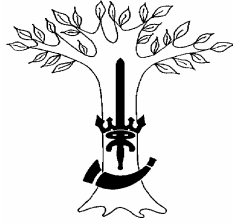


WESSEX WEEKLY

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“African Lion by Annabel Battimelli”

This week:

Fireworks, family room, communication, can you help.....



From the Head's Chair



Welcome back after what I hope was a relaxing half term break for everyone. I was very pleased to be back at school on Tuesday, and enjoyed welcoming so many smiling faces. The children were obviously pleased to be back amongst their friends with exciting holiday tales to tell and lots of mums and dads seemed glad that they were back too!!

Once again, this term looks like it will be very busy, and I hope the **Wessex Weekly** continues to be effective in keeping you up to date with the information that you really need. I have recently been contacted by one or two parents who don't feel that this information is 'getting through' so I would like to remind you that the 'Parent Mail' facility allows us to pass on correspondence electronically. If you haven't signed up, please drop your details into the office and we will do the rest. We will continue to publish paper copies of our newsletter every Friday so that if a copy doesn't get home, you know to pick one up from the leaflet stand in the entrance hall. We have also purchased a third notice-board for parents, to be located outside the lower school building. Once installed, we will endeavour to keep these up to date and ensure effective communication with all our parents.

A final reminder (as if you didn't know already) that we are holding our annual fireworks display this evening. I know this has been popular in the past and I look forward to what I hope will be a record breaking evening for the school. We'll have a BBQ, refreshments and a whole host of entertainments prior to the main show so I look forward to seeing you all there early. I'll be wearing a luminous jacket and if I'm lucky, the PTA will even let me have a go at the countdown, so please take the opportunity to say hello when you see me. Whatever your plans during the firework season, stay careful, stay responsible and stay safe. See you all this evening!

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Headteacher

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FAMILY ROOM

A few weeks before half term, I was approached by two sets of parents (separately) who suggested that it would be really useful if we could provide them with somewhere to go whilst their children were attending after school clubs. This would save them three homeschool journeys (with siblings) and make life a little bit easier. This got me thinking.....



I am very pleased to announce that we have secured funding from RBWM to set up a *family room* at Wessex school and we hope to be putting our plans into practice in the very near future. What I hope to provide is a space where parents and children can relax, play games, complete homework together or simply wait for siblings to finish their after school club activities. We plan to develop this into a practical space where parents can meet informally. We will provide tea and coffee making facilities and access to computers for parents to use as may be needed. In the longer term, my aim is to provide parents with a programme of workshops throughout the year, at a time convenient to them, covering a wide range of topics pertinent to their circumstances, including everything from healthcare to supporting your child's education at home. I hope you'll agree that this is a very exciting prospect, and I look forward to providing more information as our plans come to fruition.

MINI-ENTERPRISE WEEK

Following the success of last year, Years 5 & 6 will be aiming to make significant profits during Mini-Enterprise week (**17th until 21st November**). The children will form small business groups, develop and test a product, manufacture it and sell it to other children in the school. Last year we had great fun and the children learned a lot about market research, budgeting, advertising and selling techniques. Much of their inspiration came from parents who kindly came in to talk to the children about their own businesses. We would like to invite any willing parents to get in touch with Miss Smith or Miss Razeghi if they would like to come in to talk to either Year 5 or 6 about their business this year. Thank you!

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Next **Tuesday, 11th November**, we will be holding a special whole school remembrance assembly, including the traditional 2 minute silence, at which we will be remembering those who have forfeited their lives in order to ensure our continued freedom. This year is particularly special as we mark the 90 year anniversary of the end of the First World War. I explained the significance of this event to all of your children on Wednesday morning, and would invite every child to bring in a small contribution for the Royal British Legion to buy and wear a poppy. If parents or grandparents would like to join us for this special occasion you would be very welcome. It is a whole school indoor event, so space will be limited to 30. The assembly will begin at 10.45 am and will last approximately half an hour. Please contact the school office on Monday if you would like to reserve a place. *(Please note this is a remembrance event and will not involve performances by the children).*



This weeks....

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
What did you enjoy most about half term, and what made it special?	Can you think of an animal for every letter of the alphabet? <i>(Continued from before half term)</i>

PARKING

I have noticed that despite all our best efforts, a small minority of parents insist on parking in St Adrians Close when collecting children at the end of the day. I appeal to those parents – please don't! We are working hard to build up a positive relationship with local residents and inconsiderate parking, although out of sight from the closed school gates, continues to ruin the progress we have made. Thank you.

COMPANY HELPERS

If you work for a company which encourages groups of employees to spend a day every year helping local community projects, please get in touch. We have a range of small projects planned for the school which would suit such an activity and would love to welcome teams of people at Wessex who could help us to improve our indoor or outdoor environment. I look forward to hearing from you! For example.....

SCHOOL COMMUNITY DAY – GO ON, GIVE IT A GO!

As I mentioned last week, we will be holding our first **'School Community Day'** at Wessex on **Saturday 15th November**. I want a team of parents who can spare a couple of hours to help us re-paint the external doors to lower school which are in desperate need of a touch up. I plan to open the school at 10am and the more pairs of hands we have, the more we can do. Children are welcome to accompany adults and I might even provide the odd bacon sandwich. I think a team of at least 10 parents will make this viable, so please let me know via the office or by e-mail if you can help and I will get in touch with the final details. Any time you can offer will help us dramatically improve how Wessex looks, so please do get in touch.



CHILDREN IN NEED

As you will no doubt be aware, this year's 'Children In Need' appeal takes place on **Friday, 14th November**. The theme this year is 'wear something spotty', and we will encourage all the children to do just that, rather than school uniform, on the day. We are also conscious that we have supported lots of charities and provided lots of events / trips already this year, and in the current financial climate, do not want to increase further pressure on our families. Therefore the event will be free, but we will ensure that any donations, however small, are passed on to the Children In Need appeal. All staff have agreed that rather than sending each other Christmas Cards this year, we will make a matching cost donation to the Children In Need appeal.

PTA

The PTA look forward to seeing you all at the Fireworks Display this evening. Wrap up warm and come ready for an evening of fireworks and all the fun of the fair. Please remember we will be serving delicious burgers from the BBQ with plenty of hot and cold drinks. Also please do not bring sparklers on to the school site. Also up for grabs is an **iPod** so come along and buy your raffle tickets to be in with a chance. See you there!"

SAMARITAN'S SHOE BOXES

A big thank you to everyone who sent in a shoe box for the Samaritan's. We collected 118 in total and they are now safely on their way to the children.

Some dates for your diary: (Advanced Christmas Warning – Please Note!!!)

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
Monday 8 th December	Nursery Nativity 11.00am / 2.45pm	Nursery AM / PM
Tuesday 9 th December	Lower School Nativity 9.30am	Rec, Y1, Y2
Wednesday 10 th December	Lower School Nativity 9.30am	Rec, Y1, Y2
Thursday 11 th December	Wessex 'Carols By Candlelight' 5pm (NEW!)	All
Tuesday 16 th December	Nursery AM Closed / Nursery PM Party	Nursery AM / PM
Wednesday 17 th December	Nursery AM Party / Nursery PM Closed Community Christmas Carols at Cox Green, 6pm	Nursery AM / PM All
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Party Day	All (Children only)
Friday 19 th December	End of Term – School Closed 2pm	All

Further information re tickets, timings, details etc. will be published prior to all Christmas events.