

# WESSEX WEEKLY

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[www.wessexweb.org.uk](http://www.wessexweb.org.uk) – 1963 ‘hits’ so far!



What do you get if you cross a dinosaur with a firework?



Y6 experiencing ‘the good ole’ days’ in the Victorian classroom at Reading Museum!!!

**This week:**

Bring back our library books!, requests for help, dates for your diary and much more.....

**SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:**  
3441 KWh of Electricity Produced  
1961 Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



## From the Head's Chair



Welcome back after what I hope was a great half term break. I know you will have all noticed obvious and positive changes at school since before the holidays which affect parents, children and teachers alike. Firstly, we have our new electronic parent notice-board up and running which we hope you will take advantage of to keep up to date with the latest school information. Alongside our weekly newsletter and our website, we hope we are now equipped, possibly better than any other school in Maidenhead, to ensure that information is shared accurately between home and school. Secondly, our new climbing wall has been built and is already being enjoyed by both upper and lower school children. The school council can take credit for our new playtime resource along with the PTA who provided the funding. Thank you to Mrs Dore for making our new addition possible! Thirdly, I am pleased to see that children and parents from Green class are now using the playground at the beginning and end of the day to enter and leave school. This is much safer than at the end of the car park, where many of our children were not sticking to the Green Cross Code. The new arrangement is much safer all round – thank you Mrs Kashmiri!

On Wednesday evening this week I had the pleasure of accompanying our Upper School choir to Norden Farm to take part in the Maidenhead Music Festival. I was very proud of both the performance and their behavior, and with a mark of 82%, earning Wessex a Merit, I couldn't be prouder. Thank you Mrs Dawson for both rehearsing with and conducting our choir and thank you to Mrs Palfrey for accompanying the trip. Well done all – a great achievement!!

On Thursday afternoon, Mr Lloyd took our football team to play their penultimate game of the season. We faced Cookham Rise School and drew 1-1, which leaves us in third place in the league with a game in hand. Well done to Dannii Barrell, Cameron Netherwood-Meek, Josh Neiman, Matthew Mundy, Alex Sudlow, Ed Smith, Jo Park and Kaine Head. We have one more game to play, and victory might win us promotion next season, so keep up the hard work. Next stop the Champions League perhaps.....

I would like to finish this week with a couple of congratulations. Firstly, to all the children who applied to be a teacher for the afternoon next week – well done! We short-listed from well over 75 applicants and interviewed 30 children yesterday. They had all tried very hard and put a great deal of preparation into their applications and interviews and again I was very proud of what we saw. Once again, the quality made short-listing and decisions very difficult, but the 'successful applicants' will receive confirmation today. I will share more details in next week's edition.

I would also like to congratulate Mrs Maskell who was invited to lead a seminar at the Science Museum on Wednesday morning for Headteachers and teachers about how to run a successful science enrichment week. Needless to say that she did a fantastic job, and it reinforces my firm belief that we are a real leader in the education of your children in this area. Colleagues were astounded (and a little taken aback) by what your children are involved in and given opportunities to take part in. Needless to say we will continue to find new and exciting ways to bring the curriculum to life. Well done Mrs Maskell – a real and new achievement and recognition for Wessex!

Finally this week, can I please encourage all parents, children and families to make sure that we are ready for the downturn in the weather this year. Swine flu continues to be a possible threat along with the usual colds and sniffles, so ensuring that your children are equipped with coats, hats, scarves and gloves is particularly important from now. Phew! What an exciting week – see you at our fireworks event this evening. Gates open at 6pm.

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## Latecomers



Can we **PLEASE** urge parents to 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. We have had a visit recently from our Education Welfare Officer and I will be writing to the persistent offenders she identified shortly. Thank you for your help.

## Earlycomers!!

Please don't send your children in to school until 8.40am at the very earliest unless they are booked in to Breakfast Club. Some children have been arriving as early as 8.10am and we are not able to supervise them at that time. Should an accident or other incident occur, there may not be any first aider on site to help. Should you need to drop your child off at school early, booking forms for the Breakfast Club are available from the school office.



## School Lunch Payments

Please make sure your children bring their dinner money in the correct currency! Euros /cents will not be accepted (!) Thank you.

## School Library AMNESTY!

Please have a good look for school library books and return them to us immediately please! We are having an audit and **will be charged £2.25 per missing title**. Last year, one parent returned 64 books! That would be £144 out of our unyielding school budget! 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. 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 to those of you who have helped in this way so far.



## Nativities



It is that wonderful time of year when we start preparing for Christmas and the children in Nursery and Lower School will soon be rehearsing for their Christmas Productions. The Nursery need donations of striped and/or checked shirts – please drop them directly in to the Nursery if you are able to help in this way. Thank you.

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all those families that have sent in Christmas boxes for this appeal. Please note that the absolute, very final, unmovable deadline for sending the boxes in to school is by **Monday 9th November**. Last year we had lots of boxes delivered after the deadline and we were unable to arrange an additional collection – PLEASE do your best to get them in by the deadline date. Thank you.



## Starting School

Do you have a child who is born between 1<sup>st</sup> May 2005 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:school.admissions@rbwm.gov.uk). It is important to note that even if your child is in our Nursery, they do not automatically qualify for a place at Wessex.

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Why do we wear a poppy at this time of year?	Can you draw a circus tent using only ten straight lines or less?

## Poppies



We have very nearly sold out of poppies which we have been selling on behalf of the Royal British Legion, remembering all those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We will be marking Remembrance Day with a special assembly and a two minute silence at **11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> November**.

## Wessex Primary Prayer Group

One of our parents would like to start a Wessex Prayer Group and the inaugural meeting will be held in our Community Room on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November from 9.00 - 9.30am**. The group would like to meet once a month and is open to Christians of any denomination. The focus will be on sharing prayers for our school, the children and the wider school community. If you have any specific prayer requests, please see Katie Croft (mum in Purple class) or let Mrs Cawte in the office know.

## 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! **WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK?**

## Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
9 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> November	National School Meals Week	Everyone
11 <sup>TH</sup> November 2009	Remembrance day : 2 minute silence at 11am	All children
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	5D Class Assembly - 9.15am	Parents and carers of children in 5D
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	Parents invited for School Lunch	All parents
<b>12<sup>th</sup> December 2009</b>	PTA Christmas Fair 2-4pm <b>NB - Change of date</b>	Everyone!
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2009	6R Class Assembly - 9.15am	Parents and carers of children in 6R
7 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	Nursery Nativity 11.15am / 2.45pm	Parents and Carers of children in Nursery
8 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Lower School Christmas Production	Further details to follow
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	No morning Nursery!! PM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	No afternoon Nursery!! AM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	School Christmas Lunch	Whole school
17 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	Carols Around the Tree 6pm	Everyone!!
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	End of Term - <b>2pm</b>	Everyone!!

**DINOMITE!!!!**