

WESSEX WEEKLY

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www.wessexweb.org.uk - 10481 hits so far!!!



'Assembly Cartoon' by Lily Thomas, Year 6.

This week:

Event and term dates, Music event, IT for Beginners,
Caption competition and more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

3645KWh of Electricity Produced
2077Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



I am (hopefully) confident that this is the final edition of our newsletter in which I will have to mention the snow! May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and understanding over the past fortnight. I know the weather has caused significant disruption for all of us (and the wider community) and I want to reassure you that everything will be done to ensure your children catch up with any work they have missed. This is of course our first priority so please keep a careful eye on the Wessex Weekly in which we will keep you up to date with all we are doing at school.

Remarkably, you will have noticed (at the top of the front page) that our website has now received over 10,000 'hits'. We are hugely proud of the success of our website and know it has proved invaluable to many of you recently. Remember, we aim to keep information as up to date as possible about what is important to our children and families so if you haven't had a look yet, give it a try!

I would like to congratulate all the children at Wessex for the way they have responded to the unusual start to the New Year. Their attitude and behaviour have been a credit to the school, and I am very pleased to see everyone so keen to get back to normal as soon as possible.

Last Saturday, despite the weather, a team of keen swimmers from Wessex attended the annual 'Swimarathon' at the Magnet Leisure centre. Our team (Kirsten Franks, Samantha Clarke, Emma Rigby, Ellie Shimmin, Niamh Duncan, Harrison Ould, Hope Dunne and Erin Caskey) collected sponsorship money for the event and between them raised £400 after swimming a tremendous 100 lengths! Not only that, but we were awarded an extra £200 by Theresa May (MP), enabling us to split the proceeds between the school and the charities supported by Maidenhead Lions. Well done children – that is a fantastic achievement. I would also like to thank Mrs Ould, Mrs Rigby and all the parents who attended and supported the team – well done!

This week is officially the first time the Wessex Weekly 'goes green'. Newsletters will from now on be sent out electronically to everyone, replacing paper copies (unless they have been requested). **THIS IS WHERE I NEED YOUR HELP.** If any of your friends or other parents notice that they haven't received a copy of the newsletter, please let them know that they will have received an electronic version through our ParentMail facility. If any parents do not have access to ParentMail or the website, they will receive a paper copy on request. Alternatively, spare copies will be available in the letter tree outside the school office. All you need to do is drop in your e-mail address to the school office (via e-mail?) or let the ladies know you require a hard copy. We will make sure that paper copies are sent home with children who have requested them to ensure that the important messages keep getting through! We hope to save paper and money, which we will spend elsewhere to enhance all aspects of learning and school life.

Have a good weekend, and please remember to keep wrapped up warm. The kaleidoscope of wellies I have witnessed in the last week has been great, and enables our children to enjoy the outdoors – whatever the weather!

Have a good weekend.

Nick Stevens

Headteacher (Head bunny)

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Menu Change Next Week



Please note that Fish and Chips will be served on Thursday next week (21st January) rather than Friday.

£1000 Missing!!

We have recently had an audit of our school library for the first time in several years, and have discovered that over 300 books have gone missing! As in all schools, we have a contract with the local library service who will collect and replace titles to keep our libraries up to date from time to time. We are required to pay between £2 and £3 for each 'misaid' title and we now need your help to track them down! Please check your children's books at home and return any with a Wessex 'ticket' or stamp on the inside cover or a bar code sticker on the back cover. The missing books are out there – get hunting! Please return any re-discovered books to your child's teacher, the office or the amnesty boxes in each school hall. No children will be in trouble...we just want our books back! Thank you for your support.

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.

Parents in School

Parents booked in for Parents in School on **January 25th**, should receive a confirmation slip today. If not, please check with your child first as they may have the slip in their book bag or (possibly) left it at school. **Confirmation slips for the April date will be sent home in due course.**

IT For All

We have received details of the following course which may be of interest:

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| IT for All | At | From | To | 09.15 to |
| Beginners/Improvers | Woodlands Park Centre | 20 th Jan | 30 th Mar | 11.15am |

This ten week course is designed for learners who have little or no knowledge of using computers, but who wish to gain some IT skills. To find out more about the courses or to register telephone 01628 796 584 or send an email to adult.education@rbwm.gov.uk

| TALKING HOMEWORK | THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE |
|--|--|
| If you could write "From the Headteacher's Chair" in the newsletter, what would you say? | What might you find in a wizard's kitchen and what might those things be used for? |

Music Lessons in School

Berkshire Maestros are running 'A Young Persons Guide to Instruments' event:

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| DATE | Wednesday 10th February 2010 |
| TIME | 3.30pm – 5.30pm |
| PLACE | St Edmund Campion School, Maidenhead |

Including live music demonstrations by young players and Maestros professionals. There will also be the chance to try out the instruments under the guidance of specialist teachers. For more information see www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk

Cash For Schools 2010

It is not long to go before Maidenhead Advertiser Cash For Schools 2010 kicks off. The first token will appear in the Advertiser next Thursday (January 21). Please collect these for us and put in the box in the area outside the school office. Thank you!

Elentone Singers Community Choir

Why not enjoy a good sing once a week, meet new people, and revel in the atmosphere. Cox Green School Theatre, Thursdays, 8 p.m. 'til 10 p.m. Entry is open to everyone, whatever your experience. There are no auditions. We have a vast range of abilities within the group from people who have never sung in a choir before, to those with considerable experience. You don't need to be able to read music. We sing a cross-section of genres such as world music, folk and other popular pieces. £40 a term, or £5 a week. For more information contact Lyn Thomson lyn@lynsmusicmatters.co.uk 01628 622651 or Mikaela Martinez-Joyce martm003@rbwm.org 01628 629415

Some dates for your diary:

| DATE | OCCASION | WHO? |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Monday 25 th January | Parents in School (postponed from 11 th January) | Pre-booked parents only |
| Thursday 28 th January | 4E Class assembly – 9.15am | Parents and carers of those in 4E |
| Friday 5 th February | 30 Class assembly – 9.15am (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE) | Parents and carers of those in 30 |
| Tuesday 9 th February | Special Menu – Chinese New Year!! | Booked hot dinners!! |
| 12 th February | End of Term 3 (half term) | Everyone |

Caption Competition

Each week we will publish a picture (such as the super-heroes below) and would ask you to think of an apt/funny/appropriate caption. The winner (as judged by our un-bribeable office ladies among others) will win either a free school meal or a free breakfast club place. Entries should be posted in the old 'Newsletter gaffs' box in the reception area outside the school office.



The winner of last week's competition (the chickens in the snow) was Adam May with the caption "Are you OK Hettie? Yes, I'm all white but he's looking a bit browned off!" We also particularly liked the entry from 'Anonymous' – "The school office ladies try out their Easter costumes in an attempt to keep up with Mr Stevens!"