

WESSEX WEEKLY

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What do you call a bee that is always complaining?



Daanyall Khan in 5S made a moving toy for the children in his 'buddy class' - Reception

This week:

Thinking Skills Day, Disco Fever, Ofsted!,
lots of dates for your diary and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

507KWh of Electricity Produced
288Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



This week started early at Wessex with our first family TASC day (Thinking Actively in Social Contexts) last Saturday. I was over the moon to welcome just over 60 people who were willing to rise to the occasion and challenge themselves as families to solve a range of problems and challenges, whilst at the same time working together, listening and learning from each other. The feedback we received was hugely positive and the fun, practical and occasionally messy activities were enjoyed by all. Thank you to Helen Maskell for arranging such a successful event. Our TASC day was followed by 'Parents (or Grandparents) in School Day' on Monday when we welcomed parents to school for a real flavour of what we do to teach your children and more importantly to find out more about how they learn. This was again a great success and I am very proud of the children, parents and staff who responded to this challenge so positively. Quotes from those parents who attended included "Learning is so much more fun than I remember it", "The teacher had such good control of the children" and "I have a much greater understanding of what my child(ren) experiences every day". Part of our vision for Wessex is to enhance how we support our families, not just the children, so that every adult has the opportunity to support their child's learning at home. My message to you is to get involved where you can, ask questions where you need to and get more involved when you have the time.

I would like to thank the parents and friends who responded to our requests in the last fortnight to collect tyres from Knowl Hill and help us with a little bricklaying project. We now have the tyres on site and have been offered the building task for free – both of which provided their own challenges (the tyres were HUGE!) What I have learned is that we have a skilled and supportive parent body who are willing to help our school and I look forward to working with you all in the future to support and improve all we do at Wessex. Exciting times ahead...watch this space!

I would also like to thank the PTA who organised three very successful disco's last night, attended by almost 300 of your children. It is occasions like this that really allow the children to let down (or do up) their hair whilst at the same time raising vital funds for the benefit of the school. We managed to raise £418! Thank you to the staff and parents who stayed until late – please could you try to ensure that photos of me wearing a wig and dodgy glasses are removed from any form of technological record. It didn't happen and I will defend that position!!!!

GOOD NEWS: I received a phone call from our friends at Ofsted yesterday to inform us that we will be inspected for a single subject on **Tuesday 21st April** (the second day back after the Easter break). We will be inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectors to establish how well we deliver teaching and learning in the area of ICT. I am hugely proud of what we are able to deliver in this area and look forward to welcoming Geyanne, our inspector, on Tuesday after the holidays. She will come in to school for the day and speak to me and Louise Bristow, our ICT coordinator, about our provision. She will also observe lessons and speak to some of your children to find out more about how good we are. I have been impressed by how we embed ICT across the curriculum, and I am sure that those of you who have been in to school must feel the same. As I say to prospective parents, I am often envious to walk in to a class room to find a 10 year old child presenting to the class, supported by facts, sound and moving pictures behind them, regarding a subject close to their heart. How do they know how to do it? Where can I find out? It would be really helpful if we had one or two testimonials from you as parents to comment on our provision in the area of ICT. Not just whiteboards, but photographs, dictaphones, e-mail, graphs and charts, consultation about our website, your child's skills, etc. Please take two minutes to jot down your thoughts, and hopefully your support, and pop it through the letter box or deliver it to the office on the first Monday back. I want to show off (in the nicest possible way) how good we are in this area and every comment we can share with our inspector will only help!

Nick Stevens
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I hope you all have a happy and restful break!
Happy Easter!

Clubs

We have trialled running a Film club this term, which has proven to be very popular and successful. It has been fun for the children to be treated to a 'cinema experience' in school with all their friends. We hope the film club will return in the Autumn, and hope in the meantime your children will enjoy getting outside and taking advantage of the (hopefully) sunnier weather. Thank you to Miss Razeghi for organising our Film Club this term!

A list of new clubs will be issued at the beginning of next term. Children will need to sign up and should be committed to the club they join. Once they have joined, children will not be allowed to phone home just because they don't feel like it on a particular day, so please ensure that they consider their choices carefully. Thank you.

We have had some details of clubs and activities being held at other schools:

Cheerleading Club, held at the Gym in Newlands Girls School. It's a 4 week course every Wednesday 5-6pm, starting wed 29th April. It's £15 for all 4 weeks. Web site michaela@championcheeracademy.co.uk. Michaela Ambrose 07813640632.

Badminton Club at Cox Green Thursdays 5-6pm (4 more sessions left)

Sports Bug Fortnight 9 - 22May 2009. Free sports days for all ages and abilities in a wide range of sports (kayaking/wind surfing/tennis etc). For more information see www.rbwm.gov.uk and type in Sbug in the search box. Some activities are likely to get booked up very quickly so have a look soon!

Vouchers

As you know we collect vouchers from all of the various schemes. The Maidenhead Advertiser has now finished printing their Cash for Schools tokens so please bring any in that you might have - we are able to send them in immediately after the Easter holiday. Collection boxes for all the voucher schemes are in the reception area. Please do collect for us and ask friends and neighbours if they would collect for us too. A special thanks to the Cox Green Get Together Club who have been collecting vouchers for us too!

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Which is the best school holiday and why?	What are the best sounds you have ever heard and what are the worst sounds you have ever heard?

Easter Egg Raffle



The winners of the Nursery Easter Egg Raffle are: Ben Cole (Nursery), Clara Pearce (Blue class) and Sophie Lean (Purple class), who each win an Easter Egg and a DVD. Well done!

OOPS!

A reminder that this week, and every week, we will include a **very obvious** deliberate mistake somewhere in the newsletter. Please write your name/child's name, the 'gaff' and where it appeared in the newsletter and a contact number all on a piece of paper and pop it in the 'giraffe' box. The winners this week (out of loads of entries this week!) are Samantha Clarke, Leah Webb and Cameron Netherwood-Meek, all of whom have chosen a free school dinner – fish and chips!

Easter Egg Hunt

Rotary Club Grand Easter Egg Hunt and Fair, April 13th, Braywick. Advance bookings are considerably cheaper than paying on the day. Please see www.maidenheadthamesrotary.org.uk or ring 01628 624706 for more details.

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Monday 20 th April	Start of Summer Term for school	Rec – Y6 children
Monday 20 th April – Wednesday 22 nd April	Y5 Residential Trip to Hooke Court	Y5
Wednesday 22 nd April	Start of term for existing Nursery children	Nursery
Thursday 30 th April	5C Class Assembly - 9.15am	Parents and carers of children in 5C
Monday 11 th – Friday 14 th May	KS2 SATs week – please do not book holidays at this time.	Y6
End of term	Friday 22 nd May - 3.20pm	Everyone
Monday 1 st June	INSET day – please don't send your child to school!	All children
Tuesday 2 nd June	Start of term for children in school and Nursery	All children

And finally....



I am very pleased to be able to tell you that as a result of our re-organisation for next year, Mrs Helen Maskell has been appointed as Deputy Headteacher from September 2009. Well done Helen – I look forward to working with you during the years ahead!

The Family Information Service

Information, advice and support as your children grow up

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

A grumble bee!