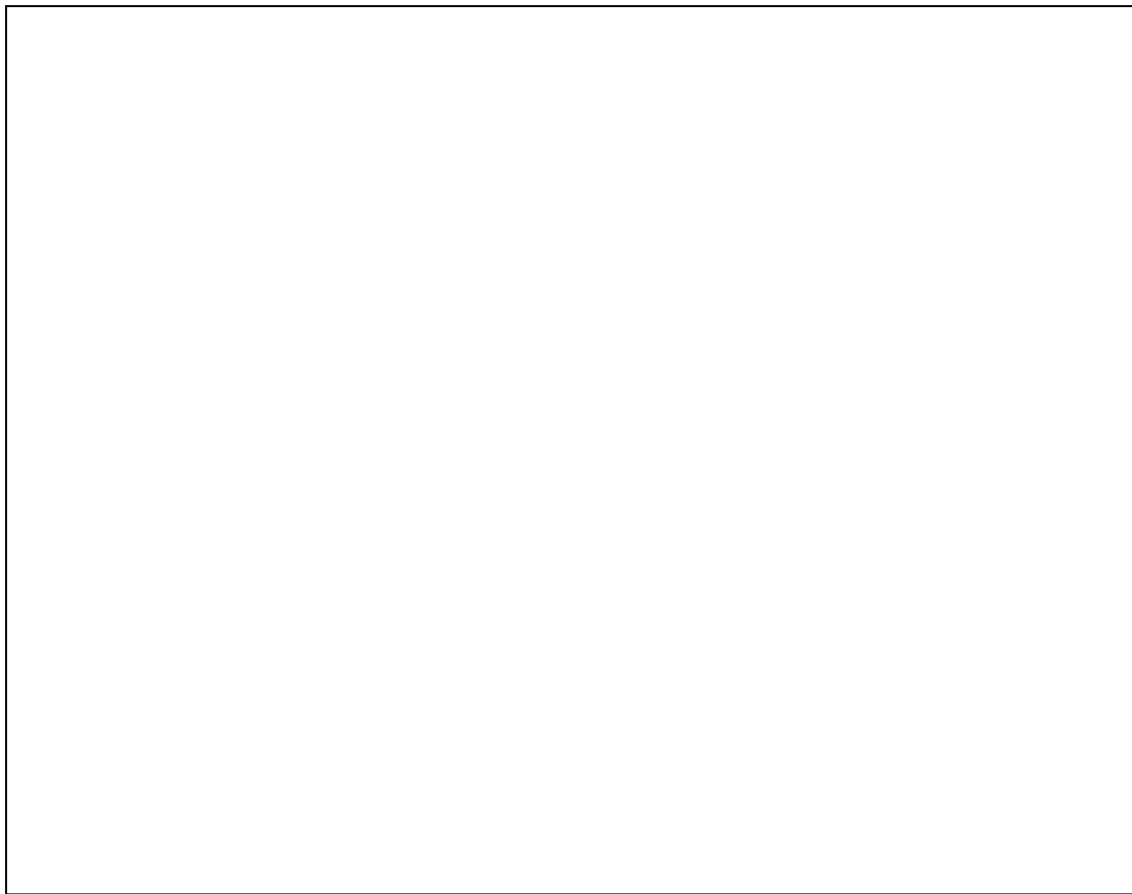


WESSEX WEEKLY

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Face by Mrs Hilbourne and Kyle Pagden, Y4

This week:

Multicultural week, Dance Festival, Stools,
Somebody's getting married and much more.....



From the Head's Chair



It has been yet another one of those weeks this week when I don't feel I have enough space to really give you an idea of all we have achieved at Wessex. I have been so proud of the children and staff this week and watching the dance festival at the Magnet yesterday (in which Purple class and 30 took part) really made me very proud. Not only did our Y1 and Y3 children perform beautifully in front of 400 children from other local schools and their parents, but they behaved beautifully all day and were a real credit to the school. Thank you children for making me smile so much before the holidays, and thank you to Miss Oldfield and Mrs Bushell for your exciting and innovative choreography! I will remember this event for a long time to come and hope to share the children's performances with children and parents at school after the holiday.

I have also enjoyed attending two assemblies led by Y3 and our Reception children this week and know that these were much appreciated by families, friends and other children alike. Y3 provided a well timed weather report and presented the findings of their research in to the climate in different parts of the world. For some reason it was decided that the best place to send me was the North Pole! Our Reception children presented their performance of 'Handa's Surprise' in which the children learned about different fruits, vegetables and greetings from around the world. For those parents who attended, I know you also enjoyed one or two impromptu 'creative dance performances'!!

On a more disappointing note, I have heard of increasing instances of children using inappropriate language in the playground at school. Swearing at or about other children will not be tolerated in school, especially by older children who might be overheard by younger children. It is not fair for any children to experience bad language which they will not understand, and I will be contacting parents of persistent offenders. I look forward to your active support in this matter. A reminder please not to bring mobile phones into school. On the rare occasion that children have to bring a phone to school in order to contact parents at the end of the day to arrange collection, they must be left in the office for security reasons.

