

WESSEX WEEKLY

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Q: Why did cavemen draw pictures of hippopotamuses and rhinoceroses on their walls?



Gardening Club (and other helpers) planting the orchard on Monday

This week:

PTA Dinner/Disco reminder, New Spring Menu from Harrisons, event and term dates, caption competition and more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:

3760KWh of Electricity Produced

2143Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



This week our gardening club enjoyed planting our new orchard funded by the donations received during our Harvest Festival celebrations in the Autumn term. We have planted apples, pears, plums and cherries, and really look forward to harvesting their fruit in the years to come.

Our Foundation Stage children have taken part in 'Multicultural Fortnight' during which they have learned about life and customs from many different countries around the world. They learned songs and words from other languages, cooked and tasted new foods, made models, painted flags, created jewellery and much, much more. These practically based learning opportunities were enriched by visitors and helpers who spared the time to share their own experiences from other cultures, including both staff members and parents. Just yesterday morning I joined a group of Nursery children who were learning to count to 10 in Swahili as they helped to read a story from Tanzania! Many thanks to the staff who planned the activities for our Nursery and Reception children, as well as those staff and parents who brought such vivid experiences to life!

On Wednesday and Thursday, I had the pleasure of attending the Borough School's Dance Festival at the Magnet Leisure Centre in which Wessex was represented, along with 23 other schools. Two main things came to mind as I enjoyed the performances. Firstly, I was overwhelmingly proud of our children for their performance, confidence, maturity and enthusiasm. Blue class performed a musical 'number' and all handled their top hats beautifully. 5D performed a WWII inspired dance which was both poignant and a celebration of their learning. Jack Armstrong (Y6) represented Wessex as a member of the Junior Dance Company and performed two dances. Secondly, I was bowled over by the way our children behaved, and on occasions such as these, when you can compare groups of children in the same setting, it reinforced how brilliant our children really are. There are many people to thank, including the staff and parents who accompanied the children, but I would especially like to thank Mrs Town and Mrs Dawson for the effort they put in to such a successful occasion. I know from the parents who attended that I am not alone in my feelings of pride. Well done children!

A couple of reminders as we lead into the half term break:

If your children are taking part in any 'out of school' or extra curricular activities, please check before taking photographs. As I am sure you are aware, safeguarding children in all contexts is of utmost importance and we want to ensure the safety of all our children. This can be frustrating for all at times but continues to be very important. Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns in this area.

We have recently had the plant borders and shrubbery 'mulched' outside school, particularly around the main entrance. Please encourage your children to keep off the planted areas to give our Spring bulbs (is it Spring already?) a fighting chance.

Litter – there's far too much of it! The Eco-club members and I will be making a concerted effort next term to reduce the amount of litter we have around school. Sweet wrappers, drinks bottles, drinks cartons and discarded fruit all have a place, not on the floor, either in or near school! Our environment is important to you and your children as well as everyone else at or around Wessex, so please make sure they learn the lesson from parents as well as teachers!

Thank you all for your continued support this term – If you haven't yet completed a questionnaire, please download it from our website. 200 returns so far.....

Have a good half term!

Nick Stevens

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Are you the Owner of Car Registration RK02KPJ?

We have had a complaint from one of our neighbours about parents parking in St Adrians Close on the pavement. PLEASE DON'T. We want to support our local neighbours and parking on the pavement (and across their drives) is not acceptable. The driver of the above vehicle was reportedly verbally rude to one of our neighbours when asked to move her car. This is unreasonable and more importantly not a good example to your children. Please park round the corner or at the shops – not only will this give you a bit of exercise but it will enable you to teach your children how to cross the road safely by using the zebra crossing. Thank you for your support. I will be circulating this copy of the newsletter to local residents to reassure them we are doing all we can to tackle persistent offenders!



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 the 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.

New Menus

Harrisons have produced a new menu which will start immediately after the holiday. Your child was given a copy to bring home earlier this week – please look in their book bag if you have not yet seen it. The menu can also be found on our website. The cost of meals remains the same at just £2.10 for two courses.

Breakfast Club

A reminder to parents that we run a Breakfast Club daily in term time from 8am.



Children are able to eat a healthy breakfast (cereal, toast, yoghurt, juice and fruit are all available) and we sometimes run a special/seasonal breakfast with goodies like hot crossed buns or pancakes! A number of activities are available for the children to enjoy, including a Wii (no-one can beat Mrs Vee on the tennis!!). Breakfast Club costs £3 per day and booking forms are available from the letter tree outside the school office.

TALKING HOMEWORK

Nelson Mandela was released 20 years ago. Who is he, and why is he important?

THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE

The answer is ...always. What could the question be?

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)
- Maidenhead Advertiser Cask for Schools vouchers, Flora tokens and Nestle Box Tops tokens.



Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
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 and would ask you to think of an apt/funny/appropriate caption. This week we would like you to suggest what words might have been on the banner carried by Alice for the House Netball competition. 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 for last week's

competition (the star) was Samantha Clarke with "The flea circus attracted a small crowd".

A: Because they couldn't spell their names!

Have a great half term holiday!!!