

WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 31: 22.5.2009



What's yellow and makes a lot of noise?



A taste of things to come – last years' Y5 at Kingswood

This week:

Headlice (again!!), Parking (AGAIN!!!!), Science Week, Food Awareness Week, dates for your diary and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:
1250 KWh of Electricity Produced
712 Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



As Headteacher, it has been a very rewarding week this week. As usual, I have been very proud of the children, and particularly the enthusiasm of those in Upper School when it comes to tucking in their shirts as soon as they see me (I'll keep trying to catch them out though!). I have also noticed a dramatic reduction in the amount of litter around the school grounds since our assembly on Monday – these things are important to everyone so please keep it up – both within and beyond the school.

The result? Every term, we are required to complete a census and return the results to the local authority. I would like to thank Michele Cawte in the office for completing the requisite forms on occasions such as these, and our most recent 'return' (Thursday this week) shows that since the beginning of the year, we now have 38 more children attending Wessex. Families in the local area (and further-a-field) are beginning to realise what we have to offer and I am flattered, on behalf of the staff and children, by the fact that more and more children want to come to Wessex. Many of those joining us have reported on the good comments and endorsements from many of you, so please keep it up. We're getting better – let's celebrate it!

As the last term approaches, thoughts of family holidays during the Summer break arise and many of you will already be booking your stay in the sun (hopefully!). Please can I remind you not to book your holiday during term time as your child's attendance is a legal requirement and more importantly hugely important for their education. Thank you for your co-operation. A request. Please could all parents use the half term break to check their children's hair and treat any cases of headlice. We still have a small number of children who have not been treated and it only takes one child to spread headlice throughout a class. If we all come back after half term with clear heads (in all senses of the word) we can hopefully eradicate the problem all together.

I am aware that several children have been talking to their parents about our 'Shine Week', which is happening during the week beginning 6th July. This will be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate your children's skills and talents and share them with our community. Children will be able to audition for a performance (singing, dancing, magic, juggling, etc.) or create a piece of non-performance work (art, model, poetry, handwriting, photography, cake decorating, etc.) which will be on display for parents to view during our Art Gallery and Open Evening that week. The week itself is still seven weeks away and I will of course send all the details, categories, how's, when's and why's after half term. I look forward to what I am sure will be an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable event.

Finally I would like to wish children, staff and parents a very happy half term. I hope you all enjoy the break and return on **Tuesday** refreshed and ready for a packed and exciting term.

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Nursery Letters

Nursery parents – please can you double check that you received a letter on Wednesday or Thursday of this week regarding the changes to our provision from September. If you did not receive the letter, please contact the office as soon as possible so we can ensure you received the information.

Parking in St Adrians' Close

Unfortunately this week we have received a number of complaints from our neighbours in St Adrian's Close. It seems that some of our parents are being rather thoughtless and parking in the Close, both on the pavements and blocking driveways. One resident reported that she could not get her car out for 25 minutes! Please think how you would feel if this was your driveway or your street. Spare a little thought for our local residents. Instead, please park up by the shops. This will give you the opportunity to teach your children about road safety by crossing at the zebra crossing. It is not fair that the office staff have to field the understandable frustration of local residents, so please do your bit. Thank you for your cooperation.

Maidenhead Carnival

Unfortunately, we will have to cancel our participation in the Carnival as we do not have enough people to make a 'float'. Thanks to those few that offered to be grubby for the day!!

Chickens – helpers wanted



We are looking for any families or individuals who would be able to come in occasionally to help look after our lovely little chickens at weekends and during the holidays. The more people who sign up the less often we will need to use you! We will show you what to do and how to do it, I hope this is a good opportunity for families to help teach their children about the responsibility of looking after animals. It's good fun too! Please contact the office if you are able to help in this way. Many thanks go to Danny Jenkins who very kindly built us a wonderful coup to house our

feathered friends – they are all very comfortable!

Class Photos

On the first day back after the holiday (**Tuesday 2nd June**) we will have the Tempest photographer in to take photos of each class and Nursery group. Children are welcome to bring in hairbrushes and their biggest and best smiles on the day!



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.

*We also need lots of empty 2 litre drinks bottles to use during Science week. Please bring these in to school after the holiday – thank you.

School Uniform Sale

Many thanks to those parents that have brought in school uniform for our sale. We are still very happy to receive all sorts of school uniform in good condition, including PE tops and shorts, yellow polo shirts, trainers, shoes, football boots, trousers and skirts. Please bring the uniform into your child's class. Thank you.

Food, Glorious Food!

Food Awareness week is coming to Wessex! (**w/c 8th June**). All the children will be involved in food projects - discovering the history of different foods, where in the world they come from, how they are used in recipes today and of course, tasting and cooking with them. A special activity day has been organised for the Thursday when a professional chef from the Co-operative society will be visiting the school to show the children that healthy food can be fun food!

RBWM Play Space Improvements

The Local Authority are asking for residents' opinions about the play spaces in their neighbourhoods, and in particular the play space in Ockwells Park. They are holding a workshop on **Saturday 30th May** at the Sports Hall, 4 Marlow Road at 2pm, or you can register your views online by completing the online questionnaire: http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/playbuilder_get-involved.htm. There is (LOTS of) Government funding to improve some play spaces in the local area – make sure you get what you and your children want!

Can You Help?


We are looking at the possibility of producing our own Wessex School planners for our pupils next academic year. We would like to design the planners so that they are suitable for our pupils rather than purchasing generic ones from a company. For this to be possible we need some help with the printing of these planners. If you would be able to assist us with the printing or know of someone who may be able to help please contact Mrs Helen Maskell.

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 James Little, Yusuf Mohammed and Jacob Gillett all of whom have won either a free school dinner or a free session at breakfast club! (Last week's Gaff was "...Spots day ...Bring a doctor..." in the Diary dates section by the way!)

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
What is your favourite 'cheesy' song, and what makes a song 'cheesy'?	What do you think makes someone a hero or a heroine?

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Monday 1 st June	INSET day – please don't send your child to school! (unless.....see below)	All children
Monday 1 st June 	Wycombe Wanderers Inset activity – separate form and payment required please	Children from Y1 – Y6
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
Monday 8 th June – Friday 12 th June	Food in Schools Week	All children
Tuesday 16 th June	Upper School sports day	Children and parents Y3 - Y6
Wednesday 17 th June	Lower School sports day	Children and parents Y1 and Y2
Monday 22 nd June – Friday 26 th June	Science Week	All children
Thursday 2 nd July	Foundation Stage sports day	Children and parents Nursery and Reception
Wednesday 8 th July	Meet the Teacher Evening – 6.30pm	All parents
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

Custard screams!!