I would like to congratulate all our Nursery children and staff who have really enjoyed their multicultural activities over the last two weeks. They have painted flags, tried on costumes, enjoyed cooking and learned about different customs and traditions from all around the world. More inside.....

Finally, you may have seen the article in the newspaper this week about our Solar Panels which are finally up and running. All we need now is lots of sunshine so get dancing everyone! I would also like to thank the team of staff from local company S.A.P. Thanks to their efforts we now have a well cleared and prepared school garden in upper school, all ready for our gardening and eco-clubs to get their green fingers into after the holiday.

I would like to wish all of you a happy and restful holiday. I hope you all get the chance to re-charge your batteries and I look forward to welcoming you back a week on Monday. (Good luck for tomorrow Miss Lugton....we look forward to welcoming you back as Mrs Maskell after your honeymoon!)

Nick Stevens

Headteacher

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Multicultural Fortnight in Nursery

An enormous **THANK YOU** to all parents who came in to nursery and helped to make our multicultural fortnight a success. So far we have enjoyed cooking pizza, scones, chapatis and still have pancakes and chocolate chip cookies to look forward to. Jane Douglass will be in on **24th Feb** to take us on a dancing adventure "around the world". Relatives have taught us about Mendi patterns, Diwali and Hinduism, South Africa and Spain so far. We have made Chinese dragons, African masks, Chinese lanterns, Rangoli patterns and identified countries around the world. In fact we have enjoyed learning about our multicultural world so much that we have decided to carry on for one more week after half term to make up for the days lost due to the weather.

Is your child registered for school?

A reminder to parents of children in Nursery that applications for statutory school admission (i.e. where they go when they are 5 years old) is now dealt with by the Borough and your child will not automatically get a place at Wessex School if they attend the Nursery. If you have any questions with school admissions, or need any help, please speak to Mrs Cawte in the school office.

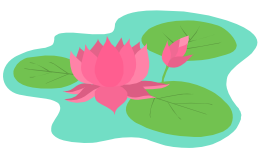
PE Kit for Y1 and Y2

Next term we look forward to having more of our PE lessons outdoors in Year 1 and Year 2. Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for this, including tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt to protect against cold weather. Could you also check that plimsoles fit those growing feet and put a name on everything. Thank You.

Stools

We have about a dozen child sized stools at school that we no longer need. They are useful for play rooms both inside and out, so if you want some for use at home, just ask and collect them before they go in the skip!

Monet Art Group



The Monet art group has been going on since October. It happens every Friday lunchtime (12.15 – 13.00). In the short time it's been going on we have done loads like: learning how to draw with water colour pencils and sketching pencils, still life drawing, portraits and canvases. But the most important part is that it's a chance to have fun. Art club is taught by the super Mrs Hilbourne.

Report by Katherine Wilson 6R

Congratulations



Mrs McArdle, one of our LSA's, has recently passed her Higher Level Teaching Assistant qualification. Well done Amanda!

Congratulations also to Miss Lugton who will be Mrs Maskell on her return to school after the holiday! We all wish her the very best for her wedding day on St Valentine's Day and best wishes for her future happiness!!



Eco Questionnaire

Earlier in the week, we sent home an Eco questionnaire for each family to fill out and return to the school. If you have not yet done so, please could you return the questionnaire to school immediately after the half term holiday. Thank you.

Parents Consultations

Parents should have received a letter and appointment request form for parent consultation evenings in March. If you have not yet returned your form, please do so immediately after the holiday. If the letter didn't make it home, please pop in for a copy from the school office.

Vouchers



Thanks to those of you who are collecting the Maidenhead Advertiser's 'Cash for Schools' vouchers and especially Jenny Anderson who brings in about 35 each week!! So far we have collected 148 tokens. We need at least 880 to qualify for some of the money. Remember that we sell the Advertiser on a Thursday after school (55p each - dependent on delivery). Keep those vouchers coming!

Sainsburys have started their Active kids voucher scheme again. Last year we collected 16,755 vouchers (an amazing amount) which meant we were able to choose some fantastic equipment for the children to use for PE, playtimes and Golden Time. Sainsburys are also offering the chance to win prizes with every voucher (details are on the reverse of the vouchers) but don't forget to hand the vouchers in to school afterwards!!

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
How do solar panels on the Lower School roof help our children and school?	What might happen if animals could talk like us?

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Monday 23 rd February	Back to school!!	All children and staff
Tuesday 24 th February	Breakfast Club Pancake Day special - <i>booking essential!</i>	Any children
Wednesday 4 th March	Parent consultations, Y1 - Y6	Parents of children in Y1 - Y6
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day	Everyone!
Tuesday 10 th March	Parent consultations, Nursery - Y6	Parents of children in Nursery - Y6
Friday 13 th March	Red Nose Day - various silly activities in school.	All
Saturday 21 st March	Family TASC (thinking actively in social contexts) problem solving day	All Wessex families

The Family Information Service

Information, advice and support as your children grow up

01628 507587 http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/parental_support.htm