

# WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 51: 11.12.2009

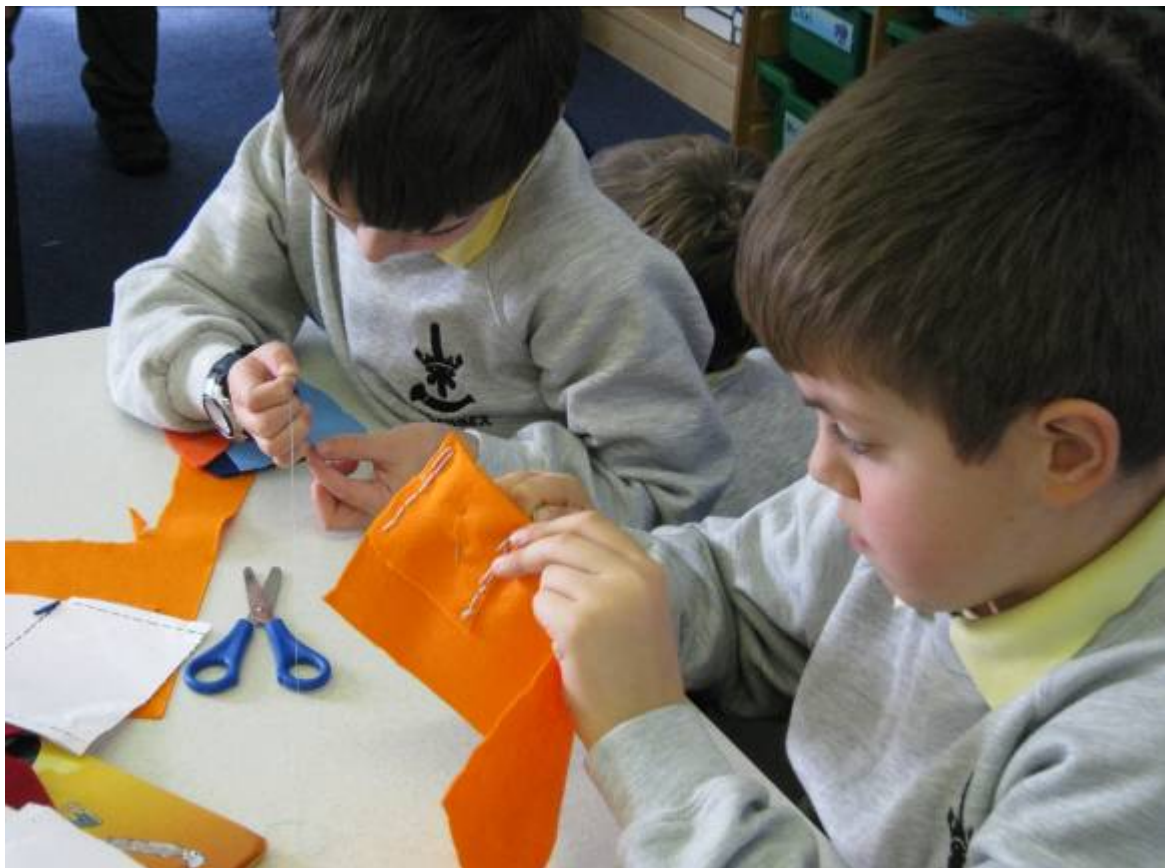
[www.wessexweb.org.uk](http://www.wessexweb.org.uk) -3594 'hits' so far!



Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?

This week:

Christmas menu changes, PTA Christmas Fair, dates for your diary and much more.....



Seran and Lucas in 4P making money containers last week

**SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:**  
3577KWh of Electricity Produced  
2038Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



## From the Head's Chair



We began this week with a special assembly on Monday in which we had several achievements to celebrate. Prachi in Y6 was awarded a prize for being the runner up in national a Road Safety Design competition, with an eye catching and colourful road safety message. Her winning design can be seen in the 'Good News' folder in the entrance hall. We also had two other children to congratulate. Eden Harley was runner up in the Harrison's 'Design an Apron' competition and Issey Omar in Red class was the overall winner. Issey's snowman design has been printed on the aprons and her £100 toy voucher was presented in assembly by Mr Harrison and Cllr Eileen Quick. The school also received a prize of £100 of art equipment. Well done to all the winners.....we are very proud of you.

