

WESSEX WEEKLY

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What flies and wobbles at the same time?



Our lovely new kitchen area – thank you PTA and Mr Porter!!

This week:

Start of term reminders...and some changes!, clubs information, dates for your diary and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

2951 KWh of Electricity Produced
1682 Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



I would like to wish you all a very welcome return to Wessex in my second year as Headteacher. I hope you all had a restful Summer holiday and I am already impressed by the way the children have settled in to their new classes. There is a very positive and calm atmosphere as I walk around the school and I am looking forward to the progress and exciting events which we have planned in the coming weeks and months.

At the beginning of the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all of you of one or two things I would like to see as I meet the children during the day. These standards are very important and help to reflect our school positively at all times. Looking smart when in and around the school is very important and I have impressed upon the children in the past that they are always an advert for the school. Our yellow uniform is very distinctive in Cox Green so please remember to look your best. It makes a huge difference to the impression of Wessex beyond the school grounds and also within school. Clean uniform, sensible school shoes and shirts tucked in is very important so can we please all do our bit to make sure our good habits from last year continue. My second reminder is the importance of politeness and manners at Wessex. I'm sure I don't need to remind you of this, but a polite 'Good morning' or a child holding a door for an adult contributes to the ethos and atmosphere of the school. This works both ways, as mutual respect is a real strength and lies at the heart of our school. I am happy to say we have 'started as we mean to go on' in this respect already this term. Keep it up!

As I am talking about talking about 'fresh starts', I would like to take this opportunity to invite as many of you who can make it to our third 'Community Day' **next Saturday, 19th September** from 10am. We had two such events last year where parents came to school for a couple of hours and helped us to decorate the outside of the classrooms in lower school. I would really like to get the last two classes (Green and Red) and the front door to Lower School finished before the weather closes in and the more volunteers we have, the more we can get done. If enough volunteers arrive, we might even be able to level and seed the area adjacent to the lower school playground – which will make a huge improvement. Please feel free to bring your children along to play while we work. If you have a paintbrush or a garden spade, that would also be useful! We'll provide the rest and I look forward to seeing you on the 19th.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Sophie Mundy and Philippa Russell who both won awards at the Cox Green Horticultural and Craft Fair last weekend. Sophie won the photographic category and Philippa, who obviously had a very busy Summer Holiday, won lots of categories, including the overall prize for most successful entries. Well done children – a really good start to our year!

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School Uniform

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are named with a permanent method of marking to ensure that any lost items can be returned to their owners. School uniform can be ordered from the school office and, if it is in stock, can be collected straight away. Please ensure that payment is made at the time of ordering (cheques should be made payable to Wessex Primary School). We already have a number of unnamed sweatshirts and coats in our lost property box.

Parking

I know you are all aware of the difficulties regarding access to Wessex at drop off and pick up times during the day, but I would like to reiterate the important steps we take to ensure your children are safe, both in and around the school. At the start of the new year, I would encourage all parents to work hard, as difficult as it may be at these busy times of the day, to use the following guidelines:



- Please ensure your children walk on the path
- Park or drop off children at Wessex Way shops (preferably) and walk them in to school, rather than using St Adrian's Close or the school car park
- Be positive and use the school run experience to teach your child about the importance of being safe and considerate to others, even if it does take an extra couple of minutes
- Please be considerate of our school neighbours – they live here!

Dates for you Diary

Once we have confirmed arrangements for the forthcoming term and beyond, we will provide you with details of all the events which may involve either you or your children. It is really important to me that you are provided with this information early so that you can plan around them and get involved with all we do at Wessex from the start of the year. So, calendars and pens at the ready...we can't do it without your continued support!



School Lunch Price Increase

A reminder that school lunches now cost £2.10. Children can pay per day or you may write a cheque for a minimum of 5 days worth of lunches which can be taken over a number of weeks – you can even pay up front for the whole term!

Thinking Skills

Every Monday in the Upper School Assembly the children will be introduced to a new challenge which will help develop their thinking skills. Original and interesting ideas and solutions will then be shared and celebrated with the children. Please encourage your children to take part in the weekly challenge. See below for this week's challenge.



Talk Talk

As you know, we encourage parents to get involved with their child's learning, either by coming in to school to help or by encouraging your children with homework or reading at home. Each week in the newsletter we will send home a simple discussion task. It will be the same for all children in school so families can do it together. The aim is to encourage children to share ideas with their family and develop their vocabulary and imagination. We do hope you enjoy this learning activity.

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
What do you like most about your new class?	Make a list of all the things that make you laugh.

Voucher Schemes

Thanks to all those that have already brought in the new, green, Tesco Computers for School vouchers and the Flora Cooking for Schools vouchers. We collect all of the various vouchers from supermarkets. Please ask friends, colleagues and relatives to collect for us too!!

School Fund

Can we please request/remind parents who have not yet made the contribution to school fund to please do so as soon as possible. We ask for a contribution of £6 per child which goes some way to providing some of the 'extras' that makes children's learning that much more fun. Please bring your contributions in to the school office. Thank you.

It's that time of year...



Please could we request that each child donates a box of tissues to their class. This is the time of year when lots of children have runny noses and sleeves are not the most hygienic of handkerchiefs. We have provided each class with some alcohol hand gel to help stop the spread of germs (especially in the current health climate) and tissues will also help towards stopping the spread of some nasty cold and flu bugs. Thank you for your help.

Forms, forms, forms....

The ladies in the office are overwhelmed with the excellent response in OA4/Photo permission forms sent home earlier this week. If you have not returned the forms, please do so on Monday of next week. OA4 forms are required for insurance purposes for off-site activities (trips, walks to the shops etc) and without them your child will not be allowed on any trips. Similarly, Free School Meal forms and evidence must be returned on Monday in order for your child to continue to benefit from free meals. Data Collection forms sent home today should be returned as soon as possible (Monday would be good!) so that we can keep all our records up to date. Medical forms for inhalers will need renewing also - please call in to the office for a form if your child uses an inhaler in school.



Large print copies of the newsletter are available from the school office. Please let the office know if you would like one on a regular basis. If you would rather receive a copy by e-mail (thus by-passing the forgetful children and saving paper at the same time) please e-mail the school office (Wessex@rbwm.org)

Breakfast Club

Booking forms for the Autumn term are now available from the office or from the Breakfast Club ladies. Our Breakfast Club runs every day in term time from 8am and costs £3 per child per session - places are limited and **MUST** be booked in advance. For more information, please contact the school office.

Childcare Vouchers

We are now registered to accept Accor Childcare Vouchers for Breakfast Club and Nursery Lunch Club. Parents in receipt of electronic vouchers will need our code - P20444421. If you have any questions about using childcare vouchers for these clubs, please contact the school office.

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 any piece of paper and pop it in the 'gaff' box. The first three correct entries pulled from the box will win either a free school dinner or a free session at breakfast club!

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
19 th September 2009	School Community Day	EVERYONE!!!!
2 nd October 2009	Individual and Sibling School Photos	All children
23 rd October 2009	End of term 1 - 3.20pm	Everyone!

A jelly copter !