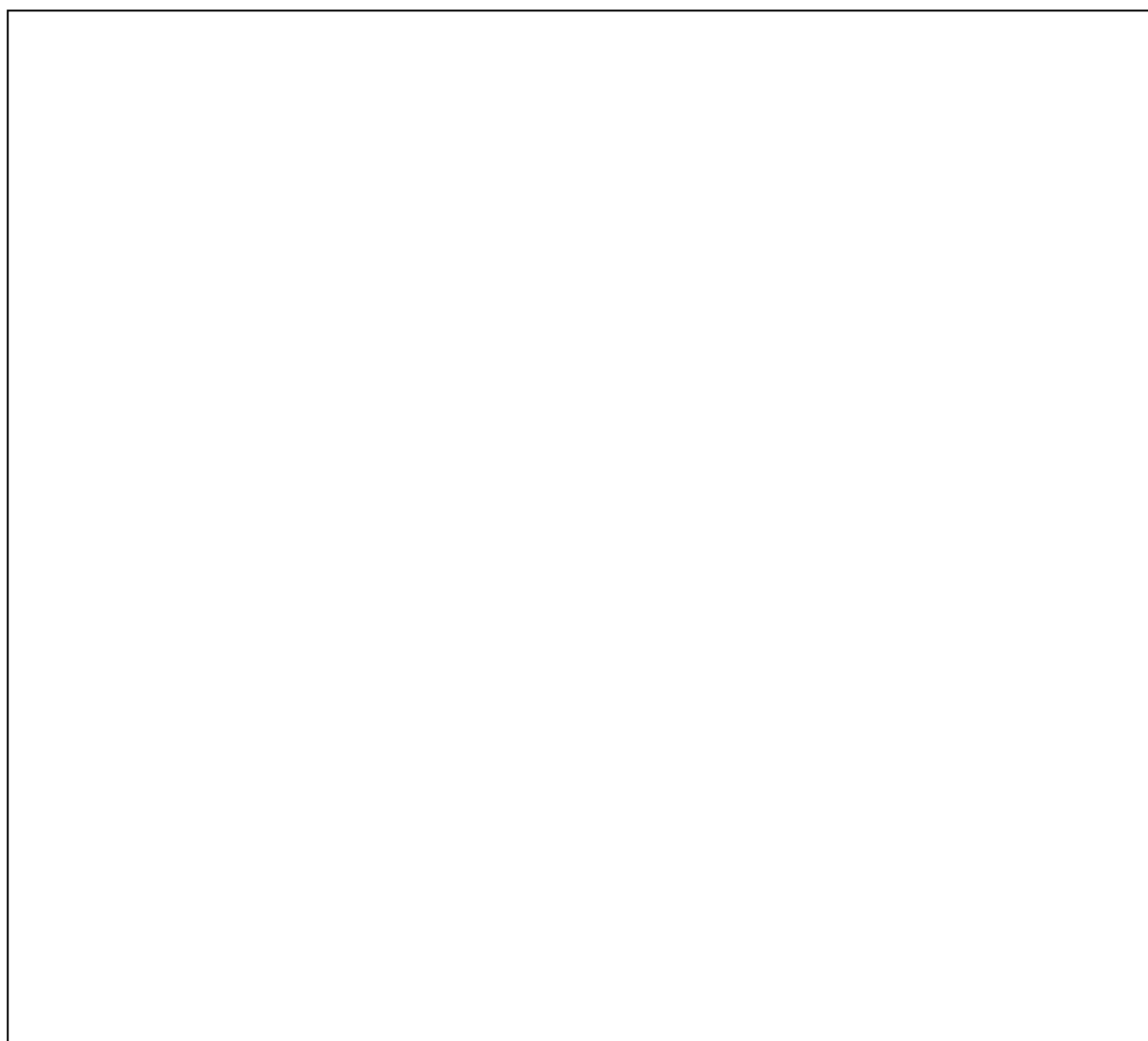


WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 16 : 16.1.2009



This week: Late arrivals update, Open Art Gallery,
Vouchers Collection, Club Spaces Available and much more....



From the Head's Chair



Well I think it's fair to say that I have ruffled a few feathers this week with our drive to ensure that all our children are in school in good time for the start of the day! I appreciate that getting children up and ready for school on some mornings can be a challenge, but I have been impressed by how the children themselves have responded. On many occasions this week as I visit the classrooms, children have asked how the 'totaliser' is going and are really excited whenever the number is low. I have also had several parents tell me how motivated this has made their children, with one parent even commenting that her daughter had 'even managed to get her own shoes on' for the first time one morning! In fact, very few children have been 'late' this week, as I have been looking at children who have been arriving after 8.55am. In practice, I have only been counting those children who have been arriving at school from 3 minutes to nine until after 9 O'clock – so the rumours that I have been saying children arriving at school after ten to nine are late are untrue.