Also on Monday, our Y4 children enjoyed a visit to the Rainforest experience in Newbury. The children experienced the hot, humid conditions of the rainforest, and spotted some of its residents, including snakes, monkeys and even a real crocodile! The children both enjoyed and learned from the trip and were very well behaved. Well done children and thank you to Mrs Piper and Mrs Elliot for arranging it.

On Monday (which turned out to be a particularly busy start to the week!), our Nursery children performed their nativity play to a large audience of parents and families, and did so with gusto! They had learned the words to ten different songs and sang, moved, acted or accompanied with percussion instruments brilliantly! Thank you children, and a huge thank you to all the staff (including Mrs Croft for her lovely flute accompaniment) for making it such a success. Well done all!

Also this week, I have thoroughly enjoyed three performances of 'A Wiggly Nativity' by our Lower School children. They performed for the first time under the lights and on the stage in our Upper School hall to packed and appreciative audiences. The children sang beautifully and acted, spoke or danced with real confidence. Thank you for all the positive comments I heard after each performance - I agree it was a huge success and a little bit special! Thank you to all the staff who have been beavering away behind the scenes to bring it all together, the children looked and sounded brilliant. Well done!

On Thursday, the first of our Y6 classes (6R) visited Cox Green for their science lesson. It was a very exciting session with flames and Bunsen burners which they all enjoyed. I was pleased to receive the comments below from Miss Bird... "It was so lovely to host year 6 today. They were SO good and well behaved. We think that there are some very good scientists in there! I hope they enjoyed themselves and I look forward to meeting the next group next week."

Another good reflection on Wessex children - thank you!

As this is the penultimate newsletter of 2009, I will get in early by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year! I would also like to wish a happy Hanukah for tomorrow to those children and families who celebrate this festival.

Make sure you pop in to the **Christmas Fair** tomorrow between 2 and 4pm. The PTA have again worked incredibly hard to organise this brilliant community event and your children might even get to meet Father Christmas!

Next week, you are invited to **Carols around the Tree** at Cox Green School on Wednesday evening at 6pm, followed by our **Wessex Carol Concert** on Thursday at 5pm. Both events are really good events which perfectly combine tradition, fun and the Christmas spirit. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available so come along. I look forward to seeing you and your families there to accompany our choir. **SEE YOU ALL TOMORROW!**

Nick Stevens

Headteacher

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**PTA Christmas Fair**

"The PTA would like to thank everyone who has returned raffle ticket monies and all the kind donations for the Christmas Fair tomorrow. Please bring in any cake donations to the Lower School Hall from 12 noon on the day and remember to name and collect any tins/trays at the end of the Fair. Also a reminder about the Fancy Dress Competition - we are looking forward to seeing those outfits! It promises to be a fun packed afternoon with Arts & Craft activities, Pocket Money Games, Face Painting and Hair Braiding and even Fairground Rides in the playground. There will be the chance to do a bit of Christmas Shopping at our Third Party Stalls selling a variety of items or even the chance to have your photo taken. Kids - don't forget you can get Mum & Dad a present in the Secret Present Room - no adults allowed! There will be the ever popular Bottle Tombola as well as a General Tombola and there may even be a visit from someone very special as well ... ho ho ho. We look forward to seeing you all on **Saturday at 2pm** - don't forget your change please! *Please remember there is no parking in the school grounds or St Adrians Close.* Thank you."

**Nativity DVD's for Sale**

We have dvd's for sale of the Nursery morning and afternoon dress rehearsal and also the Lower School Wriggly Nativity for £5 each - please call in to the school office if you would like one.



