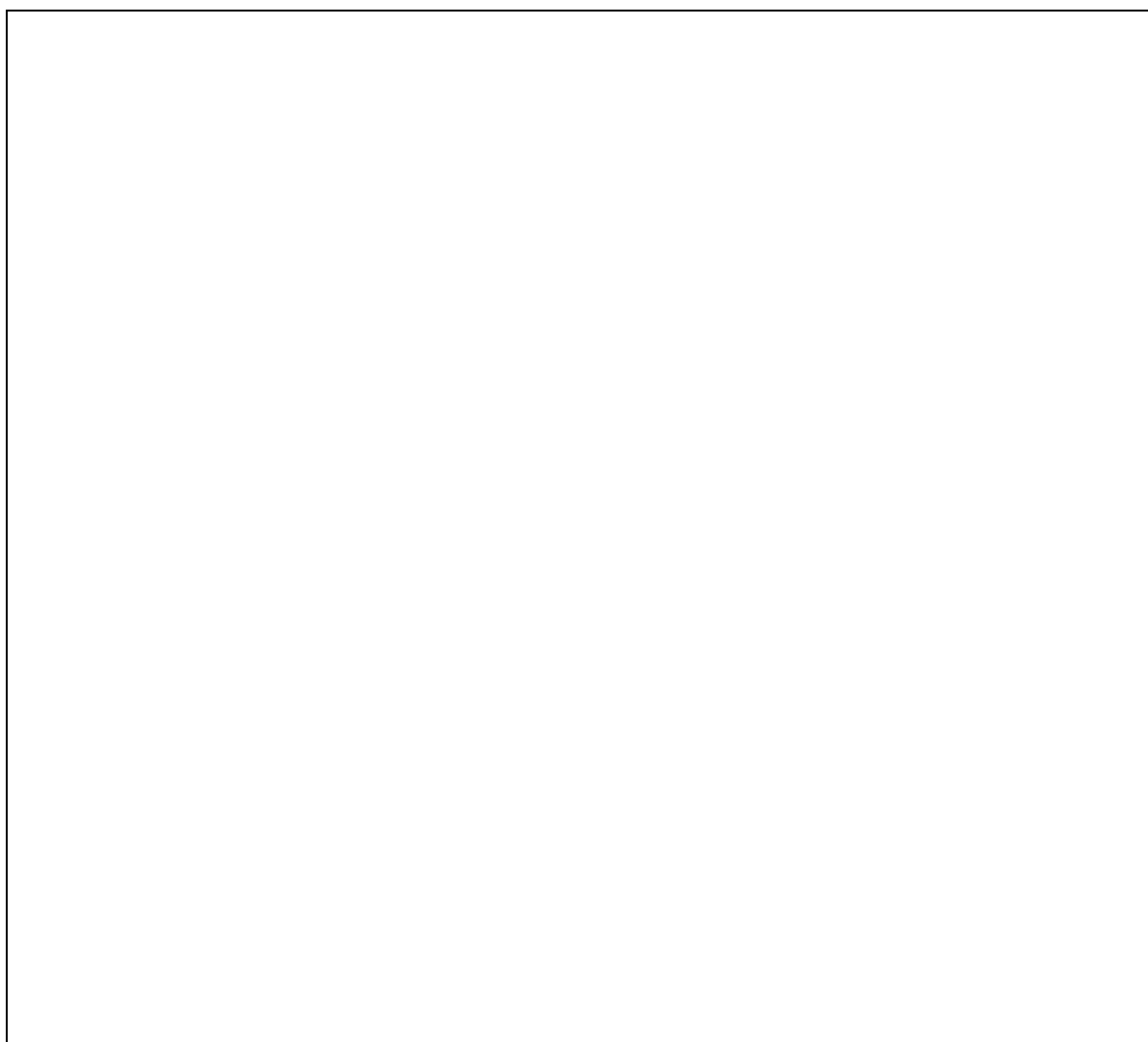


WESSEX WEEKLY

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Drawing by Christopher Evans, Y4

This week: Art Gallery, Tokens,
Multicultural Week, and lots more....



From the Head's Chair



Well, its been another very busy week at Wessex and there's lots to talk about. Our late arrivals board continues to show that more and more of you are getting to school on time – so well done! It is still a bit 'up and down', but a record of 8 (again on Thursday) is very encouraging. Can we manage a whole week in the single figures next week?

The staff and children have been working really hard to get ready for our 'Open Art Gallery' event next week, and I want to encourage as many of you as possible to come and have a good look. The Gallery will be open in the Upper and Lower school halls from **3.30 until 5pm on Monday and Tuesday**. On display will be a wide range of art work completed by your children since the start of the year and the sneak preview I have had so far has been hugely impressive. Seeing art work from all our children side by side not only gives you an idea of the talents we have at Wessex (including the staff), but visually demonstrates how much progress the children make in this area whilst they are with us. Upper school children have all painted a canvas which will be on sale after the gallery closes on Tuesday. You may buy your child's piece of art work to keep for a voluntary contribution to the school fund. The guide price for each piece of work is £5.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending Cinderella's ball yesterday morning as every Y1 child dressed as a prince or princess and enjoyed a delicious banquet of home-made biscuits. The event was a huge success, gave me an opportunity to wear yet another type of costume (which appears to be becoming a bit of a habit – please ignore any photographs) and more importantly gave every child a fantastic stimulus for their writing about the Cinderella story which followed. There's been lots of information in the press recently about how schools should be delivering a more creative curriculum – with an Art Gallery and Cinderella's Ball at the tip of the iceberg for what has happened at Wessex this week, I hope you'll agree that we are doing a pretty good job already! It is these types of activities which really enrich your child's education, help them to learn, help them to make friends and help them to have fun!

