

WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 41: 25.9.2009



What has a bottom at the top?



Children at Wessex in days gone by.....

This week:

Harvest festivals, Chickens, Chocolate, LOTS of dates for your diary and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

3109 KWh of Electricity Produced

1772 Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



We are already a good three weeks into the year and I would like to congratulate the children, teachers and staff for such a positive start. I thoroughly enjoy showing prospective parents around the school, of which we are receiving more and more and I am very proud to hear their comments about the atmosphere – polite, caring and hard working! That is certainly the ‘first impression’ we can all help to ensure so please keep it up!

The children are already enjoying lots of different activities both in and out of school and these all help to support their learning in an exciting and creative way. 6D enjoyed a trip to Bisham School on Wednesday to take part in a singing project and had the opportunity to mix with children from other schools. All of our clubs are up and running, and a group of Year 5 and 6 children took part in a badminton workshop on Thursday, lead by Mrs Benger from Cox Green. I would like to thank the staff for their time and energy to provide your children with such a wide range of activities and experiences – it is a real strength of our school! We have also welcomed many parents and other friends of Wessex into school to help the children this week with reading, cookery, model making and gardening. I would like to encourage all our parents to help in this way from time to time if they can.

As always, this week’s newsletter is packed with important information which affects everything we do at Wessex, and with Harvest Festival celebrations, school photographs and parents evenings coming up soon, please take 5 minutes to read the information carefully. We want to ensure that we communicate with our children and their families as effectively as possible, and the regular newsletter is a great place to start!

Speaking of communications... our highly anticipated new website is now very nearly finished and will go through some ‘testing’ this week to ensure it is as good as it can be. In next week’s newsletter I will announce the launch and provide you with the web address so we can ‘go live’. If you want to see it before then, we will be hosting a ‘world premiere’ on **Thursday evening (1st October, 6.30pm)** where you are invited to come in to school and enjoy a sneak preview. The event will be held in a classroom so places will be limited. If you would like to join us for a cup of coffee or a glass of wine to celebrate the launch of our new website we would love to see you. Please let the ladies in the office know if you would like to come and I look forward to seeing you next Thursday evening.

I would like to thank the two parents who attended our community day last Saturday and helped complete some of the tasks I hoped we could achieve. Needless to say I was disappointed at the turnout! I will try to ensure that such events are publicised more widely in the future and hope to encourage more of you to get involved. Events like this have been a huge success in the past and I want parents to help us to improve the school environment for all the children. Watch this space for information about our next event.....

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

School Photos

Individual school photographs will be taken on Thursday and Friday next week, **1st and 2nd October**. Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2 and 5D will have their photos on Thursday. Y3, Y4, 5C and Y6 will have their photos on Friday. We will arrange for siblings to have their photos taken together but if you have a toddler that you would like to include in a sibling photograph please bring your children in to the Lower School hall at 8.30am on Thursday morning. Remember those hairbrushes!!



Bikes and Scooters

We think it's great that children want to cycle or scoot to school. However, please would you ask your children to dismount when they get to the school gates and not to ride bikes and scooters on the school site. There have been a couple of near misses lately and we want to keep all our children, parents and staff safe!

Harvest Festivals



The Nursery Harvest celebration will take place on **Friday October 2nd** at 9.30am and 2.45pm. The Nursery are collecting non-perishable produce which will be distributed between Brill House and Maidenhead Family Friends. Lower School and Upper School will be celebrating Harvest on **Tuesday 6th October**. Children in school will be invited to wear their wellies and non-school uniform for a donation which will be distributed between the Farm Africa charity's Welly Appeal (www.farmafrica.org.uk) and our own gardening club. Parents are very welcome to attend their child's special assembly; Lower School at 9.30am and Upper School 2.30pm respectively.

Forms, forms, forms....

A reminder that the 'ladies in the office' need all OA4/Photo permission, Data Collection and Medical forms back **as soon as possible**. Thanks to all those that have returned them already – probably the best return ever!!

Bugs! (We mean the flu/cold/sick type not the creepy crawly type.)

Please can we remind parents to contact the school if your child is absent for any reason. We have one or two particularly vulnerable children who need to be made aware if certain 'bugs' are doing the rounds. We especially need to know if Chicken Pox or Swine Flu is diagnosed. Many thanks for your help.

Chocoholics

The Chocoholics catalogues are now doing the rounds in the classes. If you want to order Halloween goodies and have not managed to get hold of a catalogue, there are some spares in the letter tree outside the school office. Halloween orders need to be in by **16th October** at the absolute latest due to the October holiday. Thank you.



Chicken Carers

The rota is now in the small shed in the Reception garden. Please come and sign up if you think you may be able to help. We normally get 3 eggs per day which you can keep! Also Miss Bristow would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who helped look after the chickens in the holidays – it is much appreciated!

Clubs

A 'Collectibles club' will be starting next Wednesday, 30th September, from 3.30 – 4.15pm. This club is for children in Y5 and Y6 wanting to swap/play with Yu-Gi-Oh, Pokemon, GoGos etc. Forms are available from the school office - spaces are limited!

Our Tuesday Y5/6 football club is overflowing with children that would like to play and we have had to tell several of them that they cannot join. However, if any parents can regularly offer their time to help on a Tuesday after school, we may be able to offer some more spaces.

Parent helpers will need to complete a CRB check. If you would like to know what is involved, please get in touch with Mr Lloyd (3L class teacher). Huge thanks to Mr McAra who has already offered his help.

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
When did you last overcome a fear, and how did you do it?	Make a list of things that you find at home for each letter of the alphabet.

School Fund

Thanks to those parents who have made a donation to our school fund – so far we have had nearly a quarter of our families make a donation. Can we please request/remind parents who have not yet made the contribution to our school fund to please do so as soon as possible. We ask for a contribution of £6 per child which goes towards providing some of the 'extras' that makes your child's learning that much more fun. Please bring your contributions in to the school office. Thank you.

School Link

Orders were sent off earlier this week and we expect delivery before the October holiday. The school gets a small commission on all orders placed so thanks to those of you who placed an order – we had LOADS!!

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?
29 th September 2009	Kingswood meeting for parents – 3.30pm Y6 classroom	Parents of children in Y6
29 th September 2009	Cox Green School Open Evening 5pm	Parents and children in Y6
1 st October 2009	Website Premier, 6.30pm	All parents
1 st & 2 nd October 2009	Individual and Sibling School Photos	All children
2 nd October 2009	Nursery Harvest celebration	Children and parents in Nursery
2 nd October 2009	Website Official Launch	Everyone!!
6 th October 2009	Reception, LS and US Harvest celebration	Parents and children in school
8 th October 2009	Pastoral Parent Consultations 5.30 – 8pm. More information to follow.	All parents
9 th October 2009	Cox Green School Quiz Night	Grown ups!
12 th October 2009	Pastoral Parent Consultations 3.30 – 6pm. More information to follow. NB No Gardening or Knitting club today!	All parents
13 th October 2009	PTA AGM – wine and nibbles!!	All parents
19 th – 23 rd October	Literacy Week	Whole school and Nursery.
23 rd October 2009	End of term 1 – 3.20pm	Everyone!

With a cabbage patch!