

# WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 328: 5.6.2009



What do you get if you cross a skunk with a bear?



Issey Omar and Nikita Atcar from Purple class experimenting background techniques with Rosie the Artist

**This week:**

Good gardens, bad gardens, Food, Pirates,  
dates for your diary and much more.....

**SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:**  
1530KWh of Electricity Produced  
872Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



## From the Head's Chair



It has been a short but busy week this week. Following on from the art gallery we held earlier in the year, our Year 1 and Year 2 children have this week been working with Rosie the artist to plan and paint their own canvasses. They enjoyed experimenting with a variety of techniques and materials before producing the final piece, all of which are strikingly colourful and very effective. I would like to thank Rosie and the Y1 and Y2 staff, especially Mrs Sanders, for organising such an exciting two days, and we look forward to displaying the children's work at our second gallery event later this term. Details will follow, but in the meantime well done children!

### **...AN APOLOGY.... AND A MIRACLE...**

I would like to apologise to children, parents and staff alike for the way some parts of our school grounds have looked over the past few weeks. We have a (very expensive) contract with a landscape company who is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of our school grounds and I have been very unhappy with the standard of work being completed in recent months. I have been monitoring the situation closely and kept careful records of what should be done and what is actually carried out. With this evidence in hand I contacted the local authority and arranged a meeting this morning with the company manager to demonstrate the extent of the problem and find a few answers. Then....would you believe it...low and behold..... the sound of strimmers and lawn mowers suddenly wafted in to my office last night as a team of grounds maintenance workers (the most in one go I have seen since starting at Wessex) arrived to do their jobs! A coincidence? Surely not! As you know I am very proud of our school and I firmly believe that if we are to teach your children effectively about looking after their surroundings, we ought to be providing them with looked after surroundings to do it in! In the meantime, I would like to thank Mr Porter and the other members of staff (and even occasionally their husbands – thank you Mr Jones) who have kindly given up their time to help us keep on top of this issue as best we can. I would also like to thank the team of volunteers from LSI who came in and cleared the Lower School garden. It is now used by the children every day at lunch time and they can finally start digging, planting, growing, watering, preparing, tasting and enjoying their own produce! Most importantly, they can really start learning!

Just to remind you to check the diary dates at the end of each issue please. On rare occasions we do need to change the date of an event because of another opportunity that presents itself. We are not trying to confuse parents and children, just ensure that we maximise the best opportunities that we can. The newsletter is a regular, reliable source of information (I hope you'll agree – apart from the oops of course!) and is updated every week. Thank you.

Finally, I am very much looking forward to accompanying our Y6 children on their residential trip to Kingswood next week and will be packing on Sunday! Whilst I am away, Mrs Maskell will be in charge of Upper School and Mrs Savage will be in charge of Lower School and the Nursery, so if you have any urgent questions or concerns, please get in touch with them. Have a good week.

Nick Stevens  
Headteacher  
Tel: 01628 626724  
e-mail: wessex@rbwm.org

## Science Week

We still have a couple of slots for any 'scientific' 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, 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 think you may be able to help. Thank you to those of you who have already 'signed up' - it will be a great week! On the Friday of science week (**26<sup>th</sup> June**) we will be encouraging the children to come to school in science fancy dress. This could be a hat or a whole science costume. Possible ideas: planets, plants, animals, sources of energy, famous scientists, etc. We will be asking the children to donate £1 towards the science festivities that will be happening during week.



\*We still need lots of empty 2 litre drinks bottles to use during Science week. Please bring these in to school - thank you.

## Wessex Media Team for Science Week

Mrs Maskell is looking for children to be part of the Wessex Media Team for Science Week. This will involve working as a group to produce a newspaper and a short film of all the exciting events that will happen during the week. If your child is interested in being a photographer, journalist, editor or director please encourage them to complete an application form (available from the office or class teachers) and return it to the school office by **Tuesday 16th June**.

