

WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 29: 8.5.2009



What do you call a woodpecker with no beak?



Ibtasam dressed as the Dame in Baa Baa Black Sheep
(To be saved for his 18th Birthday I think!!)

This week:

SATs, Medicines in school, Scientists required, dates for your diary and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:
1025KWh of Electricity Produced
584Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



This week for me (and many of our families) started on Bank Holiday Monday with the Cox Green May Day celebrations. I thoroughly enjoyed attending the event at the community centre for my first time and was proud of the contribution made by our children. The weather was not as good as hoped for, but there was a strong turnout and it was nice to see so many familiar faces. Our Lower School children gave a demonstration of traditional Maypole dancing and performed beautifully in front of a large audience – not a bad achievement for 6 and 7 year olds! Well done children.

Yesterday I attended the first meeting of our new 'Playground Makeover Team' which aims to get a real parent / community input into our ambitious plans to develop and utilise the potential of our school grounds to provide your children with improved learning and creative play opportunities beyond the classroom. We have made a great start and the PTA are fully supporting our project. We have been consulting with every stakeholder to gain views and perspectives in this area, including governors, parents, staff and most importantly the children. There are very exciting times ahead and I would encourage you to get involved where you can. Parents who can offer their time or expertise would be greatly welcomed. Please get in touch with Miss Smith or Mrs Corbett if you can help dig, weed, paint, source equipment, plan, install, transport, inspire others or make a real difference to help radically improve what we already have. I was overwhelmed by the response to my request to transport tractor tyres from Knowl Hill, and this is a similar call for your support. We want your children involved too so please come and ask if you can help or have any questions. Thank you – I look forward to hearing from you. This is a real, high impact initiative to help make Wessex even more special, so please get involved!

PLEASE READ ON: IMPORTANT MEDICAL ADVICE AND ASSESSMENT INFLAMATION ENCLOSED

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Medicines in School

In order to ensure that the appropriate information about any medicines your child might need from time to time in school is correctly recorded and permissions sought, please can you deliver **ALL** prescribed medicines to the school office. We will then ensure that your child receives the right medicines at the right times. Most medication should be administered by parents at home before and after school, but on the rare occasions when your child needs to take prescribed medicines part way through the day, we need to have this recorded and stored correctly and safely. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Headlice

As promised last week, I have been seeking advice about how to help tackle and prevent the spread of headlice, which as I'm sure you will agree is both difficult and frustrating for children, teachers and parents alike. From Monday, if we spot a child with headlice, we will contact their parent and ask them to collect their child from school and treat them immediately in order to reduce the risk of spreading from child to child. Leaflets with clear practical advice about effective treatment are available in the entrance hall,

but I would encourage parents to check their children's hair regularly. We are also able to put families in touch with our school nurse should they need any further support or advice. Thank you.

SATs

As you will be aware, we are currently administering our end of year assessments across the school. This is a very important time and enables teachers to identify how much progress your child has made and where they might need help in the future. Our End of Key Stage 2 SATs are particularly important, as the outcome will provide our Y6 children with a good starting point for secondary school. Please ensure your child is in school, had a good breakfast and an early night, and is as ready as they can be to show off what they can do! If your child is poorly next week, please contact the school ASAP, as we will need to make arrangements for them to take the test and we are restricted by how we can do this. Thank you.

Hooke Court

Mrs Hall (Thomas' mum) has very kindly offered to put together a DVD of pictures from the recent Y5 trip to Hooke Court. This will provide the children who went with a great memento of the trip and many fond memories. If your children have any photographs from the trip, please send them in to school (named) so that Mrs Hall can scan them and add them. All photos will be returned. If any parent does not want their child's image to appear in this album please let me know.

Swine Flu

As you will have seen in the press, there are concerns about the spread of this new form of flu across the country, with cases now identified in Slough. We will be talking to your children about the importance of good hygiene – coughing into a tissue, covering your mouth if you sneeze, washing hands regularly, not touching your face too often, etc. We will do this carefully and sensitively, so as not to cause any concerns or frighten younger children, although a reminder about basic hygiene is probably a good idea anyway.

Please can parents do their bit by ensuring we have up to date contact details should we need to contact you. There is no need to worry, I am just trying to ensure we are as best prepared as we can be at school should we need to take any further action. Thank you.

Curriculum Overviews

Along with this edition of our newsletter you will receive details of the work each year group from Y1 –Y6 will be covering this term. Please take the time to read this information, as it may help you to support your child's learning at home and be better informed about what they are learning in school. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or you want to know more.

Science Week

Do any of you have a scientifically based job or expertise (e.g. engineer, vet, dentist, architect, ICT 'person', doctor, gardener, etc.)? We would love to have visitors to share their experiences with our pupils during science week (**w/c 22nd June**). If you or someone you know would be able to come in and talk to the children about what you do, please contact Mrs Maskell via the school office. Events like these contribute hugely to our children's understanding and learning so please get in touch if you can help.



Clubs

We have a few spaces available in the following clubs: Spanish, Tag Rugby, Drama and Yoga. Please contact the office if you would like a booking form for these clubs or would like some more information.

Sports Days

I am pleased to be able to inform of the dates for our sports days so that you can start practicing for the parents races!!

Upper School sports day will be on **Tuesday 16th June** at 1.15pm with a reserve of 1st July.

Lower School (excluding Reception) will be on **Wednesday 17th June** at 1.15pm with a reserve of 30th June.

Foundation Stage (**Nursery and Reception**) will have their sports day on **Thursday 2nd July** at 9.30am and 1.15pm with a reserve of 3rd July.

School Lunch Options

From Monday, Harrison's are able to offer a cold picnic 'Grab bag' alongside the hot dinner option. Each bag will include a wholemeal sandwich (ham salad, cheese, egg mayo or tuna mayo), crudité's, a piece of fruit and homemade cake, cookie or flapjack. Children will be asked whether they want a hot or picnic lunch in the morning and it will be marked on the lunch sheet – they will not be able to change their minds at lunchtime! The cost of the picnic lunch is the same as a hot lunch – just £2. Now we have finally reached what we hope will be a good Summer, this is a good opportunity for your children to 'picnic' together outside!



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 this week are Jade Anderson, Samantha Clarke and Harley Jones, all of whom have won either a free school dinner or a free session at breakfast club! (Last week's Gaff was "...won won.." in the football report by the way!)

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Which is more important, imagination or knowledge?	How many words can you make out of the letters from this famous quote by Albert Einstein? 'Imagination is more important than knowledge'.

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 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
Monday 8 th June	Y6 residential trip to Kingswood	Y6 children and staff
Sunday 12 th July	PTA Summer Fair 2pm	Everyone
Wednesday 22 nd July	End of Term 2pm	Everyone

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 headbanger!