and colds.

Most of you will have noticed how well our building project has progressed during the break. Our ICT suite is now sitting happily in its new home and we are well on course for the completion date of the 16th January. I would like to compliment our contractors who have enabled such a smooth period of works, as well as the staff and children who have been so accommodating in the meantime.

As you may be aware (and as featured in the Maidenhead Advertiser last term) we have secured funding for a new Community Room at Wessex. This is now underway and we hope to open this new parent and family facility once the building work is complete. The idea is to provide you with a space where you can meet other parents informally over a cup of tea, wait for children in school whilst they attend after school clubs, access ICT facilities including the internet or just help your child with their homework. It is early days at the moment, but we do want parents and Friends of Wessex to take advantage of this facility when it's up and running, so tell us what you want. Whatever it is, we'll try to arrange it. Whether it is helping your child with maths, strategies for helping with behaviour, helping you with your work application or CV, health advice, childcare support or just establishing a new social network.....tell us what you need (as the parent who gave us the initial idea did) and we'll take it from there.

Thank you again to those of you who attended the 'Carols Around The Tree' event at Cox Green before Christmas. I look forward to presenting the Get Together Club at the community centre with a cheque for £100 next week from the donations we collected.

I am really excited to be back and have lots to talk about.....there's a surprise!.....so please make sure you continue to read the Wessex Weekly, preferably with your children and families, and I will do my best to keep you well informed of all we do at school. Happy New Year.

Nick Stevens

Headteacher

Tel: 01628 626724

e-mail: wessex@rbwm.org

Trophy Atrophy.



We were looking at some of our trophies in the reception area and decided that some of them were not only a little 'tired' but didn't really reflect the hard work and achievements of all of our children. We would very much like to award our children with cups and trophies for excellence in all sorts of areas, not just PE and sport, but also fantastic results in Maths, Citizenship or outstanding service in the community – and for this we need your help! Would you, or possibly your company, social club or business group, be able to sponsor or donate a trophy for our school? We have lots of ideas and if you would like any further information, please get in touch or drop your trophy in to the office. Thank You.

Late Again....?

As mentioned in the newsletter before Christmas I will be monitoring lateness this term and will keep a record of all late arrivals at the school gate starting from Monday. 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. All children should be on the playground and ready to start the day by 8.40am at the earliest and 8.50am at the latest. Please keep an eye on the noticeboard next week where you will see our hopeful progress. Thank you for your support.



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 take part in a wide variety of fun and educational activities in preparation for a really positive start to the school day. The cost of the club is £3 per child per hour session (booked and paid for 24 hours in advance) and you may book as many or as few sessions as you wish. This facility allows parents to start work early, provides their children with a healthy and socially beneficial start to their day or just helps to alleviate what can be a rushed and stressful time of the day. Booking forms are available in the Upper School entrance hall or just ask anyone in the school office if you have any questions. Go on, give it a try!

Some Gentle Reminders....

Parking – you know the score by now but we still need to remind some parents who seem to forget that we do not encourage parking in St Adrians Close!

Contact Details – please let the office know if your contact details (phone numbers, emergency contacts etc.) change at all. In particular if you are not contactable for any reason, please let the office know an alternative person. We had an occasion at the end of last term where a child became quite ill at school and both mum and dad were not contactable for the day.

Absence - If your child is ill, or absent from school for any reason, please call the school office, preferably before 9am (there is an answerphone before 8.15am). We must know why children are absent (cold, sickness, beri beri etc) as one or two children in the school are extremely vulnerable to certain viruses. Thank you for your help.

Taking to the skies...



You may have read the article in this weeks Maidenhead Advertiser about Jemma Higgins who is performing a sponsored sky dive to raise money for the Clic Sargent cancer charity. Mrs Higgins is a Wessex mum and we would like to get behind her and support her all we can! If you would like to sponsor Jemma, please visit www.bmycharity.com/V2/jemsjump or catch her in the playground before school!

Cash for Schools 2009

The Maidenhead Advertiser are starting the 'Cash for Schools' token scheme on **22nd January**. Although we have not been in the 'big money winners' category, the school has always benefited with a donation of a couple of hundred pounds each time this scheme is run. If you buy the Maidenhead Advertiser, please cut out the tokens and bring them in to school and ask friends, neighbours and work colleagues to collect for us too. We are a large school, so lets work together to use it to our advantage!

B4T – Sundays at 4pm

The Church of the Good Shepherd are starting a new, relaxed time for families, with craft, activities and lively worship followed by a shared tea and time to chat. All parents, carers and children are very welcome to attend so do drop in.

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
What did Mr Stevens talk about in our Whole School assembly this week? Clue: Acorns. Nursery: Which New Year Resolutions have you made and why?	How many different ways could you make a total of 16 using 4 dice?

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Friday 16 th Jan	Cox Green School Quiz Night – tickets available from Cox Green school office.	Grown ups.
Monday 26 th Jan	Children in Charge – Job swap day in school.	Selected children and staff
Tuesday 27 th Jan	Open Art Gallery day in school. Details to follow.	All

What you might do for us:

If you have any reading books that your children have finished with and are in good condition, please donate them...a name inside the cover will also let everyone know where the donation came from. Re-cycling deluxe!

What we can do for you:

If you have any information regarding local community events which you would like to advertise, let us know and we'll try to include it in the Wessex Weekly. If you have a group, club, society or idea and need a location in which to meet, have you thought about school? Get in touch and we'll see what we can do to support you.

The Family Information Service

Information, advice and support as your children grow up

