

# WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 7: 23.10.08



**“Self Portrait” by Cameron Willett (Purple Class)**

**This week:  
Building Bridges, Talk Homework, Firework Night,  
and a Fond Farewell..**



## From the Head's Chair



It seems like only yesterday that I was introducing myself to you as the new Headteacher at Wessex and since then, seven weeks seem to have happened! The time has passed in the blink of an eye, and I know that the staff and children certainly deserve a well earned rest!

At a Governors' meeting on Tuesday evening, I presented a 'progress report' about school achievements this term, and it was whilst compiling this report that I realised why the time had gone so quickly – we've been so busy! What with Harvest Festivals, sports matches and competitions, bridge building days, school trips and visits, pizza making, mums and dads in for lunch, singing at Brill House, Ready Steady Cook competitions, curriculum evenings for parents, the Wessex Weekly, whole school assemblies, road safety, a new format for parents evenings, Home School contracts, taking down the railings, visits from special guests.....oh, and the small matter of teaching and learning.....it's been a fantastic term. So much for not trying to do too much at once!

I would like to thank all the staff at Wessex for their hard work, dedication and an obvious passion for what they do. We would not be able to provide the breadth and quality of provision I see happening every day without your commitment. I would like to thank the children for their hard work, ideas, politeness and smiley faces. I am proud of what I see and hear when showing visitors around our school. Finally, I would like to thank parents for supporting the school so completely and enthusiastically. Our recent parent consultations gave me the opportunity to talk to many of you and the feedback received by myself and the staff has been hugely positive.

I wish all at Wessex a peaceful and safe half term. Make sure you all have a rest as next term looks to be just as busy! I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday the week after next, refreshed, alert and ready to learn!!

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Headteacher

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## TRICK OR TREAT?

*A brief word from our Police School Liaison Office, Steve King:*

It's the time of year for Halloween! Please talk to your child if they are going out on **31st October**. Over the last few years the police have been called in to deal with inappropriate behaviour by some children who act without consideration for people who just want to be left alone on Halloween. Parents - please consider the safety of your child and if you have any questions please telephone 01753 835579. And children - have a happy, scary Halloween!!



## PTA FIREWORKS



The PTA Firework Event is getting closer and we would like to remind everybody that the discounted firework tickets are only available to order until **Thursday 23rd October**. Forms are available from the letters stand by the school office. Also, the PTA are still looking for helpers and marshals for the night. Please contact the school office if you are able to help.

## NEW CHURCH SERVICE

St Mary's Church in Maidenhead is starting a new Sunday@4pm service for those that can't get to church on a Sunday morning. The services are once a month and the next one is on **November 16th**. For more information contact St Mary's Church on 01628 638866 or visit [www.stmarysmaidenhead.org](http://www.stmarysmaidenhead.org).

## HEADLICE

National Bug Busting Day is **31st October**. If EVERYONE in school were checked for head lice on that day, and were treated (along with the rest of their family) if head lice were found, we might be head lice free! Our school nurse, Liz Torres, is happy to talk to parents about head lice prevention and treatment. Please call her on 01753 638441 if you would like any more information.

## BRIDGE BUILDING DAY

Today the children in upper school took part in a 'Bridge Building' day. Each year group were given a slightly different challenge and had to use materials brought in from home to design and build a bridge which could span a canyon and support a certain amount of weight. Each year had a budget to manage for their design which could be used to purchase important construction materials such as art straws, sellotape and string. The children thoroughly enjoyed working as a team to solve problems and agree a design. The day encouraged cooperation, thinking and leadership skills in the context of a slightly different school day. Every child was involved and even the teachers built a bridge during lunch time. They were challenged by a group of Cox Green 6th formers who joined us for the day to support the children. The results will be announced later on in a special assembly and I will publish these after half term. Thanks go to Miss Lugton for organising the day.

## GOLDEN POST BOX

A reminder that there is a GOLDEN POST BOX in the entrance hall to upper school. This is an opportunity for parents and community activity leaders to let us know about your child's achievements outside school. If your child has learned to tie their shoe laces or managed their red belt in Karate, we want to know about it! We can then celebrate these in school and share these successes with all the children. Half term is a great opportunity to learn something new or different, so I look forward to hearing about it after the holiday.

### This week's....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
What is your favourite part of the day, and what makes it special?	Can you think of an animal for every letter of the alphabet?

### Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
24th October	Inset	Teachers
27th-31st October	Half term holiday (hurrah!)	All
31st October	National Bug Busting Day	EVERYONE!!
3rd November	Inset	Teachers
4th November	Start of term 2 for children	All
5th November	Final day for Operation Christmas Child boxes	All
7th November	PTA Firework Event	All
14th November	Children in Need	All

### VOLUNTEERS



On **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November** I will be holding a 'School Community' day at Wessex. My aim is to gather enough parent volunteers to paint the external coloured doors to our lower school classrooms. They are starting to look a little tired and don't represent what's happening on the other side of the glass! All you need to do is pop in for an hour or two to help out – the more volunteers we have, the quicker we will be! We will provide paint and brushes and you are welcome to bring your children who can play on the field, playground or in the hall while you are with us. I'll lay on chocolate biscuits and maybe even the odd bacon sandwich if you can make it! I will give you further details nearer the time....



### RAY POWELL

Finally, a fond farewell to our crossing patroller, Ray Powell, who is retiring this week after three years. Thank you for all your donations which were presented to him in a special assembly on Wednesday, I know Ray was touched by this kind gesture. Don't worry though – he doesn't escape that easily! We look forward to seeing Ray from time to time, helping your children in the classroom. He has asked us to print a few words on his behalf:

"First of all I would like to say thanks to Mr Stevens and all the teaching staff for their friendship. Thanks too to the three in the office – angels of knowledge of all thing Wessex! Thanks to all the staff for the lovely hamper. A big thank you to the children for their cards etc. The children have excellent manners and it is always nice to hear their 'thank you's' on the crossing. Thanks to all the parents for their generous gifts and to Mrs Doman and Mr and Mrs Porter for their kind gifts. I am hoping to come in to Wessex to help with reading and so I will still be able to keep in touch with some of you. Thank you all again.

Ray"

### This week's requests:

-  Small girls and (especially) boys pants, skirts and trousers to use as needed in Reception class.
-  Paint brushes (old but in fair condition) - all shapes and sizes welcome, the more the merrier.

**HAVE A PEACEFUL AND RELAXING HOLIDAY!**