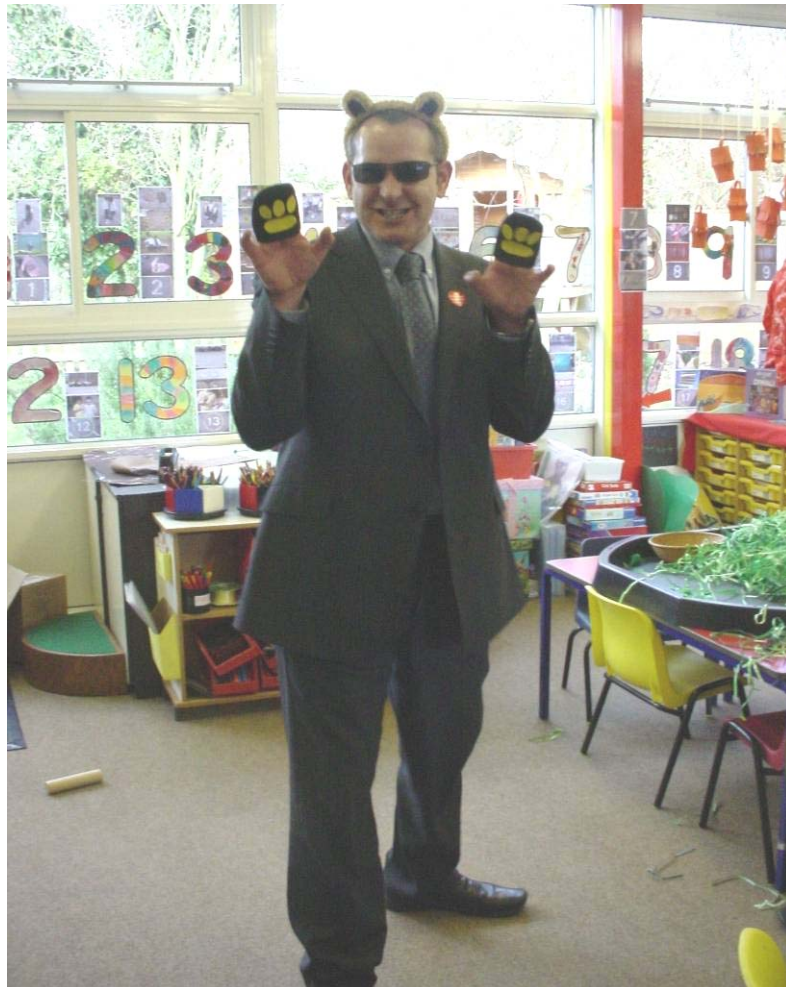


WESSEX WEEKLY

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Mr Stevens – Now Regretting Going on That Bear Hunt in Yellow Base!!!!
“Grrrrrrrr!!”

This week:

Red Nose Day, Lost Property, a very busy week,
dates for your diary and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

146 KWh of Electricity Produced

83 Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



This week has provided a wide range of experiences and events involving your children which has again filled me with both excitement and pride. Last **Friday** I accompanied our Y4 and Y5 children to the Magnet for their swimming lessons and was impressed by both the way they behaved, representing the school, and how hard they tried in the pool. It was also nice to receive compliments from the swimming instructors about how the children continued to conduct themselves each week. Well done children. On **Monday** evening, I accompanied Miss Razeghi, Miss Smith, Annabel Batimelli and her family to the annual awards presentation for the Rotary Club writing competition. Annabel's newspaper article was shortlisted from 5 Wessex entries, and she was required to read her piece to an audience of children, parents, the Mayor and Headteachers from 19 other local schools. She performed confidently and clearly, winning a certificate and £20 book voucher! She also won £50 for the school, which we will put towards new reading books in our library. Thank you Annabel and I look forward to sharing your winning entry with our children in assembly.

On **Tuesday** some of our Y3 & Y4 children represented the school in a tag rugby tournament against teams from six other schools. Yet again, the children did us proud and were very competitive. They worked really well as a team and came third over all, only just missing out on going through to the finals at Desborough. Well done children, and thank you to Miss Oldfield for organising the matches.

On **Wednesday** we held our parents evening and there was a very positive feeling throughout. I would like to thank parents who shared positive comments of support and appreciation for the school, and I have been impressed by how much progress your children have already made since the Autumn. We also used the evening as an opportunity to canvass your support for our re-development of the school grounds and will use the questionnaires you filled in to help us meet the needs of all our children. I would like to thank Miss Smith and Mrs Opacic for putting the information and displays together, and would ask any of you attending meetings next week to have your say!

On **Thursday** after school, 90 children from Upper School attended Film Club and enjoyed watching a showing of 'Ice Age'. The children thoroughly enjoyed the film and can look forward to 'Ice Age 2' next week. A reminder that the club finishes at 5.20pm, and if you would like your child to attend, please contact Mrs Cawte in the office.

A couple of requests / reminders to parents this week:

Please try to ensure that your child comes to school armed with appropriate equipment if they are in Upper School. A pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and sharpener are very useful to have in a pencil case, and having these items at hand will save precious minutes in lesson times. This is also a good habit to get into for our older Lower School children.

Mobile phones are not permitted in school unless they are handed in to the office at the beginning of the day for safe keeping – and only then if absolutely necessary. Any mobile phones discovered in bags and pockets will be confiscated and will only be collected from me by parents.

