

WESSEX WEEKLY

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Q: Who won the race between two balls of string?



Reception class children at the Forest School in Windsor

This week:

PTA Dinner/Disco reminder, questionnaire, event and term dates,
Caption competition and more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

3711KWh of Electricity Produced
2115Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



Our week this week got off to a great start with Lizzie Frith's performance at the annual Rotary Club writing competition held at the Holiday Inn. She was the winning entry for Wessex with her poignant story about World War Two. She read her story to an audience of over 100 people, including headteachers, children and parents from sixteen different schools. Her prize of book vouchers, a framed certificate and £50 for school was presented by the mayor and her achievement is listed in the Maidenhead Advertiser this week. Well done Lizzie – we are all very proud of you and I look forward to you sharing your story with all our children in assembly.

An addition to last week's message....I would also like to congratulate Joshua Jones for his enthusiasm during last week's rugby competition. Somehow I managed to leave his name off the team list and I know how much he enjoyed the occasion – my apologies and well done!

This week, we have also continued our programme of 'master classes' for some of our most able children in a variety of areas. To support the varied curriculum we provide for all of our children, our master classes give those who have shown particular skills or levels of understanding in different areas the opportunity to stretch their skills and meet challenges with others who share their strengths. This week children have enjoyed master classes in music and drama, maths and ICT. This innovative approach allows teachers to identify and develop the skills of our most able children over and above the challenges they face in their normal day at school, whilst at the same time providing the time to explore and challenge their thinking. My thanks to Mrs Dawson, Mrs Corbett and Miss Bristow for their hard work in preparing these opportunities – I know you all enjoyed and valued the experience!

We all continue to appreciate and greatly encourage parents who can volunteer their time to help children at Wessex. Whether it is listening to children read, helping with the library, making costumes or just supporting the learning, this is a hugely valued and rewarding way to spend an hour or two in school. Due to new safeguarding procedures implemented by both RBWM and the government, there are several checks which we need to make for any adult working or volunteering in school and of course we will fulfill every requirement to ensure the safety of our children. However, I do not want the process to put anyone off from offering their time and hope those of you who have or can consider offering your help will continue to do so. Please get in touch with the school office if you have any questions or can help in this way!

IMPORTANT: Thank you to those parents who have already completed our parent questionnaire. We have received 130 returned copies and are processing all responses. If you haven't done so already, please complete and return the questionnaire. Available on our website or from the school office, 5 minutes of your time will enable you to have your say. We will consider every comment and my aim is to receive feedback from every Wessex family. We will use parents evening to catch up with those of you who haven't found time to complete a questionnaire and will publish results shortly after that.

Finally this week, I would like to wish a fond farewell and good luck to Mrs Jones who will leave us next Friday to have her second baby. You will be missed by children and staff alike, and we look forward to your return after your maternity leave. We all hope you will pop in with your new son / daughter / twins? / triplets? (don't panic!!) to share your great news as soon as you can. In the meantime, welcome to Miss Lacey, who has been and will continue to work with the children in our Nursery.

Have a good weekend.

Nick Stevens

Headteacher

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PTA Dinner and Disco

Sat 27th March

Maidenhead Golf Club

£25 per head

Forms available from school office or PTA section of school website

Or call Diane to discuss further - 01628 624336

Only a few places remaining!!



Flora Tokens

We are collecting the tokens from packets of Flora. You can either register the tokens online yourself or bring them in to school. We are currently 37th on the leader board and would love to get in the top 10! The tokens will enable us to buy more equipment for our kitchen area in the Lower School.

Absence

A reminder to parents that we need a phonecall from a parent or guardian if your child is ill or absent from school. Ideally we need a call around 8.30am to the office but definitely before 9.30am please! If we don't receive a phonecall your child will be marked with an unauthorised absence. Unfortunately, messages from neighbours or friends are not permissible for safeguarding reasons. Similarly, if your child has a hospital or other medical appointment that requires them to be out of school for more than an hour or two, please bring in the appointment letter or card in advance so that we can authorise the absence. Thank you for your help.

Music Lessons in School

A number of parents have noted in the Parent Questionnaire that they would like the opportunity for their child to learn a musical instrument in school. Wessex, along with most other schools in the borough, have an arrangement with Berkshire Maestros who provide lessons in guitar, violin, keyboards, singing and lots of other instruments, for groups of children during the school day. If you are interested, please collect a brochure from the letter tree outside the school office or see their website - www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk



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
Children always seem to answer a question by saying "Why?" Why?	The answer is 'never'. What was the question?

This Week's Requests

- Empty seed packets - lots and lots!!! (If you can donate a full packet, we can plant the seeds too!)
- 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.



Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
1 st February – 12 th February	Multicultural Fortnight	Foundation Stage Children
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 Y5 children
Friday 12 th February	End of Term 3 (half term)	Everyone
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day	Everyone
Wednesday 17 th March	Red class assembly – 9.15am, LS Hall	Parents and carers of children in Red class
Wednesday 17 th March	Second Hand Uniform Sale – 3.30pm	Everyone
Thursday 18 th March	4P class assembly – 9.15am, US hall	Parents and carers of children in 4P

Caption Competition

Each week we will publish a picture (such as the 'star' 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. It was really hard to choose a winner for last week's



competition (the cake bowl) as the number and standard of entries was particularly good - the ladies in the office were giggling for ages - but eventually the winner chosen was Taylor Netherwood-Meek with "I know I left my spoon somewhere"

A: They we're tied!