

WESSEX WEEKLY

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www.wessexweb.org.uk -3057 'hits' so far!



What did the woodcutter's wife say to her husband in December?



Millie, Jacob, Sophie and Joseph getting ready to soak their Headteacher!!

This week:

Christmas Lunch reminder and menu changes, Fundraising successes, PTA Christmas Fair, dates for your diary (including Christmas Productions) and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:
3528KWh of Electricity Produced
2010Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



This week we have a bumper edition of our Wessex Weekly – not for any special occasion but just because we have so much news to share. As always, please check the information enclosed carefully to ensure you are kept fully up to date with events and activities which affect you and your children.

I would like to start by saying 'THANKYOU' to all of the children and parents who kindly decided to support our Children in Need appeal by throwing cold, wet sponges at me last Friday whilst dressed in my 'Banana-man' costume. I seriously couldn't believe the sheer number of people who were obviously keen to take up this opportunity, including extended family members as well as ex-pupils! The queue was very long and people were very patient.....is there something you are trying to tell me?? I thoroughly enjoyed my soaking and am very proud to report that we raised a fantastic £700 on the day – thanks to the great ideas of our School Council. I think we managed £250 last year so that is a fabulous result! Thank you to Mrs Town for organising the whole day – well done all!

I would also like to let you know that we raised £112 for the poppy appeal earlier this month which again makes me very proud, particularly in light of the positive way we marked the occasion this year.

Following on from last week's football news, I am very pleased to let you know that our team has been officially promoted to the RBWM Premiere League for next season, thanks to our great results this year. We will face tough opposition next season, but it is the first time we have found ourselves at these lofty heights. Well done to all those children who have been involved and we look forward to the challenge. Thank you especially to Mr Lloyd-Mourinho, as he is now referred to, for the time and effort he has put in to coaching the team. We are planning to introduce a second team in the new year!

As the festive season increasingly approaches, I would draw your attention to the performances and community occasions going on in school and further afield in the last few weeks of term. Not only class assemblies, but karol concerts and nativity plays will be taking place between now and Christmas and I can assure you that rehearsals are well under way. Please make sure you have the dates and times in your diary, published each week, so you can give your support to the children. I would also like to wish a happy Eid to those of our families who celebrate this festival at this time of year – I hope you all enjoy this very special occasion with friends and family.

I would like to wish our Year 6 children Good Luck if they have entered the annual Rotary Club writing competition. I know many of you have been planning and writing stories for the Borough-wide event and I look forward to attending the awards ceremony in December. I'm sure you will all make me very proud!

I would like to congratulate our eldest Nursery children and new Nursery children, who enjoyed their first 'visit' day on Wednesday this week. All the children were very excited about visiting their new 'classes' and there wasn't a tear in sight. I look forward to seeing you all flourish in your new settings after Christmas.

I would like to welcome Miss Baker, who will be working to support children in Year 5 over the next ten weeks in response to the government's 1-to-1 support initiative.

Along with the help of Mrs Savage, I know the children involved will both enjoy and make even more progress as a result of the support and I look forward to seeing the outcome next term.

I have noticed that an increasing number of our children are coming to and from school without suitable school shoes on. I understand that shoes do get wet in inclement weather, but would remind you that sensible shoes are part of our school uniform and therefore very important. I would appreciate your support with this. Thank you.

Finally, as we did last year, we will be providing and decorating three Christmas trees for school this year. They will be delivered at the end of next week and will be available to a good home at the end of term. We have two, eight foot trees and a five foot tree available to a good home in exchange for a donation to school fund, on a first come – first served basis. If you can use a Christmas tree or know anyone who could, please help us to re-cycle our trees and let the school office know.

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Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will take place on **15th December**. This is a lovely meal where all the children sit together and enjoy traditional Christmas fayre, served by the staff, with crackers and party hats etc. We sent home an envelope **last week** which we would remind you to return in the next few days, marking which meal (meat or veggie) your child would like and pop £2.10 in the envelope. Thanks to all those parents that have already returned their child's envelope.



Harrison's 'Design a Christmas Apron' Competition



All the schools in the borough were asked by Harrisons, the school caterers, to take part in a competition to design an apron for Harrison's employees to wear over the Christmas period. We are delighted to tell you that our very own **Issey Omar** in Y2 has won the competition and the aprons are currently going in to production. Issey has won a £100 Hamley's voucher and the school will benefit from £100 of art equipment.

