

# WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 2 : 19.09.08



**“Good Morning Mr Stevens” by Kaine Head (5S)**

**This week:**

School Uniform, Cycle Training, Crossing Patrol, Congratulations,.....



## From the Head's Chair



Welcome to the second edition of the “Wessex Weekly”. I hope you found the information in last week’s newsletter both useful and informative. I have certainly received positive feedback regarding the new look and have seen lots of the donated items I requested arrive at the school office as a result. To help us improve our communications further with parents, we will continue to e-mail all letters to parents who have signed up to our electronic ‘Parent Mail’ facility. If you think this would be useful for you and your family, please ask in the office where Mrs Cawte or Mrs Page would be happy to help.

I would like to thank those parents who came to join me at my ‘Meet the Headteacher’ evening on Thursday. It was a great turn out and I found speaking to so many people very useful. It enabled me to get a real perspective of how many of you view the School and provided me with lots of food for thought in terms of how we could improve. I will take all the suggestions and ideas I received and discuss them with my Senior Management Team at our next meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome some new children and families to our school who have started at Wessex, like me, for the first time this term. Safa, Ayesha, Dean, Eleanor, Jasper, Layali, Jack, Sophie, Jem, Stanley, Jacob, Khalid, Jasmine and Natasha have all started at or since the beginning of term, along with the whole of the Reception class who have joined us from the Nursery. I know you have all settled in extremely well to your new classes, made lots of new friends and have already given your new teachers lots of reasons to be proud of you. Keep it up!

Nick Stevens  
Headteacher

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## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Since I started as Headteacher at Wessex, I have had the privilege of leading weekly whole school assemblies for all the children at school. I have been hugely impressed by how promptly the children arrive, how well the children behave during assembly, how well they listen and take part in the assembly and how polite they all are when they leave. I have talked a lot about respect and manners towards each other in my assemblies and I am very proud of how your children have responded. Wessex is truly a fantastic place to be!



Now that my high expectations of the children's manners and general demeanor around the school have been established, I think we are let down by how some of our children look at times, and feel that it is important to improve the standards in our school uniform. As I explained to the children, the minute they step outside your front door on their way to school, they become a living advert for Wessex. What I want both parents and children to consider is what is their school uniform telling others about our school?

Please help me to ensure that everyone who lives near school gets the same impression of your children as I do when I speak to them during the day. We've got so much going for us, it would be a shame to hide it all behind a scruffy uniform!

As a reminder, here is an outline of what the children should be wearing:

- **Grey or black trousers / shorts / skirts / pinafore dresses** (not fashion styles please).
- **Brown or black shoes** - girls with low heels only. No trainers please.
- **A yellow or white polo shirt** (tucked in when in the school building or outside the grounds)
- **Grey school sweatshirt or plain grey cardigan**, to be carried or worn - not tied around the waist.
- **Long hair (past the shoulders) should be tied back using white, grey or yellow hair bands** - no other colours.
- **Earrings should be a plain stud or sleeper** and not worn on days when children have PE.
- **No make-up** should be worn, including nail varnish.
- **No jewellery** other than religious items.



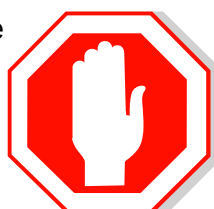
## CONGRATULATIONS!!



I would like to congratulate Mrs Brooker, who works in our Nursery, on the birth of her son Ethan Jack. Baby Ethan was born weighing 9lb2oz and I know both her and her husband Chris are very happy (and a little tired!). We are all looking forward to her first visit with the new arrival!

## CROSSING PATROL

Can I remind all drivers to take patrol when Ray is on duty. Cars More importantly, cars who fail to We are very lucky to have Ray on take care.



care when approaching our crossing who fail to stop are breaking the law. stop are endangering your children. duty, come rain or shine, so please

## **MORE CONGRATULATIONS!**

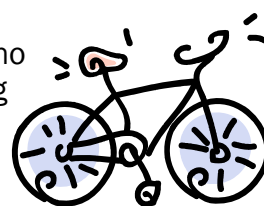
I would like to congratulate all the children who took part in our 'Eco-Week' activities last term. The children took part in a variety of Eco and Environmentally themed activities and a file of photographs and work was entered into a Berkshire Schools competition. Although we weren't winners this time, we did receive a 'highly commended' certificate from the Dorothy Morley Conservation Awards 2008. Well done everyone, and thank you to Mrs Elliot and Mrs Palfrey for organising what I hear was a very exciting week!

## **HEAD LICE ALERT**

I would like to encourage parents to check their children's hair as we have had one or two reports of head lice this week. Head lice are easy to pick up, particularly like clean hair and we recommend that the whole family is treated if one child has head lice. For advice on effective treatment and preventative methods, please contact the school office or the School Nurse, Liz Torres on 01753 638441.

## **CYCLE TRAINING SCHEME**

Many of you will know that the old style 'Cycling Proficiency' course no longer runs. It has been replaced by the Borough's 'Cycle Training Scheme', and we are looking for willing parents who want to get involved. Volunteers will lead the sessions, teaching our children about road safety and awareness when out and about on their bikes.



If you are able to help in this way, or want to know more, please drop a note in to the office and we will provide further details about this vital and potentially life saving scheme.

## **THIS WEEK'S REQUESTS**

Thanks again if you were able to help by donating any items from last week's list. This week, we are looking for:

- More boxes of tissues
- Old jeans and checked shirts, suitable for making scarecrows for our school garden



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Please find attached a provisional dates list designed to help you plan your involvement with all we do here at Wessex. I have already had several conversations regarding how we could improve our communications further, and ideas for the near future include developing the 'Parent Mail' facility, re-designing an effective school website, using school notice-boards more effectively and trying to get information out earlier. If you have any other ideas, please let me know!

## **SHARING ITEMS FROM HOME**

We really enjoy giving our children, particularly the younger ones, the opportunity to bring in favourite items from home to share with their class from time to time. Please could I remind parents to check which items are being brought in, as sharp objects can be dangerous to other children and I had to return a set of car keys to one parent who was very late for work! (...and I won't even mention the front door bell!!!)

## **DON'T FORGET**

The PTA, who do a marvelous job and raise over £5000 a year for your children at Wessex are having their AGM next Monday, 22nd September at 7.30pm in the upper school hall. This is a great chance to meet other parents, make new friends and get involved in the life of the school. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

**THANK YOU!**