I must strongly discourage children and families from booking annual holidays during term time. My hands are tied about how many days I am allowed to authorise for holidays, and I would prefer not to have to authorise any. Your children will be taking some very important assessments in the next few months and any unnecessary absence will affect how well they do as they miss important lessons and learning.

On **Thursday** this week I enjoyed a stunning assembly on the theme of Friendship by 6M. The children had worked really hard and put the assembly together themselves, with a bit of help from Miss Mirza, and showed children and parents what friendship

means to them. We also learned that friends sometimes 'fall out' and were treated to a range of strategies for dealing with these situations when they arise. The assembly was made all the more poignant as many of the children will soon be going their separate ways, but also a celebration of the life-long friendships made at Wessex that many of the children will no doubt continue to enjoy long into the future.

Finally, this week, I would like to congratulate Miss Bristow and Yellow Base. Miss Bristow was one of only 4 teachers chosen internationally to appear in an on-line advert for Promethean. This is in recognition of her skills and quality when delivering lessons in the classroom using the new and emerging technologies we enjoy in school. The whole school is very proud of both her and the children, and Miss Bristow made me promise not to tell anyone where to find it. So, here's the link!

<http://www.prometheanplanet.com/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.7071>

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Red Nose Day – Friday 13th March

Red noses are available to buy in the Nursery at any time and in Lower or Upper Schools each break and lunchtime at a cost of £1. As a school, we will be joining in the silliness on the day by having a pyjama party where children and staff can wear pyjamas and dressing gowns for the day!! We are asking children to bring in a donation of £1 if they wear pyjamas, and to see the staff doing something funny for money – that is performing a dance in Lower and Upper Schools during the afternoon!! The Red Nose Day website has some great activities for children and some excellent fundraising ideas – have a look at http://www.rednoseday.com/fun_and_games.



Newsletter



This week, and every week, we will include a **very obvious** deliberate mistake somewhere in the newsletter. Although St Patrick's Day is 17th March, Harrison's Catering are changing their menu on 10th March – that was not the gaff (although maybe someone should tell Harrison's catering....). See if you can find this week's gaff elsewhere in the newsletter. The first 3 correct answers pulled out of the (rather spectacular) 'Newsletter Gaffs' box (made by Nadia Akhbar and Kibibi Glover-Watts) in reception on Wednesday morning next week will receive a free school dinner or a free morning at Breakfast Club. Please write your name/child's name, the 'gaff' and where it appeared in the newsletter and a contact number all on any piece of paper and pop it in the 'gaff' box. Winners will be notified by phone by Wednesday lunchtime. The winners this week are Eden Harley, Jade Anderson and Jasmine Malkinson-James.

Vouchers

We are collecting vouchers from Tesco, Sainsburys, Maidenhead Advertiser, Nestle Box Tops, Flora and The Times Books for Schools. Collecting boxes for all these voucher schemes are in the reception area. The school benefits enormously from all the various schemes so please do collect for us and ask friends and neighbours if they would collect for us too.

Lost Property

A rather nice ladies watch was found in St Adrian's Close recently. If you have lost a watch in the past couple of weeks, please contact the school office.

Please can we beg parents to name their children's school uniform and anything else they wear to school. We often have coats that are left in school with no name – sometimes for weeks on end. Similarly, wallets with money, hats, trainers and shoes all need names written, stuck or sewn in. Thank you for your help.

Cox Green After School Club

A reminder to parents that there is an after school club at the Cox Green community centre which will look after your children until 6pm in term time after school. The children are collected from Wessex and walked over to the community centre where they enjoy a number of activities including art and craft and 'cold' cooking. For more information call the after school club on 07949 036096.

St Patrick's Day Special Menu

On **Tuesday 10th March**, Harrison's will be serving a special Irish menu in order to celebrate St Patrick's Day (which is the following week!). The menu will be changed to Irish stew or Dublin Veggie Pie served with vegetables and champ potatoes. Pudding will be Apple upside down pudding and custard.



Securing a Pay Rise in 2009!

As these are difficult and uncertain economic times we face as families we are pleased to announce we have arranged a workshop for families to attend on **Thursday 19th March**, 7.30pm in the Upper School Hall. The workshop will be focused on providing advice and guidance to ensure you have more money in your bank account in 2009. It is completely free and all are welcome, so please feel free to invite friends and family members who do not have children attending the school.

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Who is your best friend and what makes them special?	What might happen if all money vanished overnight? (continued from last weeeeeeeek)

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Tuesday 10 th March	St Patrick's Day special menu	All children
Tuesday 10 th March	Parent consultations, Nursery – Y6	Parents of children in Nursery – Y6
Friday 13 th March	Red Nose Day – Pyjama day and other various silly activities in school.	All
Thursday 19 th March	Nursery visit to the shops.	Nursery
Thursday 19 th March	Financial Advice Workshop – 7.30 Upper School Hall	All welcome
Saturday 21 st March	Family TASC (Thinking Actively in Social Contexts) problem solving day. 10am – 1pm (Details to follow)	All Wessex families
Friday 3 rd April	End of term 2pm	All
Monday 20 th April	Start of Summer Term for school	Rec – Y6 children
Wednesday 22 nd April	Start of term for existing Nursery children	Nursery
Monday 11 th – Friday 14 th May	KS2 SATs week – please do not book holidays at this time.	Y6

The Family Information Service

Information, advice and support as your children grow up

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

