

# WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 27: 24.4.2009



Why do bears have fur coats?



Beth Jacob cooking with wartime rations at Hooke Court

**This week:**

Y5 at Hooke Court, Summer term in school – do's and don'ts,  
lots of dates for your diary and much more.....

**SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:**  
802KWh of Electricity Produced  
457Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



## From the Head's Chair



I would like to welcome you back after the Easter break and say how much I have enjoyed the cheery 'Good Mornings' and 'Good Afternoons' I have experienced on the gate this week. The weather has been fantastic and the children are enjoying spending more time outside. Please read on to find out more about how to help keep your child safe in the sun, and please ensure they bring a full water bottle to school with them every day.

Despite two weeks away, we have really hit the ground running – possibly more so this term than in any other term since I started at Wessex. Many of you will have noticed a dramatic change to the front of school as the emergency access has been put in place as part of our exciting building development plans. They're not quite finished, but the workmen are due to return over the weekend to finish the job and ensure that all the levels are...level. We will be installing something a little bit innovative and special in the coming weeks, so, literally, watch this space! Our Family Room is almost there too – the furniture has arrived and is in place and the final step is to install three networked computers. This will continue to provide us with an effective space for teaching groups of children, but will also provide a space for parents and friends of Wessex to meet, have a cup of coffee, wait for their children whilst attending clubs, access support in a variety of forms or have a free point of access to a computer and the internet.

As far as the children are concerned, it has also been an exciting return to Wessex. Our Year five children have enjoyed a fantastic trip to Hooke Court and returned safely to school both tired and exhilarated after their residential trip. Experiences such as these are hugely important and I am very proud that we are able to continue to provide your children with these opportunities – many of which will ensure life long friendships and memories. My sincere thanks go to Mrs Corbett and Miss Smith for organising the trip and to Mrs Maskell, Mrs Hillbourne, Mrs Ford and Miss Powell for making it happen. The children were very well behaved and the coach driver actually commented that we were one of the best groups of children he had driven – no mean feat for a four hour journey!

Our Year 6 team took part in an inter-schools football competition on Wednesday and played brilliantly. They won the first game 2-0, including a spectacular goal from James Dover and a cracker from Matt Barrell, won the second game 1-0 with a Torres-esque (or Terry-esque depending on who you support) bullet header from Oliver Mulley but

narrowly lost their third match 1-0. We finished top of the table in our group and progressed to the quarter finals. At the end of extra time the score was deadlocked at 0-0, and as in Moscow had to be settled with the lottery of a penalty shoot-out. The teams remained level until the seventh penalty when Bisham school stole victory by the narrowest of margins. I was impressed by the team's sportsmanship – clapping and cheering the opposition at the end of each game whatever the score – and also with how well they played together as a team. The team were: James Dover, Alex Lawrence, Oliver Mulley, Connor Phillips, Conor Dunne, Miles Weeks, Matt Barrell, Jordan Mole and Thomas Leggatt. Well done boys, and a huge thank you to Mr Lloyd and Mr Battimelli for your hard work in putting out a great team. Next week is Year 5's turn and I wish them good luck!

We had a visit from Her Majesty's Inspectors on Tuesday when Ofsted arrived to focus on our ICT. Everyone had put in a lot of work to show just how good we are in this area and this was reflected in the judgement. The inspector judged that we were at least in line with national expectations for our ICT provision and even better in many areas. The areas for development we were given were no surprise, which is reassuring, and she specifically commented on the rapid progress we have made in the last 6 months. As Headteacher, I was very happy with the outcome of the visit and would like to thank the children and staff who were most directly affected on the day. I would also especially like to thank our ICT coordinator, Miss Bristow, for all the hard work she put in over the holidays. Well done!

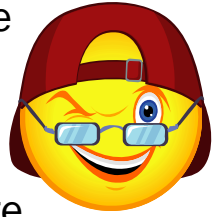
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#### **A Request from the PTA.**

*"We (the PTA) would like to ask if parents have any contacts we could approach for donations for raffle and general prizes for both the Summer and Christmas Fairs and Fireworks Night. Requests go out once each year and it would be great if there were a few new companies we could approach. If anyone has a contact at Mars who wouldn't mind helping source some goodies we would be really grateful. If you are able to help please leave your details with the school office. Many thanks."*

## The Summer Term (or the short and long of it...)

The Summer term is with us and (hopefully) we're in for some lovely weather so that the children can enjoy the outdoors. Please can we take this opportunity to remind parents to encourage their children to be sun-safe and wear hats at playtimes and lunch times. Green baseball style caps are available from the school office or children can wear their own. Please make sure the hats are named!! Sun cream should be applied before children come to school (unless the children can apply it (without mess) themselves). There are a number of sun creams available that will last all day.