## School Uniform Sale

Many thanks to those parents who 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. The sale will take place on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June** from 3.30pm

## Pirate Day!

We are delighted to tell you that we have a team of graduates from Fujitsu coming to Wessex on the **18<sup>th</sup> June** to transform our Gazebo into a Gazeboat! To celebrate and 'launch' the new Gazeboat, we are going to ask all children, staff and parents to join in with a **PIRATES DAY** on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June**. Children and staff will be invited to dress-down (or dress-up) as a pirate for a donation of £1. After school children and parents are invited to the Upper School playground to join in pirate day celebrations around the Gazeboat. Drinks and biscuits will be available courtesy of the PTA and we hope to be joined by the Maidenhead Advertiser. (Photo above specially chosen for all the mums by Mrs Cawte)



## 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 **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June** when a professional chef (among others) from the Co-operative society will be visiting the school to show the children that healthy food can be fun food! Please be aware that a number of visitors are expected on that day and we will be providing parking for them on the Upper School playground in a coned off area. This means that **the new entrance road to the right of the school office will be closed to children and parents on that day**. Please enter the school by going around to the left of the upper school building and behind Y3 - thank you.

## Bone Marrow Donor Registration

St Edmund Campion School have asked us to let you know of an opportunity for adults to register as bone marrow donors. One of their parents has leukaemia and has been told that his best chance of a full cure is to have a bone marrow transplant. No family member is a match so he is relying on the generosity of a complete stranger to come forward and help save his life. So far no match has been found. The registration session is on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June** from **4:30 - 7:30pm** at **St Edmund Campion Primary School, Altwood Road**. At the session you will be required to read some detailed information on the commitment and procedure involved should you ever match a patient and fill out a medical questionnaire. This will then be checked by a member of Anthony Nolan staff and providing you are eligible a small blood sample will be taken.

Cox Green School PTA invites you to their  
**Family Jazz Picnic**  
 (weather permitting)  
 featuring the 'Cox Green School Jazz Band'  
 Sunday 28th June 2009, 2pm to 5pm  
 Licensed bar, children's games, lots of fun!  
 Family ticket £10 (up to 6 people) Couple £5  
 Tickets are available now from the Cox Green School Office

**Children Leaving the Foundation Stage (Reception and Nursery)**

It is our intention to provide the parents of the children leaving the foundation stage in July with a report containing photographs of their child in the Nursery and Reception class settings. It will also be possible for them to have the photographs of their child downloaded onto a memory stick which will need to be provided by them (or other method to be confirmed!!!). Parents of our Foundation Stage children who do not want their child to appear in any of these photos are asked to contact the office by **12<sup>th</sup> June**. Thank you.

**Maidenhead & District Cycling Club - Go-Ride Cycle Training Sessions for 8 -14 year olds**

Following the highly successful sessions run during the Sportsbug fortnight, MDCC are now in a position to offer a further 4 weeks tuition at the **Cox Green Leisure Centre**. The Go-Ride sessions will take place on: **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm - 3pm (8 years to 11 years) and 3pm- 4pm (12 years to 14 years)**. These sessions will develop the bike handling skills, build confidence and increase understanding of fitness. We are offering this coaching at a cost of £2.50 per session or if you book for all four weeks at a discounted rate of £8.00. If you are interested in reserving a place on all or any of these dates please contact Peter Bell on 01628 636122.

**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. There were only **TWO WINNERS** from the last newsletter - Justine Griffiths and Laura Freeman who have won either a free school dinner or a free session at breakfast club! (Last week's Gaff was "last years Y5 at Kingswood" (when of course it is always Y6 that go to Kingswood) on the front page by the way!)

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Does the same person at home always look after your garden or home? How do you help?	How would we manage if no water came through our pipes?

**Some dates for your diary:**

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 residential trip to Kingswood	Y6 children and staff
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June - Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Food in Schools Week	All children
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Upper School sports day	Children and parents Y3 - Y6
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Lower School sports day	Children and parents Y1 and Y2
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Second hand Uniform sale 3.30 - 4.30	All parents and children
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June - Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Science Week	All children
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Foundation Stage sports day	Children and parents Nursery and Reception
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Meet the Teacher Evening - 6.30pm	All parents
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	PTA Summer Fair 2pm	Everyone



**Winnie the Pooh!**