Despite our delivery not arriving until after 9.00 o'clock yesterday (and yes I nearly did add them to the late board) we managed to sell our copies of the Maidenhead Advertiser to parents at the end of the day. If you buy the paper through school in the next couple of weeks, we will make a small amount of money from each sale. Please cut out the 'Cash For Schools' token on page 19 and send it in – the more we get, the more money we could earn for the school.

Please could you also take the time to complete and return the Wessex Website questionnaire. This is your chance to tell us what you want from our website and the more replies we get, the better and more useful our new website will become. Copies are available via the office.

A final plea about the parking: I had a very difficult conversation with a local neighbour who could not attend a family funeral on time because she had been blocked into her drive. I have also received reports of cars actually parking and letting children out ON the Zebra Crossing at the end of the road. I have circulated the contact details of the local council office responsible for parking problems and I hope our neighbours report those very few repeat offenders so they can be dealt with before there is an accident where one of your children gets injured. A huge thank you to those of you who continue to support the school and walk all or at least the last part of your way to school.

Nick Stevens
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Open Art Gallery



A reminder that 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. The PTA will provide refreshments and the event kicks off at 3.30pm, remaining open until 5pm.

Waitrose - Support for Good Causes

Those of you that shop at Waitrose may be aware of their green token 'Community Matters' scheme, where they share £1000 between 3 local community projects each month. 'Projects' need to be nominated by the public and the more nominations we have the better chance there is of being included. We are asking parents and friends of Wessex to nominate our school for renovating our school play areas. It's a quick form which can be picked up at the local Waitrose store and it just asks for a reason why we should be nominated.

Reading at Wessex – A Guide for Parents

On **Tuesday 3rd February at 7.30pm** we are holding an information session about the way we teach reading at Wessex Primary School. All are welcome, but this meeting will be of particular interest to any new parents, Nursery and Reception parents and parents of children in Y1 or Y2. The session will be held in Yellow base and will run for approximately 45 minutes.



Dance Festival

Some children from Mrs Bushell and Miss Oldfield's classes are taking part in a dance festival at the Magnet Leisure Centre on **Thursday 12th February**. The performance, we have just heard, will start at 1pm and finish at approximately 3pm.

Clubs

There are still places available in card making (Thursday), yoga and tag rugby (both on Wednesday). Please contact the school office if you would like any more information.

Nursery Multicultural Week

Nursery are celebrating our multicultural society for two weeks from **Mon 2nd Feb - Friday 13th Feb** and would like to encourage as many parents/friends/grandparents as possible to come in and share their culture with us. Please see any member of the Nursery team if you can help. Examples include share a story, food, national dress, customs, dance etc...

Flora Tokens



We have just spent our online flora 'Cooking in Schools' tokens and have bought lots of lovely bits and pieces for the new cooking area in Lower School, including mixing bowls, digital scales and tea towels! Thank you to all the parents and friends of the school who uploaded their tokens or brought them in to school. Altogether we got £74 worth of goodies. Flora are going to run the scheme again later in the year and we are hoping to raise enough to buy a blender so that we can make smoothies from the fruit in our orchard!

Free Money for Wessex Families?

There may be a possibility that some parents at the school have missed out on claiming for Children's Tax Allowance for the tax year 2002/2003. For this year the allowance was not means tested and therefore all families were entitled to it. The allowance would have gone against the Main Breadwinner - if the main Breadwinner during 2002/2003 was self-employed then the allowance may have been taken into consideration, if they were employed at the time then it may well be that it was not given. What you need to do:



Call your tax office or call the Revenue and Customs **Help Line on 0845 366 7800**. or fill out the form on the following web address:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/forms/11ctc.pdf>

Website <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/index.htm> (Form 11CTC)

THE CLAIM FORMS NEED TO BE IN BY 31ST JANUARY 2009.

This Week's Requests

- Boxes of tissues - ALL the children seem to have colds at the moment!!

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Why is it important that children are in school on time?	Make an A to Z list of things that you would find in the classroom (continued from last week)

Cox Green Leisure Centre

On **Sunday 1st February**, Cox Green School are holding a free family event to celebrate the opening of their new 3G Astro-Turf Football Pitch - a fabulous new addition to their leisure facilities. There will be football coaching and competitions, indoor go-karting, bouncy castles and even face painting! The official opening will take place at 12noon and the afternoon will close at 3.00pm. Remember - it is a free event so I hope you thoroughly enjoy your day!

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
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
Tuesday 3 rd February	Reading information evening 7.30pm	All parents but particularly Nursery - Y2

Final Thanks

Mrs Collyer would like to thank all the parents who were so helpful on Wednesday after school when her son, Joseph, had an accident. She appreciated the support, offers of lifts home, etc. and wanted to say thank you to those of you who offered assistance. I would like to also thank those parents - it's nice to hear about when our parents help and support each other, at the same time acting as role models for our children.

The Family Information Service

Information, advice and support as your children grow up

01628 507587 www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/cis/htm