Graham Harrison (himself) and Councillor Eileen Quick will be joining us for a special presentation assembly on **Monday 7th December** when we will be treated to the unveiling of the newly printed aprons. Well done Issey, we are all very proud of you!

Wessex PTA Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair on **Saturday 12th December** is fast approaching and the PTA would like to thank everyone who has returned raffle ticket monies so far. The First Prize is **£100** - don't miss out on a chance to win - return yours now! Thank you too for the bottle donations for the tombola that have already come in, however, we really do need more to ensure a great Tombola on the day. We also need some **bottle bags** - if

you have any spare please bring in to the school office. We are also looking for donations of **cakes** (please bring on the day) and parents to help during the Fair - please complete the slip on the back of the yellow PTA newsletter. Also a note to remind you of the **Fancy Dress Competition** - there is no theme and we are looking forward to seeing your creations! Finally - are there **any parents that work for Sainsbury's or Tesco's**? We need your help! Please leave your name and contact number with the school office and a member of the PTA will give you a ring! Many thanks - your support is greatly appreciated and goes a long way in ensuring the enjoyment and success of our fund raising events!

Menu Changes for w/c 14th December

Because of the Christmas lunch, the menu for that week will be changed to the following:

Monday 14th - as per menu card

Tuesday 15th - Christmas lunch

Wednesday 16th - Fish and chips or Sweet and sour noodles

Thursday 17th - as per menu card

Friday 18th - Beef and sweetcorn pizza or Carrot and pesto bake.

Christmas Lights!

The Maidenhead town centre Christmas lights will be switched on **Saturday 28th November** at 6pm. There is lots of entertainment in the High Street and the Nicholson's Centre before the event including puppet shows, an Italian market and Traylen's Funfair.

Church of the Good Shepherd

The church is getting ready for Christmas and would like to invite children of all ages to come along and celebrate the beginning of Advent on **Sunday 29th November** at 10am where we will be making Advent rings. Also we are having a Christingle Service at FLAP on **Thursday 17th December** at 3.30. Just come along for squash and cake. We will be making the Christingles and having a short service. More details available from Karen Higgins (mum of Jack in 5C).

Tesco Computers for Schools



We have just taken delivery of 8 new digital cameras - one for each year group! This is a really valuable addition to our ICT provision for the children and we would like to say a really big **THANK YOU** to everyone who collected tokens on our behalf.

Bottle Tops

A reminder that we collect **ONLY blue, green and red** milk bottle tops for the Alexander Devine Cancer Trust. Please do not put in any other bottle tops as they lower the value of the plastic. Thank you.


Puffin books

The order for Puffin books will be sent off early next week so if you want to place an order, please bring it in to the school office on **Monday**. Thank you.

Clubs

Please note that the following clubs finish next week: Netball, Gardening, Basketball, Yoga , Y5/6 Football, Collectibles.

Coerver football finished on Thursday (yesterday) and Christmas choir and Multisports (Monday and Friday), will continue until the end of term.

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
What is your favourite day of the year and why?	 What is this?

Calling all Nursery Parents....

Please be aware of the following calendar dates and changes to Nursery 'activities'.

- The times of the Nativity Performance on **7th December** have been changed and will now be 9.45 - 10.15am and 2.45 - 3.15pm.
- There will be **no lunch club** on the day of the Nursery parties (**14th and 15th December**) so they will be required to attend 9.00 - 12am or 12.15 - 3.15pm only.
- Please can we ask for donations of old white and coloured tights (green /red) for us to use for the Nativity as well as men's stripy/checked shirts.

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Nursery staff. Thank you.

IMPORTANT - Keeping Your Children Safe

You may have read or heard about the new safeguarding regulations that Ofsted are being particularly hot on! We need to continue to be extra vigilant when allowing visitors in to school. It is extremely important that parents and any other visitors sign in at the school office and wear a Visitor Badge – *even if visiting for just a few minutes!* It is also even more important that parents sign children in if they are late (i.e. arriving after 9am). ALL latecomers will be marked with an unauthorised absence unless they are signed in by a parent with a reason for the lateness.

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! This week's winners Fiza in 4E, Samantha C in 4P and Hollie in 3L who spotted a new weekday name!!

