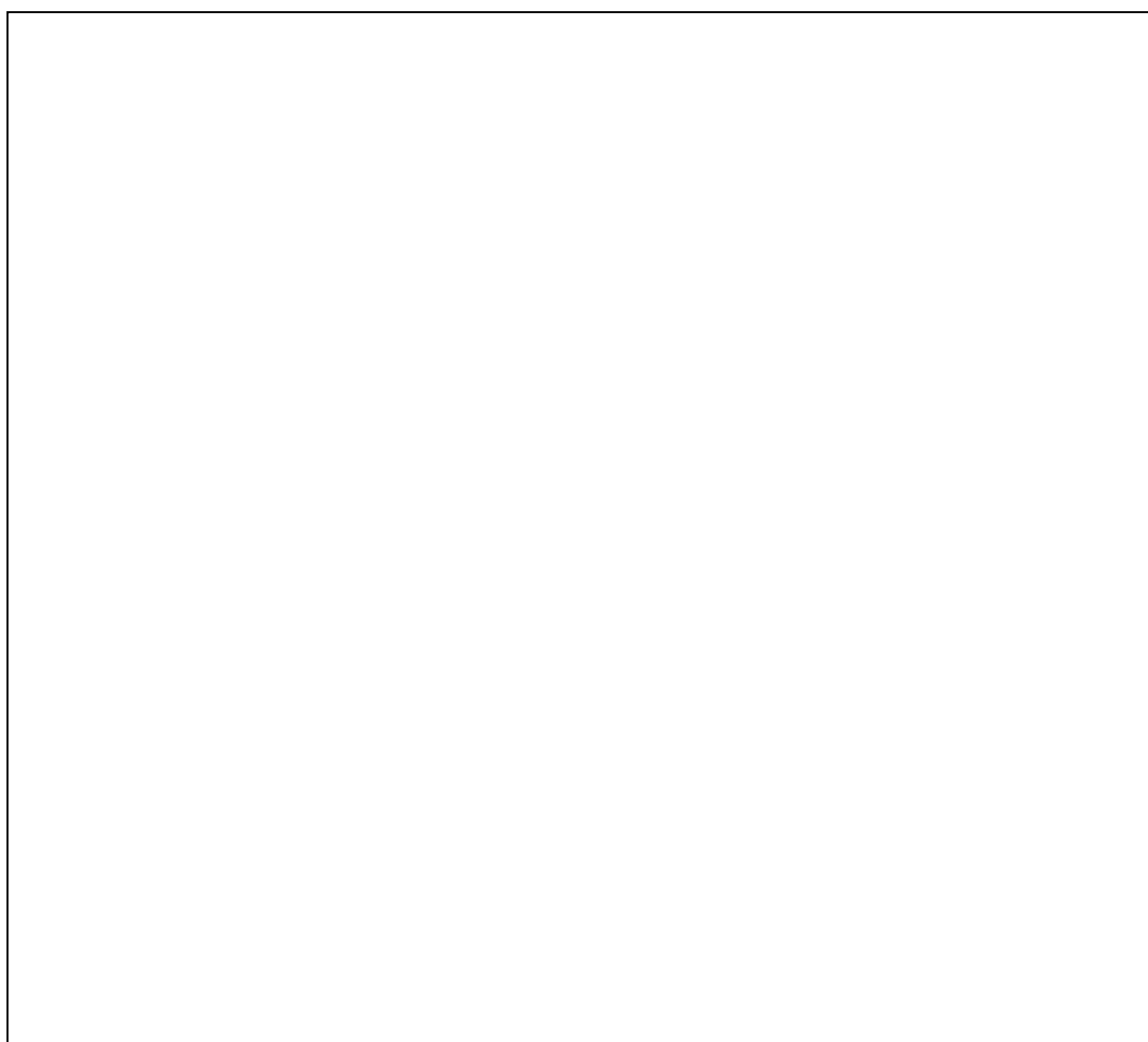


# WESSEX WEEKLY

## 'Bumper Edition'

ISSUE 3: 26.09.08



**“My Family” by Aaminah Sharif (Badger)**

**This week:**

Harvest festivals, Thinking Skills, School and Eco Councils,  
and much more.....



## From the Head's Chair



It has been another busy week at Wessex this week and I have been very impressed by the response from everyone regarding school uniform. The children especially have been making a real effort and their general appearance has improved dramatically. Well done everybody - keep it up!

