

# WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 5: 10.10.08



**This week:**  
Harvest, Operation Christmas Child  
and more....



## From the Head's Chair



I have genuinely felt privileged this week as we celebrated your children's work during our Harvest Festival celebrations. Not only were our children, some as young as 3 years old, performing dance, songs and poetry in front of an audience of more than (on occasions) 400 people, but we enjoyed the greatest parental support for such an event for many years. The queue at one point reached half way up St Adrians Close, and parking spread to behind the shops in Wessex Way! Your support for these events is a vital part of every child's education and experience, and I am proud of how the children conducted themselves. I must point out that I personally forgot to take out my 'Mr Pineapple' name badge on Wednesday when I popped up to the shops, but I hope we can keep this fact between ourselves.....

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Laura and Julia Freeman who completed the 13 mile Maidenhead Boundary Walk and helped to raise £140 for the Rosie Rainbow fund. Well done also to Emma Hill for completing her 100m swimming badge. We celebrated these achievements in assembly this week as they were nominated for achievements outside school via the Golden Box in the entrance hall. I would like to encourage parents, Cub/Scout/Brownie leaders and other group coordinators to use our 'Golden Box' as the opportunity to inform us of achievements outside school so we can celebrate them in school.

I would like to finally thank Mr Porter for ensuring your child's safety by 'manning the gates' to our staff car park at the beginning and end of the day. We are pleased to have experienced a dramatic reduction in the number of vehicles entering and leaving both our site and St Adrians Close at the beginning and end of the day and hope that this trend will continue. The railings are coming down as a result, but I would encourage you all to remain on the path, despite the temptation to 'step around' at those busy times of the day in order to help teach your children about the importance of road safety. I'm sure he would appreciate your thanks as you pass, as do I every morning and afternoon.

Thanks for your continued support.

Nick Stevens  
Headteacher

Tel: 01628 626724  
e-mail: [wessex@rbwm.org](mailto:wessex@rbwm.org)

## Harvest

A very big Well Done to all those mums and dads that created such amazing costumes for our Harvest dress-up day. We were very impressed with the creativity and hard work that went into the outfits which included grapes, tomatoes, bananas, leeks – in fact a veritable cornucopia of fruit and veg! Thanks to all those parents that worked so hard to make the day such fun. As well as the fantastic produce brought in by the children for the various charities we raised nearly £250 to purchase some fruit trees for the school. We plan to use this money to create a 'Harvest Orchard' which the children can enjoy throughout the year and actually harvest during the Autumn. Your children will all be involved in planting and maintaining the new orchard, and we hope to share our 'home-grown' produce in the years to come. Parents – if you subscribe to 'Gardner's World' magazine, please let us know, as this will enable us to secure an extra 10% discount on our purchase of fruit trees!



You may have heard from your child that Wessex is taking part in 'Operation Christmas Child' again this year. The children have each been given a leaflet explaining what the charity does and how you can help. There are clear guidelines on how to 'make' the present, and the gifts that should not be given. The leaflet also has the relevant stickers to stick on to the shoebox depending on the age/sex of the recipient you have chosen. If you feel able to make a shoebox gift or contribute to the class shoebox, please bring the items/shoeboxes in as soon as they are ready. The shoeboxes must be brought in to school ready for collection on November 5th. If you or your child would like any more information about Operation Christmas Child, the website address is [www.samaritanspurse.uk.com](http://www.samaritanspurse.uk.com). Last year the school collected 120 boxes, so let's try to beat that this year!

Parents of children in Upper School may have heard about the newspaper 'First News' that some of the children read in school. First News are running a art/photography competition where the winner could **win a two night holiday at Centre Parcs** for their whole class! Closing date for the competition is **28th November** so there is plenty of time. Further details of how to enter are available from the school office.

As I shared at my 'Meet the new Headmaster meeting', I am keen to build strong working partnerships within our community which are aimed at supporting both parents and the school.

Over the months we have heard the term the 'Credit Crunch' used with increasing frequency and as the banking problem deepens there are now big concerns that there will be rising unemployment. Both of which I am aware may be causing considerable concern and uncertainty for many Wessex families.

This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS
This week, we would like you to talk about something that has surprised you recently.	The challenge for this week: Who would you most like to meet and why?

## Alton Mortgages Ltd

I am therefore pleased to announce our first partnership with Alton Mortgages Ltd.

Alton Mortgages Ltd is a local family run business who have considerable experience in supporting and working closely with families to help guide and hand-hold them through the maze of the financial marketplace. They have access to mortgages from across the whole market and are also able to provide advice with regard to Unemployment Cover, Life Cover, Critical Illness and Income Protection etc, all of which may be of interest whether you have a mortgage or are renting your home.

As unfortunately it looks very much like the knock on effects of the banking situation will be widespread, I am keen to help support the parents of children at Wessex. I have therefore arranged for Alton Mortgages to run a free:

### Financial Clinic

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: 5pm – 6.30pm**

Location: Wessex Primary School

If you have any financial concerns that you would like to raise with Alton Mortgages on a confidential 1 to 1 basis please book an appointment by calling **Tel: 0845 095 34 35** and quote 'Wessex'. If you are unable to make this time but would welcome some advice and guidance in these uncertain times please feel free to call the above number and arrange a time to meet at your convenience.



If you would like to understand more about the services that Alton Mortgages Ltd provide please feel free to pick up a leaflet from the stand in the School Reception.

### Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
13th October	Y6 Visit to Swindon Steam Museum	Y6 Parents
14 <sup>th</sup> October	'Taste of Spain' Lunch	All
15th and 22nd October	Parents consultations	Reception – Y6
16th October	Parents invited to lunch	All
17th October	visit to Living Rainforest	Y4
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Building Bridges Day	Upper School
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	End of term for children	All
24th October	Inset	

### 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 kitchen roll tubes, shoe boxes and cereal boxes for our 'Building Bridges' day

Have a good weekend!