

WESSEX WEEKLY

ISSUE 56: 29.1.2010

www.wessexweb.org.uk - 12154 hits so far!!!



Q: Why did the chicken cross the road, roll in the mud and cross back again?



Angharad in the Nursery – a budding Leonardo!!

This week:
Event and term dates,
Caption competition and more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:
3677KWh of Electricity Produced
2095Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



I have lots of good news to be proud of this week and a few messages I would like you all to be aware of, so please read on...

This week started with our 'Parents in School' day on Monday, and I was proud to welcome mums, dads and grandparents into school to spend some time in school with their children, find out more about what they learn and just as importantly how we do it. Once again, the feedback was very positive and I know it was a valuable experience for those of you who were able to get involved. One parent told me that it really helped them to be better equipped to help their child with their learning at home, and a teacher said it was a great chance to show parents how much progress their child was making at school. I would like to thank every teacher and member of staff for their hard work in making 'Parents in School Day' a success – well done!

This week we welcomed Mrs Keith, a RBWM lead teacher for maths, (like Mrs Corbett,) to Wessex for the first time to find out a little more about our children, what they learn and how they learn it. She had a great morning and paid particularly high compliments to our Y5 and Y3 children for their behaviour, manners and enthusiasm! Thank you Mr Lloyd and Mrs Corbett for arranging the visit.

On Wednesday a team of our children took part in a tag rugby tournament against several other schools, and the whole event was a huge success. The children played brilliantly as a team and it was a very exciting set of matches! Lots of parents attended and provided great support. We played a warm up match first against Ellington, which we won 7-1. Then we played against Waltham St Lawrence which was a very close game and finished 4-4. Next we played against White Waltham and won 5-4. Finally we played against Lowbrook (who were a fantastic side and had already scored about 17 tries in their previous matches!) It was a very exciting finale, which seemed very close at times. Lowbrook won 5-2 although Wessex were brilliant at tagging them to stop them getting a lot more. Miss Oldfield was really proud of all the children who took part - they all swapped over constantly to keep it fair and worked brilliantly together, even though it was extremely cold! We have some very promising players and a scout from Maidenhead Rugby Club was also very impressed. Can I congratulate the team of Dylan Masters, Jake Craythorne, Ben Mulley, Megan Peschereau, Lauren Hubbard, Dannii Jones, Matthew White, Brian White, Jack Carey and Jonathan Henderson for their great performance and for being runners up over all. As a result, they have been put forward to represent 'our family', with Lowbrook, at the next tag rugby event on 2nd March. Thank you Miss Oldfield for organising the matches!

On Thursday our Foundation Stage children enjoyed their first visit to the 'Forest School' in Windsor Great Park. This was a real 'outdoor adventure' and the children had the chance to explore the woods, build dens, hug a tree or two, build fires (!) and toast their own marshmallows. It was an exciting and valuable experience for both the children and staff and I know there are some great photos from the day – keep an eye on the electronic notice-board to see them soon! I would like to thank Mrs Thomas and her team for organizing the experience – well done!

Also on Thursday this week, 4E had their class assembly, and although I wasn't able to attend, I have heard it was a great success. Mrs Elliot and the children worked hard to prepare a 'Newsround' style summary of their year so far and included lots of the children's memories, from jungles at school to rainforest visits. I managed to catch a few snippets of the performance during rehearsals and think Sam deserves a bravery award for performing in his swimming trunks! Well done 4E and Mrs Elliot – I know the other children and the large number of parents who attended thoroughly enjoyed it!

Fundraising achievements: Well done to children and families who have been busy raising funds for school and important charities recently. We raised over £650 (!) for Haiti last week which is great, and the final 'Swimarathin' total is £462. Well done children. The PTA have

kindly donated money to school, allowing us to install all-weather flooring around the climbing wall. This will allow the children to enjoy the climbing wall much more often, so I would like to thank the PTA for their donation. Finally, we have taken delivery of 16 young trees for our school orchard, which I will be helping the children to plant at the beginning of next week we have apples, pears, cherries and plums – paid for by donations from our harvest festival. I look forward to harvesting fruit from the trees in the years to come.

Have a good weekend.