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
3 rd December	6R Class Assembly – 9.15am. Please note the assembly will take place in the Lower School Hall	Parents and carers of children in 6R
7 th December	Nursery Nativity 9.45am / 2.45pm NB – Change of time	Parents and Carers of children in Nursery
7 th December	Y4 Trip to the Living Rainforest	Children in Y4
8 th December	Lower School Christmas Production – 9.30am	Parents and carers ONLY
9 th December	Lower School Christmas Production – 9.30am	Parents and toddlers
10 th December	Lower School Christmas Production – 9.30am	Invited guests only
12th December	PTA Christmas Fair 2-4pm NB – Change of date	Everyone!
14 th December	No morning Nursery and No Nursery Lunch club!! PM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 th December	No afternoon Nursery and No Nursery Lunch club!! AM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 th December	School Christmas Lunch	Whole school
16th December	Carols Around the Tree (Cox Green) 6pm NB – Change of Date	Everyone!!
17 th December	Wessex Carol Concert 6pm	Everyone!!
18 th December	End of Term – 2pm	Everyone!!

Not many chopping days left until Christmas!



WESSEX 'ECO' WEEKLY

In support of our sustainability and re-cycling policies, we plan to reduce our paper copies of the Wessex Weekly after Christmas. Editions will still be available electronically and reliably via the school website (www.wessexweb.org.uk) or our electronic 'Parent-mail' facility, which you can sign up for below.

By reducing the number of paper copies we send out each week, we can easily save time, money and paper....enabling us to invest more effectively in your child's education. At the same time, we help the environment and make a contribution towards the reduction of our carbon footprint.

The school council has told us that your children feel this is very important. Therefore, along with other initiatives in school, such as turning off lights, closing doors, re-cycling paper and composting tea-bags from the staff room, we are helping to teach your children how to be better citizens for the future.



WE WILL REPEAT THIS MESSAGE



If you are able to access our weekly newsletter electronically and help us to reduce our impact on the environment, brilliant!

If you require a paper copy each week, please complete the slip below, return it to the school office by the end of term and we will ensure you receive a copy. **We will send a single copy home to families with more than one child with the YOUNGEST SIBLING** (as they seem to have their school bags checked more reliably!) Spare copies will still be available each week in the 'letter tree' outside the main office each Friday. Thank you.



Wessex 'Eco-Weekly'



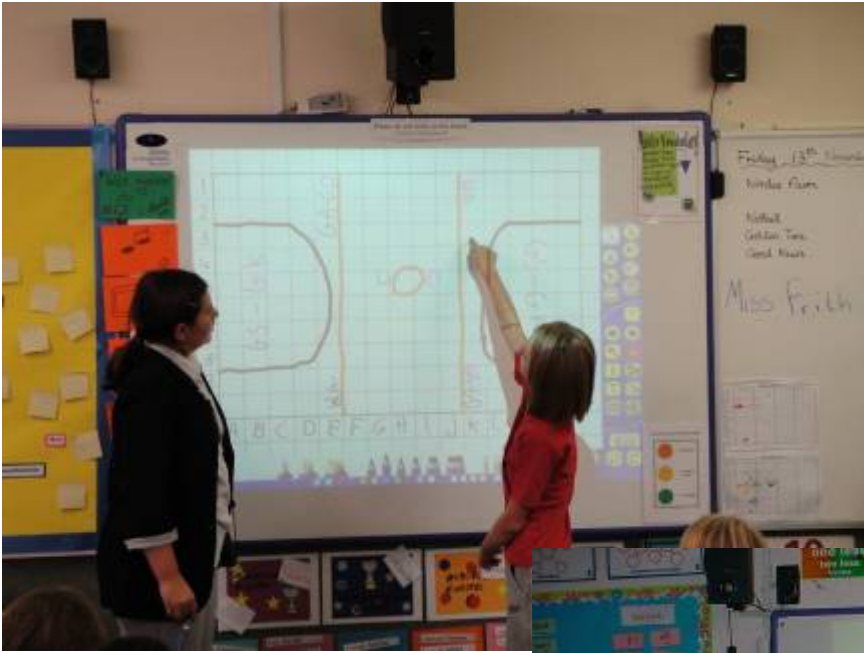
Please send a paper copy of the newsletter home with our youngest child.

Youngest Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Please e-mail me a copy of the school newsletter (and other information).

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

E-mail address: _____ Tel: _____



Some of our 'afternoon teachers'