Hopefully you may have noticed our 'harvest' display in the entrance hall to upper school this week. The gardening club have been working hard in the school garden since well before the Summer and are now reaping the rewards! I used the theme of food to talk to the children about their lunches this week in assembly with a real focus on the experience of eating in our dining rooms. I want to ensure that every child learns how to eat their lunch sensibly at lunch time - they are encouraged to talk to their friends but not shout, eat their lunches more carefully at their place rather than walking / turning around, listen to the music that is playing whilst they eat, etc. Hopefully these steps will enable Wessex to enjoy a calmer lunch time environment whilst at the same time improving hygiene as less mess is created. We will also remove the bins and encourage the children to take their litter home with them - lots of children seem to be rushing their lunch and throwing away their food. Taking home their litter will enable both parents and teachers to keep an eye on what your children are eating more effectively. We will trial this next week and see how it goes!

We all enjoyed having our photographs taken at school this week and I was really pleased to see so many families taking the opportunity to have a 'family shot' before school on Thursday and Friday. If you missed the chance this time don't worry - we will let you know when the next one is later in the year.

Nick Stevens  
Headteacher

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Some parents have asked for some clarification regarding our 'new' terminology for the various parts of the school. Lower School refers to our Reception and KS1 children (Infants in old money). Upper School refers to children in KS2 (Juniors). Nursery remains as Nursery! We hope that clears up any confusion.

### **WALKING TO SCHOOL / RAILINGS / GATE CLOSURE**

As you will be aware, we are frequently writing to parents to remind them about the importance of road safety in and around the area during school run times. Most of our school community have taken our suggestions on board by parking away from school and walking, but some parents continue to use the school car park as a drop off point or St Adrian's Close as an extension of the car park. Despite our best efforts, these practices continue and so I have agreed with the School Staff and Governors to take the following steps.

1. I will contact our local police community officers (PCSO's) and liaise with them to identify and deal with parents who continue to endanger our children
2. We will close the school gates at the beginning and end of the school day and only allow disabled badge holders or taxi's collecting our children on to the school site
3. Launch the borough's 'STARS' walk to school initiative which will begin in a couple of weeks. Four children will be attending the launch event on Monday next week and will get the chance to meet the mayor. Keep an eye on the Maidenhead Advertiser next week for further details.....

As a result of these steps, we will finally be able to remove the metal railings which border the path in to school. These railings are damaged, unsightly and do not help our children to learn about road safety. With the main gates closed to traffic at school run times and training of our children about how to be safe both in and around the school, we hope to use this as an opportunity to improve the school environment even further. Also, we hope that the gates being closed will deter those parents who still use St Adrian's Close and the school car park, therefore improving road safety and supporting our local residents even further.



## HARVEST TIME



Nursery children have been picking and eating their Nursery-grown carrots and tomatoes this week with a dollop of houmous! All the children tried some and the large majority loved them!

Our *Harvest Festivals* are coming up: Nursery on Friday 10th October at 11am and 2.45pm, Lower School on 7th October at 9.30am and Upper School on 8th October at 2.45pm. We are supporting various community and international organisations.

The Nursery are asking for tinned and fresh produce to be brought in on the day which will be distributed between Family Friends and the elderly residents at Brill House.

Lower School are also asking for produce which will be distributed between Family Friends and the Get Together Club based at the Community Centre. Tinned produce can be brought in at any time, but please bring fresh produce in on the day of the assembly. Our Y2 children will be going to sing to the Get Together Club at the Community Centre on Tuesday afternoon, taking their harvest gifts with them.

Upper School have decided to support two causes. Firstly, we are collecting dried pasta, rice, dried fruit and pulses, such as lentils, for the Feed the Children charity. This charity helps feed homeless and orphaned children in countries like Uganda, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Liberia. Please send donations to your child's class.

Secondly, for a small donation, *all the children in school and Nursery may come to school dressed up as a fruit, vegetable or a crop (or wear a hat on the same theme) on the 8th October.* Any monetary donations collected from this will be used to buy some fruit trees for the school. Your children will then have the opportunity to help plant the trees and hopefully in the near future taste our own school grown fruit.



Please may I remind parents to make sure that all items of clothing are named, particularly for the little ones as there is often great confusion after PE lessons when children might put on the wrong trousers. Please could you also check that your children are bringing home their own clothes as a number of named sweatshirts seem to have gone home with the wrong child. Thank you.

### THINKING SKILLS



Every Monday in the Upper School Assembly the children will be introduced to a new challenge which will help develop their thinking skills. Original and interesting ideas and solutions will then be shared and celebrated with the children. Please encourage your children to take part in the weekly challenge. This week's challenge is to **think of an original use for a newspaper.**

### TALK TALK

As you know, we encourage parents to get involved with their child's learning, either by coming in to school to help or by encouraging your children with homework or reading at home. From this week, we are trialling a new form of 'Talk Homework'. Each week in the newsletter we will send home a simple discussion task. It will be the same for all children in school so families can do it together. The aim is to encourage children to share ideas with their family and develop their vocabulary and imagination. This week, we would like you to talk about your favourite TV or film character – what do they look like, how do they behave, what do you like best/worst about them? We do hope you enjoy this learning activity.