The issue of punctuality is very important for all of us throughout our lives, and to highlight this is I believe the right, if not the easiest, thing to do. From next Monday, I will only count those children who are genuinely late to school – Lower School and Nursery children who arrive at or after 9 O'clock and Upper School children who arrive at or after 8.55am.

I would like to thank those families who have responded positively by making sure they are in school just before their child's start time, and to see the number of children improving from 52 on Monday to just 9 on Thursday is a phenomenal improvement.. Well done everyone!

I am pleased to inform you that the first stage of our building plans reached completion today, when Role-along 'handed over' the newly sited ICT back to Wessex. I am really pleased with how it looks, and would like to thank Mr Porter who has decorated the interior this week whilst it's empty. Hopefully next week we'll be able to get the ICT equipment back in its rightful home and the children can resume taking advantage of this superb resource in their learning. Once the equipment is returned, space will be freed up for us to create our new family / community room which I have told you about in previous newsletters. This is a really exciting development for you and the school – furniture and resources are on their way so watch out for news about the grand opening!

Nick Stevens

Headteacher

Tel: 01628 626724

e-mail: wessex@rbwm.org

Clubs

Letters regarding clubs were sent home earlier in the week, and we hope your children have signed up for something! A few spaces are available in Drama, Yoga and Tag Rugby, so if your child may be interested in joining, please collect a form from the school office.



Open Art Gallery



On **Monday 26th January and Tuesday 27th January** Wessex is having its first own art gallery. The children's art work will be displayed in both school halls. There will be an opportunity to look at the high standard of work and celebrate our talents across the school. Every child in Upper School will be preparing an acrylic painting on a 'proper' art canvas for the event which I know will look pretty spectacular! (Lower School and Nursery children will also paint their own canvas for a similar event in the Summer Term). The PTA will provide refreshments and the event kicks off at 3.30 (after school), remaining open until 5pm.

Athletics

A huge WELL DONE to our Athletic team! 19 Wessex children took part in an athletics competition at Desborough School on Tuesday. The children put 100% in all the activities and we had children in first place for many of the events. We are still waiting for our overall position (another tournament took place the next day with different schools) and results for individual activities. Thanks to those parents who arranged transport for the children and a special thanks to the athletics team – you made us proud!

The team:

Molly Bagshaw	Kai Watts
Jenna Hibberd	Mbulelo Mutambiranwa
Chloe Park	Samuel Richards
Hope Dunne	Jack Dwyer
Katherine Wilson	Daanyal Khan
Laura Freeman	Ryan Hill
Justine Griffiths	Miles Weeks
Charlotte Stock	Alex Lawrence
Lilly Bandarchi	Thomas Leggat
	Khalid Omar

Trophies

Thanks to those families and companies that have offered to sponsor a trophy in response to the request in last week's newsletter. We have had three offers and we are just agreeing the wording to be engraved. I look forward to using these to celebrate our children's achievements in school.

This Week's Requests

- ☀ Painting Shirts – if you have any old shirts, please don't chuck them out, recycle them instead! We are very short of overalls so if you can help, have a rummage at home and drop them in.

☀ Also on an artistic front, if you have any leftover or old plastic Christmas or Birthday table cloths or covers, these would really help in our art lessons.

Some Gentle Reminders....

Dogs – please do not bring dogs on to the school site, not even puppies and not even carried in a handbag!

Parking – The parking in St Adrian’s Close has greatly improved since the beginning of the year, and I am really impressed by the number of children who are really filling up their ‘Walk To School’ Passports. I awarded lots of silver awards recently and I look forward to seeing who our first ‘Gold Award’ recipient will be. Remember, parking and walking helps with localised congestion, contributes to a healthier lifestyle, makes life easier for the school’s neighbours and more importantly improves safety for your children at the school gates. There are still one or two persistent offenders who don’t think this is important so please can I ask them to take note...I’d hate to have to name and shame!

Maidenhead Advertiser - Cash for Schools

As mentioned last week, the Advertiser is beginning it’s voucher scheme on **22nd January**. We will be selling the paper at the front of the school on Thursdays from that date. The paper costs 55p (please have the correct money if possible). Don’t forget to cut out the vouchers and bring them in to school and remember to ask your friends, work colleagues and neighbours.

More Voucher Schemes...

The Times is running a free books for schools promotion. Collect tokens from the Sunday Times and Times and the school can choose from over 170 titles. Please bring tokens in to the school office.

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Who is your favourite character from a children’s book and why?	Make an A to Z list of things that you would find in the classroom.

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Thursday 22 nd Jan	Wessex PTA meeting – all parents and friends of the school are very welcome.	All
Monday 26 th Jan	Children in Charge – Job swap day in school.	Selected children and staff
Monday 26 th and Tuesday 27 th Jan	Open Art Gallery days in school 3.30 – 5.00pm	All
Thursday 29 th Jan	6R class assembly	Parents and carers of children in 6R

The Family Information Service
 Information, advice and support as your children grow up
 01628 507587 www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/cis/htm