

WESSEX WEEKLY

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Which type of cheese is made backwards?

5D enjoying Literacy Week!!!

This week:

Breakfast Bangers, Book Amnesty, STACKS of dates for your diary (including Christmas activities) and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

3348 KWh of Electricity Produced

1908 Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



This week, I think the picture on the front cover says it all! We have all thoroughly enjoyed an enrichment week with a literacy theme and I have been genuinely astounded by the creativity and passion poured into the week by children and staff alike.

Many areas of the school have been completely transformed and your children have been truly immersed in every aspect of their learning. Year 3 and 4 have had their area transformed into a jungle, including hanging branches, leaves, animals, sound effects and even a smoke machine (thank you Mr Laurence). Y5 have enjoyed an area transformed into a pond, complete with frogs, lily pads and a crocodile. Y6 have been learning about the Shakespeare play "A Midsummer Night's Dream", including dressing up as characters from the play. In Lower School, Y1 the children have enjoyed parties with home cooked cakes and a visit to the deep dark woods to find out more about giant Gruffalo (which they enjoyed building!) and Y2 have been acting out and enjoying the adventures of Percy the park keeper, including his traffic light kebabs!

On top of that, children from across the school have enjoyed visits to Cox Green library and Y5&6 had 'the cinema experience' today on a trip to Maidenhead. Thank you to all the parents who accompanied these trips. On Wednesday, Upper School, Lower School and Nursery children enjoyed a highly interactive and stimulating session with a visiting poet, who brought his own poetry to life with a wide range of props, puppets and music. I would like to congratulate the children for the way they have responded to the challenge this week and I am already impressed by the quality of the work, especially the writing that I have seen so far. Well done to all the staff for really bringing the learning to life – a really successful end to a busy term. Thank you Miss Razeghi for coordinating this week – the children have thoroughly enjoyed it!

I hope you all enjoy a restful half term. I would like to remind you of several activities that your children can get involved with over half term to keep their brains ticking over: Why not fill a shoe box with goodies for children in other parts of the world as part of our support this year for Operation Christmas Child. Small, non-perishable items are best and I am looking forward to seeing which class can fill the most boxes. Your children are also invited to apply to become a teacher for the afternoon. They have been given application forms, but a copy is available on our website should it not have survived the journey home! This is a bit like the 'Be a Headteacher for the Day' events we had last year, but this time your children have the opportunity to plan and deliver an afternoon of lessons! Finally, if they've filled a shoe box and applied to be a teacher, they could finish off by designing a striking and eye-catching poster to advertise this year's PTA Christmas Fair. More details below. Have a great week, and I look forward to seeing everyone return bright, smart and refreshed on **TUESDAY, 3rd November**.

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Please can we urge parents to *PLEASE* sign their children in if they arrive late for school. We have had a number of cases recently where children arriving late do not let the kitchen know that they want a school dinner and on one occasion the kitchen had to rustle up sandwiches at the last minute as there was not enough hot food! We also need to know so that we can mark latecomers as authorised late arrivals as opposed to an unauthorised absence. Y5 and Y6 children need to go through the office if they arrive after the gate is closed. Thank you for your help.

School Library AMNESTY!



Please have a good look for school library books over the holiday and return them to us at the start of the new term. We are in the process of re-organising our school libraries to ensure that the widest possible selection of titles and resources are available to your children. Last year, one parent returned 64 books! We also need some volunteers to help us with the 'computerisation' of the Lower School Library by adding and scanning bar codes on our books, enabling us to keep a better track of where they are. If you think you may be able to help, please speak to Mrs Kashmiri in Green class or offer an hour of your time via the school office. Thank you.

PTA Christmas Fair – Design a Poster Competition

We are fast approaching our annual Christmas fair and would like the children to design the poster to advertise this ever-popular event. There will be 3 categories – Foundation Stage (i.e. Nursery and Reception), Lower School and Upper School. Please put your artistic talents to paper over half term and draw us a picture on A4 paper to describe Christmas. The winner from each category will win a bundle of vouchers to exchange at the Christmas Fair!! Closing date is Wednesday 4th November. Don't forget to put your name and class on the back of the picture – a great half term activity!

Calling All Parents in Green Class!!!

After half term, we are changing the way children in Green class come in to school. Rather than wait outside the classroom (and running around in the car park!!) we would like the children to wait between Orange class and the Nursery. They will be met by their class teacher shortly before 9.00am and escorted to their classroom. This will be a much safer option for your children and we will be available to 'direct' families after half term until we get into the new routine. Thank you for your cooperation.

Starting School

Do you have a child who is born between 1st May 2005 and 31st August 2006, who is due to start statutory schooling during the school year 2010/11? If you have not already contacted the Borough you should register now for an application pack. Ring 01628 683870 or email school.admissions@rbwm.gov.uk. It is important to note that even if your child is in our Nursery or first term of Reception, they do not automatically qualify for a place at Wessex.

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
What was different about school this week?	Think of all the plus, minus and interesting reasons for 'if all the seats were taken out of buses'.

Charity Piano Marathon

Do you or your child, or someone you know play the piano? Sheargold Piano's in Maidenhead are holding a charity piano marathon on Saturday 7th November for anyone that wants to join in! A donation of £1 will let you play one of their lovely grand pianos for five minutes and all money raised will go to the British Heart Foundation. To book a slot, phone 01628 771400.



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.

MUFC – Special Offer

No - not the red devils but our own Maidenhead United are inviting all under-16's the opportunity to see this Saturday's match for FREE. In addition the Maidenhead Advertiser is offering adults half price entry at just £5. See yesterday's Advertiser for promotional details. Kick-off is at 3pm at the York Road ground and the match is against Weston-Super-Mare. Come on you Magpies!!

Poppies

We will be selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion after the holiday, and remembering all those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The poppies will be sold at break-times and lunchtime each day until we have sold out (which will probably be Tuesday!!). Donations in the region of 20p will be warmly welcomed as we approach Remembrance Day, which will be marked by a special assembly.

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?
2 nd November 2009	INSET day – please don't send your children to school	Everyone!
3 rd November 2009	Children back to school	All children
4 th November 2009	Closing date for Christmas poster competition	All children
6 th November 2009	PTA Fireworks!!	Everyone!
9 th – 13 th November	National School Meals Week	Everyone
W/b 9 th November 2009	Be a Teacher for the day! More information to follow.....	TBA
12 th November 2009	5D Class Assembly	Parents and carers of children in 5D
12 th November 2009	Parents invited for School Lunch – more info to follow after half term	All parents
5 th December 2009	PTA Christmas Fair 2-4pm	Everyone!
7 th December 2009	Nursery Nativity 11.15 am / 2.45 pm	Parents and Carers of children in Nursery
8 th – 10 th December	Lower School Christmas Production	Further details to follow
14 th December 2009	No morning Nursery!! PM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 th December 2009	No afternoon Nursery!! AM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 th December 2009	School Christmas Lunch	Whole school
17 th December 2009	Carols Around the Tree 6pm	Everyone!!
18 th December 2009	End of Term – 2pm	Everyone!!