

WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 42: 2.10.2009

www.wessexweb.org.uk



What has a bottom at the top?

By our resident cartoonist – Lily Thomas – 6D

This week:

New menu, Harvest festivals, Solar savings, LOTS of dates for your diary and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

3202 KWh of Electricity Produced

1825 Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



Something mysterious has happened at Wessex this week...

Somehow a boat has managed to land on the field and no-one knows how it got there or where it came from! Whilst we get to the bottom of the mystery, I am happy for the children to enjoy playing in and around the boat – rumour has it that a mast and a pair of oars may be on the way! Already, the children have been on adventures to the Isle of Wight and the Caribbean in 'HMS Wessex' and it even feels like you are rocking up and down on the waves when on board. Enjoy everybody!

I would like to congratulate our football team who played two competitive matches against St Mary's and All Saints after school on Thursday this week. We drew 1-1 with St Mary's and 2-2 with All Saints, so have managed to avoid dropping any points in our first two games of the season. I would like to thank Coach Lloyd for organising the team and congratulate the children (Jack, Tom, Kaine, Joshua, Mollie, Ed, Cameron, Matt and Samuel) for such a great effort whilst representing the school. I look forward to hearing Mr Lloyds special report in assembly!

Our Year 5 classes have both enjoyed a visit to Waltham Place working farm in White Waltham this week and were a credit to the school. They learned about WWII rationing during the visit to support their topic work. Well done children and thank you Mrs Corbett and Mrs Dawson for arranging the trip.

Cookery has clearly been on the menu this week and our children have enjoyed using the new kitchen area in Lower School funded by your PTA. The Nursery children have made gingerbread men, our Lower School children have enjoyed making fresh bread and the children attending our Pyramid Club have made biscuits. The smells have been delicious and activities such as these really help to teach children about where our food comes from whilst at the same time making it both fun and tasty! Thank you to the teachers and parents who have helped bring this area of the curriculum to life and thank you to Mrs Harrison for organising our Pyramid Club in partnership with Lowbrook.

Uniquely to Wessex, we have launched a programme of 'Master Classes' this week, enabling some of our most able children to participate in specially planned workshops to develop their skills and take advantage of the breadth of specialist teaching we enjoy at Wessex. We started with a maths master class, lead by Mrs Corbett (Lead Maths teacher) and a problem solving session lead by Mrs Maskell (G&T Curriculum Leader). Feedback from the children, staff and parents has been fantastic and all those involved have enjoyed working with and learning from others in a challenging environment. I am very proud that we continue to develop opportunities such as these – truly innovative additions to your child's education. Dance, Literacy and Art master classes are planned for the future so watch this space.

This week, 22 of our Year 6 children successfully completed both Level 1 and Level 2 of their Biking Basics course. They learned about cycle training and road awareness whilst having lots of fun in the meantime. They especially enjoyed getting out and about on the roads of Cox Green as they practiced their skills. Well done children, your instructors were very impressed!

Finally, its here..... 20 grown ups and children attended the world premiere of our new website last night, and we had received 175 hits by 11 o'clock! Please have a look – it is full of photos and information which we hope will be invaluable to parents and children alike.

WWW.WESSEXWEB.ORG.UK

What a week! Have a good weekend.

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

New Term, New Menus, New Ideas

We have received the following information from our caterers, Harrison's. Supplementary information to the new Menu Flyer:

Main Courses

- Leek and Potato Bake – this is a Vegetarian dish comprising leeks, potatoes and butter beans in a cheese sauce
- Harvest Pie – A nutritious savoury autumnal vegetable pie flavoured with tomatoes and a short pastry crust
- Carrot and Pesto Bake – this essentially is a Vegetarian lasagne made with fresh carrots and a pesto cheese sauce
- Beef Cumberland Pie – Similar to a cottage pie with mushrooms and tomatoes (parsley potatoes are optional with this dish)
- Lamb Keema Mince – this is minced lamb flavoured with carrots and tomatoes in a mild curry sauce
- Lamb and Potato Slice – Minced lamb and potatoes layer bake (mashed potatoes are optional with this dish)

Desserts

- Berry and Apple Slice – sponge cake cut in to slices and decorated with apples and fruits of the forest berries

“Keeping in regular contact with you, the school and the children is an essential part of getting things right. We continually review what we do, and we will keep you informed. We would very much welcome your comments because they are important in influencing the way we develop the service. You can talk to the Catering Manager at school, or alternatively call Harrison's on **01628 407300**”

Harvest Festivals

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.

A Harvest Invitation from the Church of the Good Shepherd....

“We would love you to join us for our Harvest celebrations this **Sunday, 4th October**. 10am Harvest Family Service, 6pm Harvest Songs of Praise. There will be drinks and home-made cakes after each service. Young families and children are very welcome at either service. We do hope you will join us. This year we are supporting WaterAid at Harvest. A speaker from WaterAid will be with us for the morning service. No need to bring Harvest produce, but donations to help the work of WaterAid would be greatly appreciated. Did you know....Every 20 seconds a child dies from preventable diseases caused by a lack of safe clean water. WaterAid is an international charity working to overcome poverty by helping the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. We do hope you can join us.”

Solar Panels – Fantastic Savings!!

You would hopefully have noticed our EcoTicker on the front page of the newsletter each week, showing how many Kw of electricity is being saved by our Solar Panels and how much Carbon Dioxide is not being pumped into the atmosphere. We are thrilled to be able to tell you that not only are we making great eco savings but also we have HALVED our electricity bill in the Lower School this year!!!!

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.



TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Log on to www.wessexweb.org.uk – what do you find? (Have I given the address enough times yet?!))	What does 200P for PG in M mean? 7C of the R mean?

Top tips:

Sainsbury's sell value tissues at only 25p per box – ideal for your donation of tissues to school!!

Quest Seeker Challenge



We are thrilled to say that over 100 children from Wessex took part in the summer reading challenge during the summer holidays. Each child has received a (rather snazzy) certificate in some special assemblies this week. Well done to all those children that took part!

Breakfast Club

NEW: Thursday morning is movie morning at breakfast club. Children enjoy a healthy breakfast (toast, cereal, fruit, juice, yoghurt) and then sit down to watch a dvd. Other activities at breakfast club include colouring, k-nex, football table or hover-hockey and more. We are holding a 'bonfire night special' breakfast on 5th November with a 'hot dog' breakfast of hot sausage in a roll (the usual fare will also be available that day). Booking forms are available from the letter tree outside 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. Last week's gaff was the wrong answer to the joke – this week we have printed the joke in full for your amusement!! 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?
6 th October 2009	Reception, LS (9.30am) and US (2.45pm) 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 and teachers
19 th – 23 rd October	Literacy Enrichment Week	Whole school and Nursery.
23 rd October 2009	End of term 1 – 3.20pm	Everyone!

Legs!