Nick Stevens

Headteacher

Tel: 01628 626724

e-mail: wessex@rbwm.org

www.wessexweb.org.uk

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

This week, Mrs Maskell and I handed out 200 copies of our parent questionnaire at the gate and I would like to thank parents who have responded already. This is very important, as it gives you the chance to tell us what you think of all we do at Wessex and how you feel we need to improve. We are working very hard to improve how we communicate with you and we need to know what you think. It helps us to plan future improvements at school and also allows us to show any visitors how we are all working together to strive for the very best for your children. We have sent the questionnaire out electronically via parent-mail and it is also available on our website. If you haven't done so already, please take 5 minutes to complete it and drop it in to school – your opinions and suggestions all count and we value everyone's contribution. That's enough of the politics – please fill it in and return it!!!

Parking

A reminder to parents that it is strictly forbidden, on pain of death!!! to park in the staff car park without a parking permit or blue disabled driver badge. Please let your childminders/grandparents etc know about this, especially if they are picking up or dropping off to the Nursery at lunchtime. The staff car park is for staff and on at least forty occasions in the past week they have not been able to find a space at lunchtime! Can we also let permit holders know that they will need to renew their pass for 2010. Please bring your old permit in to the school office for renewal.



Broken leg? Dodgy toe?

If your child needs to miss PE, or needs to stay in at break or lunchtime, please, please write a note to the teacher, or e-mail the school. It is astonishing how many children 'can't do PE' but manage to run around the playground like a thing possessed at playtime!

Community Room

The community room in Upper School is available for parents to book for (for example) waiting for your children from after school clubs, etc etc. The room is already regularly booked on a Tuesday and Thursday after school and the Wessex Prayer group meets alternate weeks from 9am to 9.30am. Please contact the school office if you want to book it or if you have any more questions.

Calling All Nursery and Reception Parents!

We are planning a Multicultural fortnight (1st – 12th February) and would love you to come and share something about your own particular culture. If you are able to help us out in this way, please see any member of the FS1 or FS2 staff for the timetable. We will be holding a Multicultural Party on **Friday 12th February** for FS1 and FS2 when the children will be invited to wear clothes from different cultures and bring in some food from their own culture too. We look forward to a rich and exciting fortnight!

Special Menu

To celebrate Chinese New Year, Harrisons are putting on a special Chinese-themed menu on **Tuesday 9th February**. The meal will be Sweet and Sour Chicken or Vegetarian Chow Mein, each served with Egg Rice and followed by a Ginger Cookie and Ice cream or fresh fruit platter. Children can book a school lunch on the day. Cost is the same as usual - just £2.10.

| TALKING HOMEWORK | THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE |
|---|---|
| What has been your greatest achievement so far? | What is similar and what is different between chocolate and tomatoes. |

This Week's Requests

- Second hand uniform for our sale in March (see dates)
- 2 litre clear plastic drinks bottles (for our eco-greenhouse)
- We need a banner! Would any parent be able to make us a 'Wessex Primary School' banner for general use? Please contact the school office if you can help.

Attention all parents, carers and friends of Wessex – PTA Disco & Dance Raffle

We are looking to put together some fantastic raffle prizes for our forthcoming PTA Dinner & Disco (Saturday 27 March 2010). We are preparing a selection of hampers – luxuries for ladies, gifts for gents, crazy fun for kids, happy home & garden and indulgent drink & food. Unwanted Christmas gifts would make ideal donations for these, or perhaps you might just pick up an extra item for us next time you go shopping - some of the sales are still on! Whatever you choose to do, we would be very grateful for any donations - just drop them off at the office as soon as you can. If you have any queries, please ask at the office or email the PTA via email@wessexpta.org.uk. We are also looking for several larger prizes to be sponsored or donated. Perhaps you would like to use this as an opportunity to promote your company or services – just let us know!

Some dates for your diary:

| DATE | OCCASION | WHO? |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 st February – 12 th February | Multicultural Fortnight | Foundation Stage Children |
| Friday 5 th February | 30 Class assembly – 9.15am | Parents and carers of those in 30 |
| Tuesday 9 th February | Special Menu – Chinese New Year!! | Booked hot dinners!! |
| Wednesday 10 th and Thursday 11 th February | Maidenhead Dance Festival at the Magnet Leisure Centre | Y1 and Y6 children |
| 12 th February | End of Term 3 (half term) | Everyone |
| 17 th March | Second Hand Uniform Sale – 3.30pm | Everyone |

Caption Competition

Each week we will publish a picture (such as 'cleaning the bowl' right) and would ask you to think of an apt/funny/appropriate caption. The winner (as judged by our un-bribable 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 bridge) was Adam May with "Mr Stevens questioned his judgement of inviting the designer of the Millenium Bridge to help with the school building project"



A: Because he was a dirty double crosser!