



Wessex Weekly

NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd January 2026

Year 3 and 4 pupils taking part in a speedstacking festival at Altwood School

Dear Parents and Carers



This week's newsletter has some important information including updates about the new Ofsted inspection framework, the impact of mobile phones on young people and information about a speed stacking festival.

You may have seen in the news that **Ofsted** has changed the way it inspects schools, with a new framework that looks very different from the old one. I thought it would be useful to share some information about the new inspection framework.

Ofsted has changed the way it inspects schools. The new inspection framework looks very different from the old one – schools are judged in new areas, and the grading system has changed too. Because of this, the old style of reports and the new ones can't really be compared. You will notice that inspection results look different simply because the whole system has changed.

We know our school will have an inspection under this new framework. When it happens, the report will be based on the new rules and new grading system. We wanted to share this with families so everyone understands any future report will look different to older ones.

If you'd like to learn more, Ofsted has made a short video for parents explaining the changes.

Mrs Cooke, Mrs Patrick and Miss Mahmood took a group of pupils from Year 3 and 4 to a **Speed Stacking festival**. Speed Stacking is a brilliant sports which is accessible to any age child. Children loved learning how to stack and cups in the correct order and practised getting quicker and quicker. You can buy a set of cups relatively cheaply and there are youtube tutorials for how to get started. We may be looking to start a speedstacking club in the near future if there is enough appetite for it.

Over the past two weeks, the movement to ban **social media for under 16s** has gathered pace and the House of Lords, this week, voted to amend the Children's Wellbeing and School's Bill to include a ban on under 16s using social media. This is a big step and now the House of Commons will vote again on whether or not to include this in the final Bill.

Whatever the outcome, it's clear that screens and phones can have a hugely detrimental impact on children's learning.

Just this week, the Telegraph published an article explaining that parents of under 5s will be given guidance about the amount of **screen time** children should have due to the significant impact it has on children's development. This was following the publication of a report commissioned by the government earlier this month.

The number of arguments and friendship difficulties caused by **mobile phone** chats is increasing each year. The negative impact on children's mental health due to such situations is also increasing. We know the attention span of children is becoming less and less due to reels, threads and short videos lasting but a few seconds. Yet we see more and more children with phones at school and reporting endless hours on screens in the evenings. Technology is such a powerful tool - and your children will need to harness this power in their working lives.

However, endless hours on screens is causing so many difficulties for children today. Schools are seeing more children starting school with fewer of the necessary skills to succeed, a much more limited vocabulary and showing signs of behavioural or emotional difficulties.

We urge you to consider the amount of screen time and phone ownership as a result of reading this. The Children's Commissioner has put together a really useful pack of resources for parents relating to screen time.

Mr Beavan

Quotes of the week

"I enjoyed the Speed Stacking Festival because we built a big tower with cups. I liked seeing how long it took to build the tower, my high score was 2 seconds for a 6 stack," Harry, Year 4

"I liked the relay races at the Speed Stacking Festival because we had to try to get there the fastest," Harriet, Year 4

"I liked Art this week as we drew really cool aliens" Ella, Year 1

"In English we are doing a news report about the volcano erupting in Pompeii" Leo, Year 6

"I liked Maths this week, we have been counting in 1s and 10s" Hunter, Year 4

"My magical moment this week has been making a carousel in DT" Medi, Year 2

"I have enjoyed the pre-sat tests this week" Oliver, Year 6

"I have enjoyed writing this week, since we were using emotive language" Harlow, Year 6



Diary dates coming up



Wednesday 4th February

Y1 to Y6 - Share my Learning - 2.45pm to 3.15pm

Thursday 5th February

Y1 Assembly to Parents & Guardians - 9am (upper school hall)

Thursday 12th February

Y5 Assembly to Parents & Guardians - 9am (upper school hall)

Thursday 12th February

Larch class - Primary Dance Festival at Braywick Leisure Centre

Friday 13th February

Last day of Term 4 - 3.20pm finish

Good News Certificates

GOOD NEWS

FS2: Marko and Henry

Year 1: Muhummed and Jude

Year 2: Jessica R and Rio

Year 3: Aiza and Zannah

Year 4: Aadriti and Ash

Year 5: Scott and Teegan

Year 6: Kiwi and Johar

Attendance

Lower School: Cherry winners with 99%

Upper School: Pine winners with 98%

School attendance this week

94.7%



Last week = 94.6%
Last year average = 94.9%

Aiming for 97%

School Values



This week our assembly explored the British Value of mutual respect. We talked about rivalries in school, such as in sports or friendly class competitions, and how we can still be kind even when we want to win. The children learned the difference between negative rivalry behaviours and positive ones like congratulating others and valuing everyone's effort. We finished by thinking of someone we sometimes compete with and reflecting on how we can show them respect this week.

Parent governor vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for the position of Parent Governor. The Governing Body is responsible for directing the school and promoting high standards of educational achievement.

To strengthen and diversify our Governing Body, we would particularly like new governors to have experience or interest in Health & Safety or GDPR & Data.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Wessex Governing Body, please contact clerk@wessexprimary.org to arrange to meet with the Chair to find out more. Official nominations and possible election will follow - expressing interest does not commit you to these!

SENCO email account

A short reminder that the senco email account is no longer active. Therefore, should you wish to be in contact with Miss Mendonça, our Interim SENDCo, please email the office and they will forward your email to her and the class teacher who will be in contact with you.

Character Curriculum

This week we have focused on how to interrupt someone politely. Children learned to check whether a person can be interrupted, then wait for a natural pause before speaking. We have practised saying "Excuse me" and using someone's name, as well as waiting for eye contact rather than tapping or poking. These small habits help build a respectful and calm school community.

How to interrupt someone talking



- See what they are doing if they can be interrupted
- Wait until they have finished talking / there is a gap in their conversation
- Say excuse me and use their name, "Excuse me, Mr Beavan"
- Wait for them to look at you
- Don't tap people



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride



PANTS *productions presents*
SPINDERELLA

Disclaimer: it won't be as good as this poster.

Family shows 14.30 Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February. Adults £7 and Children £4
16+ performance 19.30 Saturday 7th. All tickets £8.50

Tickets are available from the Community Centre Office
manager@coxgreen.org.uk | 01628 636715

Book early to avoid disappointment.