



WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Spring Term - 13th January 2023 (Issue 16)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Belated Happy New Year! It is wonderful to be back in school and see how well the children have settled following the Christmas break. Thank you so much for supporting the children with their holiday home learning. The quality of work brought in is very impressive.



Maximising learning - Official start of school day moving from 9:00 to 8:50

Thank you for adapting so quickly to our earlier start time. I am particularly impressed with Y1, so many are in school ready to begin their morning learning at 8:40. Please do aim to get your child in for 8:40 and definitely by 8:50!

Parent Questionnaire

I have sent a safeguarding questionnaire out today via school PING. Please do spend a few moments responding. It is very important that we have your input to ensure school improvement.

Safeguarding : Social Media and Mental Health

Social media is often scrutinised as having a negative impact on children's mental health. Children and young people are now growing up in a technology dominated world, and social media plays a major role in their social lives. This balanced guide focuses on both the positive and negative impacts that social media can bring to young people and their mental health. In this guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as mental wellbeing, addiction and cyberbullying. The guide will be sent out as an attachment with this week's Newsletter.

Thank you

On a personal note, I would like to express how touched I have been with all the messages of condolences and support.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Alexander Banks
Headteacher



SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

15.01.2023	Final day to apply online for admission To Reception class for September 2023
16.01.2023	Dance club starts
16.01.2023	Football club starts Y1, 2 & 3
17.01.2023	Football club starts Y4, 5 & 6
18.01.2023	Gymnastics club starts Y3 & 4
13-20.02.2023	School closed half term holiday
21.02.2023	School and Nursery reopens

TERM DATES 2022/2023

SPRING TERM 2023

FIRST HALF:	Wednesday 4 th January – Friday 10 th February
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 13 th February – Monday 20 th February
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 21 st February – Friday 31 st March

SUMMER TERM 2023

FIRST HALF:	Monday 17 th April – Friday 26 th May
MAY DAY:	Monday 1 st May
KING'S CORONATION	Monday 8 th May
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 29 th May – Monday 5 th June
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 6 th June – Friday 21 st July

TERM DATES 2023-2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

FIRST HALF:	Wednesday 6 th September – Friday 20 th October
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 23 rd October – Friday 27 th October
SECOND HALF:	Monday 30 th October – Wednesday 20 th December

SPRING TERM 2024

FIRST HALF:	Monday 8 th January – Friday 9 th February
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 12 th February – Monday 19 th February
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 20 th February – Thursday 28 th March

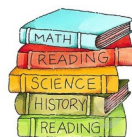
SUMMER TERM 2024

FIRST HALF:	Monday 15 th April – Friday 24 th May
MAY DAY:	Monday 6 th May
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 27 th May – Monday 3 rd June
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 4 th June – Wednesday 24 th July

Letters home this week

Y1-3	Football Club
Y3-6	Dance Club
Y4-6	Football Club
Y3-4	Gymnastics Club
Nurs-Y6	Safeguarding Questionnaire





TEA WITH THE HEAD



Nursery

This week we have been continuing to focus on the traditional tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have enjoyed pretending to be different story characters acting out a sequence of events with props. We had sooo much fun exploring speaking like Goldilocks, Baby Bear, Mummy Bear and Daddy Bear. We are demonstrating a good understanding of the repetitive language in the story. The highlight of our week was making some delicious porridge for Goldilocks (and ourselves, of course) which was "just right!" In our outdoor play area, we worked very well as a team to make the three bears cottage using different materials. Some of us chose to draw pictures of our models. Please continue to support your child with completing their home learning activities. We would love to receive some more examples of home learning to add to our classroom display. Please continue to check Tapestry regularly to view your child's progress and latest achievements. The Nursery Team.

Reception

What a week full of adventures! We started reading our Power of Reading text, Stanley's Stick. We have made predictions, safety posters, drew with charcoal and discussed new vocabulary. In maths, we have been exploring equal and unequal groups. On Wednesday it was VERY windy outside so we decided to make kites and fly them. Two of our kites flew away! Please remember our swimming day is Thursday and to read DAILY on Bug Club to support your child with their reading and phonics learning.