We have also been asked whether children may wear sandals. Our uniform policy states that children should wear 'sensible shoes'. Providing sandals are not sling backs and (most importantly) cover the toes of the wearer, we have no problem with children wearing sandals in either white or black.

This term is broken into a short half of 5 weeks and a long half of 7½ weeks. As usual there will be traditional sports days, activity days in upper school, a number of trips and our leavers' assembly right at the end of term. Dates of all these events will be published in our newsletter so please make sure you read it weekly so that you can keep up to date with everything that is happening in school.

### New Arrivals

We have finally hatched in Reception and have 5 fluffy new chicks in Yellow Base! The children have been incubating the eggs very carefully for the last few weeks and it was just after the holidays that a few cheeps could be heard from inside. Over the next few days, the chicks started to chip their way out of each egg and we now have 5 new additions to Wessex. The chicks were very big and one or two struggled to break free, but with a little help, all managed to survive. The children have named the first chick Lucky and the second one Hannah (which might actually be a Harold if you know what I mean!) and we await the new names for our other arrivals.

### School Link Orders

We have received and delivered all but one of the School Link orders. If you are expecting a delivery and have not yet received it, please call in to the office.

## Clubs

A list of new clubs will be issued in the next week or so. 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.

## Dangerous Drivers Beware



We have had a couple of incidents reported to the school which, while strictly speaking are outside our jurisdiction, we thought it worthwhile highlighting. It has been reported that some of you are not ensuring your children are wearing seatbelts in the car and are also driving whilst using a mobile phone. It goes without saying that both of these actions are not only illegal but also very silly. A near miss between a moving car and a child was reported to me this week as a result of inappropriate parking and this is totally unacceptable. I would encourage parents who witness incidents such as these to take a record of the number plate and report them directly to the police. Your child's safety is of the utmost importance and it is only with accurate reporting that the police will take action. We do our best in school to promote road safety and good citizenship - *please play your part as well!!!*

## Breakfast Club Assistant Vacancy and others...

We have a vacancy for someone to help with our very popular Breakfast Club initially just for Wednesday mornings 8am-9am and occasional cover for sickness and absence. If you or someone you know would like to find out more, please speak to Jane Wardle in the office. The successful applicant will be required to complete a CRB check. We have heard also that Maidenhead Nursery and Children's Centre are looking for a Finance Office/Bursar, 15 hours per week in term time. Further details are available from Maidenhead Nursery on 01628 623551.

## Chicken Pox



The spotty disease is doing the rounds again! If your child has even one or two spots appearing overnight, please check with the doctor and contact the school. We have a couple of children that are extremely vulnerable when exposed to the chicken pox virus and we need to ensure their wellbeing. Thank you.

## Y5 Residential Trip to Hooke Court

Our Y5 children came back very tired but very happy after three days at Hooke Court near Dorset. Some quotes from the children sum up their enjoyment:

“The Anderson shelter was the best bit. It was quite scary listening to the bombs!”. “Cooking scones was great as I got really messy and we got to eat them!”. “It was great being in a dormitory with my friends. We got to chat a lot!”. “I enjoyed dressing up and being an evacuee. I could really imagine what it must have been like”. “Fandabbytastic – brilliant, amazing!” A great trip enjoyed by all, and hopefully by now most of the dirty washing will be done! !



## Vouchers

The Cash for Schools vouchers have been counted (over 1800 – thank you!) and have now been sent off to the Maidenhead Advertiser. As you know, we collect vouchers from all of the various schemes including Tesco’s, Sainsbury’s and Flora. 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.

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Why do you think it is important for schools to collect vouchers from supermarkets?	How many yellow things can you think of?

## 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 'gaff' box. The winners from before Easter are Holly Clarke, Seran Yucel and Leah Webb, all of whom have won either a free school dinner or a free session at breakfast club!

## This Week's Requests

We really need some equipment for our gardening club, namely:

- Rakes
- Hoses
- A lawnmower!



If you are able to provide any of the above, please contact the school office or Mrs Elliott. Thank you very much.

## Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	5C Class Assembly - 9.15am	Parents and carers of children in 5C
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Star Wars Day (Bank Holiday) (May the fourth be with you...)	A day off for all!
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs week – please do not book holidays at this time.	Y6
End of term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May - <u>3.20pm</u>	Everyone
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	INSET day – please don't send your child to school!	All children
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Start of term for children in school and Nursery	All children
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	End of Term 2pm	Everyone

Finally, we thought you would like to see some pictures of our chicks:



**The Family Information Service**

*Information, advice and support as your children grow up*

01628 507587 [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/parental\\_support.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/parental_support.htm)

Because they look silly in anoraks!