### READING AT WESSEX

Come and find out about how we teach reading at Wessex. On Tuesday 30th September at 7.30pm in Yellow base (Lower School) we are holding a short information evening. All are welcome, but this meeting will be of particular interest to any new parents, nursery and reception parents and parents of children in Y1 or Y2. We expect the meeting to be finished by about 8.30pm.



## SCHOOL AND ECO COUNCILS

We are pleased to be able to tell you of our new School Council for this academic year. The School Council and Eco Council play an important part at Wessex Primary. They provide an opportunity for the children to take ownership over certain school projects. Last year the School Council organised a competition to design the Christmas concert programme as well as conducting a survey about what charities the school should support. The Eco Council last year looked at how the school could become more energy efficient in terms of water, light and heat. Energy monitors would then complete weekly classroom checks.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL 2008-9

1B	Adam Town	Holly Park
1S	Emma Cook	Aditya Behal
2D	Megan Beavis	Dylan Masters
2S	Tom Murphy	Zoe Ranscombe
3L	Aman Sharif	Iqra Ahmad
3O	Ben Fortuin	Holly Tyson
4E	Danni Barrell	Lewis Conway
4P	Maeve Dolan	Alex Sudlow
5C	Chloe Park	Joshua Newman
5S	Sam Hillier	Karis Ives
6M	Matthew Barrell	Jessica Haines
6R	Callum Young	Lois Pagden

### ECO COUNCIL 2008-9

3L	Faith Rooke	Jem James
3O	Emma Rigby	Sophie Irvine
4E	Harrison Ould	Sarah Fagence
4P	Riya Longia	Joshua Masters
5C	Alex Sadlier	Lily Thomas
5S	Lizzie Frith	Cameron Netherwood-Meek
6M	Ben Alger	Reece Taylor
6R	Vinay Longia	Katie Carter

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

I would like to congratulate Mrs. Town, one of our teachers, on the birth of her son Noah. Baby Noah was born weighing 8lb2oz just a few hours after his due date! I am sure you join with me in wishing the Town family every happiness



We bid a fond 'au revoir' to Mrs. Dawson today, who is going on Maternity leave. We hope to be bringing news of another addition to the Wessex baby boom in just four or five weeks time!

## SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS

Parent of children in Y6 and possibly Y5 will be thinking about their choices for secondary school over the next few weeks. A timetable of school open mornings/evenings is available on the RBWM website ([www.rbwm.gov.uk/public/ed\\_admissions\\_secondary-open-evenings.v2.pdf](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/public/ed_admissions_secondary-open-evenings.v2.pdf)) and visiting times to the most local schools are also printed below:

School	Open Evening	Headteacher's Address	Open Mornings
Altwood C of E Secondary School	Thursday 25th September, 6.00 pm – 9.30 pm	6.30pm and 7.30pm	Wednesday 1st October Monday 6th October Friday 17th October
Cox Green School	Tuesday 30th September 5.00 pm – 8.30 pm	5.00 pm and 7.00 pm	Monday 6 October Tuesday 14th October
Desborough School	Tuesday 7th October 6.00pm – 9.00pm	7.00pm and 8.15pm	TBA
Newlands School	Tuesday 7th October 6.00pm – 9.00pm		TBA
Furze Platt School	Thursday 9th September 6.00pm – 9.00pm	7.00pm and 8.15pm	TBA

## Y6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

Preparations are already underway for the annual trip to Kingswood on the Isle of Wight for our Y6 children. An information meeting for parents will be held on Tuesday 30th September at 3.30pm in 6R. We look forward to seeing you and your children there.

## THIS WEEK'S REQUESTS

Thanks again if you were able to help by donating any items from last week's list. This week, we are looking for:

- More boxes of tissues – particularly for our Reception class!
- Checked shirts, suitable for making scarecrows for our school garden
- Please return all photograph orders by Monday 6th October in order that we can ensure delivery before Christmas.



Can we please request/remind parents who have not yet made the contribution to school fund to please do so as soon as possible. We ask for a contribution of £6 per child which goes some way to providing some of the 'extras' that makes children's learning that much more fun. Please bring your contributions in to the school office. Thank you.

The ladies in the office are overwhelmed with the excellent response in OA4 forms and Data Collection forms that were sent home a couple of weeks ago. If you have not returned the forms, please do so on Monday of next week. Similarly, Free School Meal forms must be returned on Monday in order for your child to continue to benefit from free meals.

**Large print copies of the newsletter are available from the school office. Please let the office know if you would like one on a regular basis.**

Mr. Stevens' presentation of his vision for the school, shown at the 'Meet the Headteacher' evening last week, is also available from the school office if any parents would like a copy.

Spare copies of Wessex Weekly will be available from the reception area in upper school. If you would rather receive a copy by e-mail (thus by-passing the forgetful children and saving paper at the same time) please contact the school office.

Have a good weekend!