Year 1

It has been a brilliant week of learning in Year 1. We learnt all about some 3D and 2D shapes in maths. We even had fun making different patterns with these shapes. Next week we move on to place value (within 20).

In English, we have been having fun with our Power of Reading text which is Patten's Pumpkin. We have been learning to talk about illustrations and the thoughts and feelings of characters in the story. We also did some role playing, which was a lot of fun and laughter. We learnt how to write in speech and thought bubbles.

In science we got to learn all about the four seasons and what happens to deciduous trees during each season. We even got to draw our own trees. In PSHE, we learnt that sometimes it is good to talk to an adult about our feelings and what is on our mind to help us feel better. We know some things to do to self regulate and we also learnt that sometimes we need to ask for help.

Year 2

Year 2 Redwood and Palm have made a great start to the spring term. In maths, the children have been learning to use coins and notes to make different sums of money. In English, we are developing our non-fiction style of writing as we learn more about fishing communities; this is linked to our topic 'Coastline'. In geography, children have used cardinal points for direction between coastal towns. The children have made a fantastic start to this term's PE topic 'Striking Games' with tennis being the focus sport. The first couple of lessons will help children develop their hand-eye coordination skills. Our fantastic science topic is all about materials and their properties. The children have already been on an exploration walk around school to identify natural and man-made materials to immerse them into this topic. In RE, Year 2 are learning about Losar, a Buddhist New Year celebration. In all lessons, the children are making links and finding commonality between religions. In PHSE, children have deepened their understanding of how to stay safe at home and online.

Year 3 & 4

What a wonderful week we have had! Our Topic has got off to a flying start as we got the opportunity to be geologists, testing samples of rock to find out if they were Igneous, Sedimentary or Metamorphic. The children loved the active nature of the lesson and worked supportively and collaboratively with one another. We look forward to continuing this form of active learning in the coming weeks. In English, we have begun reading, discussing and responding to, the Iron Man by Ted Hughes. The children are hooked and can not wait to learn more about the mystery surrounding the Iron Man's character. In other news, we have begun our new maths topics. Year 4 were investigating factor pairs, while Year 3 were exploring multiples of 10. Please encourage your children to practice their times tables at home. You can make it fun for them by using playing or listening to some fun songs. Thank you for your continued support - wishing you a peaceful weekend!

Year 5

Year 5 have been continuing their power of reading work in English. This week pupils have developed their own questions about what they would like to know about Kenya, and researched the answers. For example, what is the cuisine enjoyed in Kenya. In maths, Year 5 have moved on to subtracting fractions, including subtracting across the whole. In science, pupils learned about the Solar System, and tried to come up with a mnemonic in order to memorise the order of the planets. Sow, grow and farm is the name of this term's geography topic. Pupils started the topic with learning about the different types of farming that is done in the UK.

Year 6

From virtual expeditions to the Poles to complicated fractions, Year 6 have been working very hard on their learning this week. We have been learning about Sir Ernest Shackleton and his remarkable journey to Antarctica. The children have used their imagination and written excellent job applications to join his crew. We also had a wonderful visitor from GAV (Growing Against Violence) come to our classes and teach us about gangs and how to be safe on the streets. We are looking forward to another week of fun-filled learning.

The children invited to Tea with the Head were:

Maple	Chloe
Chestnut	Arifah
Palm	Ryan
Redwood	Talia
Cedar	Sophie
Hawthorn	Cain
Hazel	Hamdan
Acacia	Jed
Sycamore	Dennis
Mahogany	Saba
Magnolia	Kyrah

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Izzy, Chestnut class
Qudos, Maple class
Abdulo, Palm class
Aisha, Redwood class

Certificate of Merit

Nikki, Cedar class
Jannah K, Hazel class
Hussain, Hawthorn class
Saraa and Aris, Acacia class
Livia, Sycamore class
Camelia and Philip, Mahogany class
Ibby, Magnolia class

Reader of the Week

Victoria, Chestnut class
Samar, Maple class
Mia, Palm class
Samuel, Redwood class
Sam, Cedar class
Sumiya, Hazel class
Denis, Hawthorn class
Abokor, Sycamore class
Ivaylo, Mahogany class

Well done!