

WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 23 : 13.3.2009



Matthew Banham (Y4) Enjoying 'Awesome' Science at Cox Green School

This week:

A musical extravaganza, congratulations to staff,
dates for your diary and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

216 KWh of Electricity Produced
123 Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



This has again been a busy week, and as I sit here in my pyjamas, in aid of Comic Relief of course, I reflect on how proud I am of the children and staff at Wessex. On Sunday evening, many parents and I were treated to a musical extravaganza at the Hexagon Theatre in Reading. Many of our children were taking part and had been practicing songs and dances in preparation for the big day. The theatre was full with almost 1200 parents from 13 schools and I'm sure you can imagine that performing in front of an audience of this size was quite a scary prospect. Throughout the day, our children behaved impeccably and all the hard work paid off with a fantastic performance in the evening. I would like to thank Mrs Piper and Mrs Palfrey for organising and preparing for the event and all the other adults who were there to help on the day. It was a great event and created many life long memories – well done everyone!

Parents' evening on Tuesday was again a pleasure and I enjoyed the opportunity to chat to many of you in between appointments. We again had a great response to our 'Playground Makeover' survey and have collected lots of good ideas for how we can both improve our grounds and turn them into a more effective learning environment for your children. Watch this space.....

Yesterday, I accompanied 30 children from Year 4 to Cox Green to take part in some very exciting and quite explosive science experiments as part of their Science Week activities. Thirty 9 year olds in a science lab filled with Bunsen burners and flames? No problem. They listened well, followed instructions and thoroughly enjoyed activities including making their own sparklers, invisible writing and blowing up some flour! All the children got a feel for how exciting science can be and thoroughly enjoyed the visit. The same can't be said for one or two ceiling tiles in the science lab!!

I would like to bid a fond farewell to Miss Powell who has spent the last few weeks teaching in Year 5 as part of her training to become a qualified teacher. The children have thoroughly enjoyed having her in the classroom, responded well to her ideas and enthusiasm and I am sure would welcome her back any time! Thank you Sam and I wish you well in the future.

Finally, I would like to congratulate several members of staff at Wessex who have successfully gained new qualifications after completing their training courses. Mrs Woolford and Mrs Shearsmith have both gained a new ECLAN qualification which recognises their proficiency in supporting children with Speech and Learning difficulties. Mrs Ford has also successfully gained her Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) qualification which recognises her effectiveness of teaching and supporting the children effectively in the classroom. Well done ladies – I'm very impressed!

Have a good weekend!

Nick Stevens

Headteacher

Tel: 01628 626724

e-mail: wessex@rbwm.org

Football Report



Our football team have played 3 matches this week. Monday saw them play away at Bisham against Bisham School and Holyport Primary, winning one match and losing the second. Thursday saw the team play against White Waltham school. Sadly, we lost 5-0 but the team put up a valiant effort against a truly excellent side. As always, our team conducted themselves brilliantly and the children are a credit to the school.

Newsletter

A reminder that this week, and every week, we will include a **very obvious** deliberate mistake somewhere in the newsletter. The first 3 correct answers pulled out of the 'Newsletter Gaffs' box 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 (again!) Jenna Hibberd and Niamh Clark.

Reading at Wessex

On **Tuesday 24th March 2009 at 7.30pm** we will be holding a reading information evening. The session will highlight how we teach reading at Wessex and how you can support your child at home. This will be particularly useful for parents of Reception and Nursery children, but of course everyone is welcome. We anticipate the session will last no longer than 45 minutes.



Vouchers

As you know we are collecting vouchers from all of the various schemes. (Current count, where we have them, is in brackets): Tesco, Sainsburys, Maidenhead Advertiser (851 - we need 880 to qualify for some of the money), Nestle Box Tops (247), Flora (new scheme) and The Times Books for Schools (337). Collection boxes for all these voucher schemes are in the reception area. Please do collect for us and ask friends and neighbours if they would collect for us too.

Maidenhead Advertiser

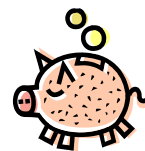
We apologise for not having the Advertiser on sale last week. Apparently there were problems with the presses and they could not fulfill many of their deliveries to shops or schools. Normal service has now been resumed.

Clubs

Please note that all 'non-paid for' clubs will finish week commencing 23rd March. A new clubs list and booking form will be sent out early in the new term.

Securing a Pay Rise in 2009!

A reminder that we have arranged a workshop for families 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
If you could meet somebody, who would it be, and why?	If you could ask 5 questions about the future, what would they be?

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
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	All Wessex families
Tuesday 24 th March	KS1 SATs meeting – 7pm Lower School Hall KS2 SATs Meeting – 7.30pm Red Class	Parents of children in Y2 and Y6
Tuesday 24 th March	Reading Information Meeting – 7.30pm Lower School Hall	All parents welcome.
Monday 30 th March	Parents in School Day – details to follow	All Parents
Friday 3 rd April	End of term 2pm – whooooopeeeee!!!	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