

# WESSEX WEEKLY

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[www.wessexweb.org.uk](http://www.wessexweb.org.uk) -2470 'hits' so far!



Why did the Romans build straight roads?



Some of the children with their wreaths on Remembrance Day.

**This week:**

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

**SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:**  
3468KWh of Electricity Produced  
1976Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



## From the Head's Chair



Dear all

This week has been even busier than usual – I'm not sure quite how I'm going to fit it all in! Here goes...

Fireworks Evening – need I say any more? All I will do is publish the note I have sent to the PTA on behalf of the school – which I think says it all!

### ***“Dear PTA***

*Just a quick note to say a huge thank you on behalf of the children and families from Wessex for the fantastic fireworks event which you organised last Friday. The weather was grotty - but everything else was hugely successful. Despite the weather, I felt the turnout was still a great achievement and as I learned for the first time last year, everything again ran like clockwork. We had no 'problems' at all, and everyone really pulled together to make the evening such a success. £2,400 is a fabulous profit and I will be making it all clear to the parents in this week's newsletter!*

*The best thing was the positive feedback from the appreciative audience on the night - I received many comments of thanks as I met people on the gate and I hope you heard those messages too. The most poignant moment for me was a parent who came to thank me (and the PTA) at the gate this morning. Her daughter is a hearing impaired child at the school and she said that for the first time ever, she had both seen and heard the fireworks simultaneously. This made a huge difference to her daughter and created some fabulous memories for her in particular, as I'm sure you can appreciate will be the same for all our children.*

*A brilliant job, hugely well done!*

*Thank you.”*

On Monday afternoon, we held our inaugural house football competition, involving all the children in Upper School. Those children who didn't play supported their houses, and although it was cold, everyone had a great time. The children were proud to represent their houses and many of the matches were closely contested. The overall winner after 12 matches was Windsor House, who amassed a score of 85 points, thanks to their team sportsmanship, goals scored and enthusiastic supporters. Well done to everyone who took part on the day and a special thanks to Miss Oldfield for making it all come together!

On Wednesday came a moment which left me feeling possibly prouder than I have done since starting as the Headteacher at Wessex 14 months ago – and that is quite an achievement believe me!

For the first time, the whole school and around 40 visitors gathered around the flagpole to mark Remembrance Day and observe 2 minutes of silence. Most of our children wore poppies and many of the classes brought wreaths with them to place at the base of the flag pole, on which the Union Jack flew at half mast. Every single child, from Nursery to Year 6 was a credit to the school and the emotional occasion passed with both respect and reflection. We heard the cannons being fired at Windsor Castle in the distance and the two minutes was closed by Robbie in Year 11 from Cox Green who played the 'Last Post' on his trumpet. I found the event a real privilege to be part of and I was very happy that so many of us could share it in this way. Thank you to children and staff for making it so special.



Yellow Base had an exciting visit to Ockwells Park on Wednesday morning. They had a fantastic time, behaved beautifully and managed to observe their own 2 minutes of silence whilst they were on the trip. Well done children, Miss Bristow and I are very proud of you too!

There are four further events taking place this week that I will unfortunately miss as I attend the annual Primary Headteacher's conference in Oxford on Thursday and Friday. However I would like to say:

- 🌟 Good Luck to 5D for your class assembly tomorrow morning (Thursday) – your rehearsals have gone very well and I'm sure it will be super!
- 🌟 I hope those of you who are joining your children for lunch tomorrow (Thursday) enjoy the opportunity and learn a bit more about how far school dinners have come since we were at school!
- 🌟 Good Luck to 6R who will be performing their Shakespeare Play at Norden Farm on Friday morning – your rehearsals have been great and I have been impressed with both costumes

and dancing!

☀️ Finally, a big GOOD LUCK to the 18 or so children who will be teaching their new classes on Friday after being appointed as 'teachers for the afternoon'. I know how much effort and preparation you have put in – I know it will be a great success!

I really am looking forward to hearing how all these events went when I return on Monday and look forward to reporting on them in next week's edition. Have a great weekend and I'll see you all on Monday.

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### Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to everyone who brought in a shoebox for this very worthwhile appeal. We collected 105 boxes in total, which have already been collected by the charity and are on their way to where we are sure they will make someone very happy! Thank you children and parents for supporting us in this way.



### Chickens!

We need more volunteers to help look after our chickens. If you are interested, please sign up in the shed at the bottom of Reception Garden. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please speak to Miss Bristow in Yellow class

### Tea Towels

Nursery & Reception tea towels are in and ready for payment & collection from the class teachers.

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
Who helps you, and how do you help other people?	Can you draw a monkey using 10 straight lines or less?

### Christmas Cards

You will soon receive a letter regarding the Christmas cards that your children will be designing in school. It is important that we **MUST** have all the orders returned by **23<sup>rd</sup> November** at the very latest in order for the cards to be produced and returned to school by **4<sup>th</sup> December** (estimated delivery date). If you do not received the letter on Monday, you will find details on our website or in the letter tree in the entrance hall.

### Requests:

We sometimes get donations of paper and card (and other stationery) from companies having a 'clear out' and that they no longer require. This is *fantastic*, as these types of items use up a significant part of our budget and we are always extremely grateful for donations such as this. We are also 'in the market' for the following items that companies (or individuals) may also be wanting to 're-cycle'.....Pens, coloured pens, coloured paper, tissue paper, coloured card, ribbons, sequins, plastic wallets, ring binders, plastic 2-litre drinks bottles for our eco-greenhouse, etc. Thank you all for your donations!!

### Harvest Festival

I am very pleased to say that we raised a fantastic £238.67 on our Harvest/Wellie Day which will be split between Farm Africa and our Gardening club. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

## Illness

We have had lots of children (and some staff) with a horrible sickness-bug this week. We have spoken to the school nurse and the advice from the health department is that if your child is sick at home, please do not send them in to school until 48 hours after the last 'episode'. This will help stop the bug from spreading. Thanks for your help.



## Puffin Books

I hope you received the Puffin Books brochure earlier this week. If you would like to order any books, please use the account number 0007916243 so that Wessex can claim the commission – 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 £225 per missing title**. 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.

## 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?
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	Children in Need day – watch this space!	Whole school
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
<b>12<sup>th</sup> December 2009</b>	PTA Christmas Fair 2-4pm <b>NB – Change of date</b>	Everyone!
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
<b>16<sup>th</sup> December 2009</b>	Carols Around the Tree (Cox Green) 6pm <b>NB – Change of Date</b>	Everyone!!
17 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	Wessex Carol Concert	Everyone!!
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	End of Term – <b>2pm</b>	Everyone!!

So their soldiers didn't go around the bend!