**Menu Changes for w/c 14<sup>th</sup> December**

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



- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – as per menu card
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Christmas lunch
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Fish and chips or Sweet and sour noodles
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – as per menu card
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Beef and sweetcorn pizza or Carrot and pesto bake.

**Clubs**

Multisports Club (Friday) will run on the last day of term from 2pm – 3pm, not from 3.20pm!

**Church of the Good Shepherd**

We are having a Christingle Service at FLAP on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 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).

TALKING HOMEWORK	THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE
If you had to do Father Christmas' job on Christmas Eve, which route would you take?	Each letter in the alphabet is worth different points i.e. A = 1, B = 2, C = 3 and so on. e.g. If my name was Ben = 2 + 5 + 14 = 21. Who in your family has the highest and lowest total?

## Notice to all our Nursery Parents....

A reminder to our morning Nursery parents that they should collect their children at **12.00 promptly**, please. Some parents are collecting their children late (rather too regularly!) and so the Nursery staff are missing their lunch break.

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

- There will be **no lunch club** on the day of the Nursery parties (**14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December**) so they will be required to attend 9.00 - 12am or 12.15 - 3.15pm only.

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.

## School Attendance

The Local Authority has brought to the attention of every school in RBWM the powers in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 to tackle poor school attendance. These came into force on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and include Penalty Notices, which mean that for pupils with unauthorised absence from school (i.e any absences that the school has not given permission for) their parents/carers may be subject to a prompt fine of either £50 or £100. Penalty Notices will be used as a deterrent to prevent a pattern of unauthorised absence developing. They will be issued simply by posting to a pupil's home after possibly just one warning and cases of absence without acceptable cause will also include pupils caught on truancy sweeps, excessive holidays in school term time and persistent late attendance after the Register has closed. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

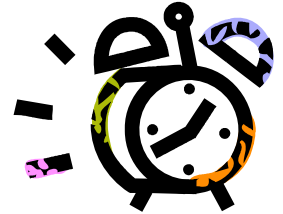
## Waitrose Community Matters

Each month, our local Waitrose in Maidenhead donates £1000 between 3 local good causes, chosen by the customers. We would love to be part of this scheme and would like to raise money for our ongoing Playground Makeover. Please consider nominating Wessex – forms are available from any Morrisons store.

## Requests:

- 2ltr CLEAR plastic bottles (for our eco-greenhouse)
- Bamboo sticks of any length (ditto)
- Second hand school uniform (for a sale in the new year)

Please bring in any of the above items in to the school office – thank you!



## Lost Property

As ever, we have an enormous amount of lost property. Please come and claim your lost items before the end of term as EVERYTHING will be disposed of at 2pm on the last day of term. We have coats, PE kits, lots of sweatshirts and myriad other items – all of which will be re-cycled if not claimed. *You have been warned.....*

## Class Christmas Parties – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

We are all looking forward to the class Christmas parties next week. Children may bring in party clothes (sensible shoes for dancing and games please – no high heels!!) in **named bag** on the day. Lunch will be served as normal on the day.



## 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 ....GASP!!! NO WINNERS!! Nobody spotted the gaff in the lost property section of the newsletter!! This week is the very last oops – look out for our caption competition in the new year!

## Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
12 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Fair 2 - 4pm	Everyone!
14 <sup>th</sup> December	No morning Nursery and <b>No Nursery Lunch club!!</b> PM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 <sup>th</sup> December	No afternoon Nursery and <b>No Nursery Lunch club!!</b> AM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch	Whole school
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols Around the Tree (Cox Green) 6pm	Everyone!!
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Wessex Carol Concert <b>5pm</b> <b>NB – Change of time</b>	Everyone!!
18 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term – <b>2pm</b>	Everyone!!
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET – Please don't send your children to school!	All children and parents
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of term for children	All children and parents
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	30 class assembly	All parents and carers of children in 30

They both drop their needles!

# 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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_