



Dear Parents and Carers



We've had another week of fabulous OPAL play this week with children enjoying using painted cable reels as part of their play. Huge thanks to Mrs Ashby and Ms Adams for their work on these. They look marvellous!

You will have received a message about us renewing our photo permissions. The reason for this is that previously, we had so many categories of permission - newsletter, website, displays around school, newspapers and so on. Nowadays nearly everything is available online so we are asking parents to refresh their permissions for using children's photos. We need a simple yes or no to using your child's photo for any related school business - mainly in the newsletter/marketing products. Please can you complete the [very short one question survey](#) stating your permission. Thank you to those parents and carers who have completed this already.

Parenting Special Children are offering a free online workshop for parents and carers of autistic and ADHD children who find sleep challenging.

The session will help parents better understand children's sleep needs, why settling and night waking can be difficult, and practical strategies to support children to fall asleep and stay asleep, with a strong focus on reducing stress for families. The session is online, via zoom so accessible to everyone. It's on Tuesday 9th June, 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm and can be accessed for free.

Further details and booking information can be found [here](#).

Last term, 10 of our Year 6 children proudly represented the school in the UKMT Primary Kangaroo Maths Challenge. This national competition is designed to stretch pupils' mathematical thinking, encouraging them to apply logic, reasoning, and problem-solving skills to a wide range of difficult, engaging and sometimes unfamiliar questions.

The children approached the challenge with focus and determination, showing excellent perseverance as they worked through problems that tested both their accuracy and creativity in maths. Taking part in such a demanding competition is a fantastic achievement in itself, and we are extremely proud of the confidence, effort, and positive attitudes shown by all involved. Children involved in the competition were: Aleena, Aanya, Arran, Ariella, Summer, Lexi, Freda, Ayman, Emaan and Daisy. Well done to everyone for rising to the challenge and for representing our school with fantastic results, we are so proud of you!

Mr Beavan

Quotes of the week

"I enjoyed this week because the teachers made it fun"
Jessie, Reception

"I like the climbing frames because they are lots of fun to play on in OPAL" Medina, Reception

"I like reading and playing with the books during lunch"
Celestin, Year 1

"My favourite part of OPAL is that you are allowed to go to upper and lower school. I can play with different friends and use different pieces of equipment" Jessica, Year 2

"I think OPAL is great as now it is in the 2nd week there are more things to play with" Jamie, Year 4

"I showed the positivity value by getting my maths homework done before the register" Harry, Year 4

"I showed the positivity value as I was struggling but tried very hard and got all the questions right" Oli, year 6

"What I like about OPAL is the chalk and chalkboard because you get to be creative" Zayena, Year 6

Diary dates coming up



Monday 27th April
Y5 Wonder Dome Planetarium at Wessex

Monday 4th May
BANK HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

Monday 11th May to Friday 15th May
Y6 SATs week

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May
Walk to School Week

Friday 22nd May
Last Day of Term 5 - 3.20pm finish

Good News Certificates



FS2: Aaryan and Ethan M

Year 1: Zulfi and Alex

Year 2: Aiden and Sophie

Year 3: Samira and Abdil

Year 4: Ellis and Louise

Year 5: Anaya and Malik

Year 6: Lexi and Khadijah

Attendance

Lower School: Cherry winners with 98.1%

Upper School: Yew winners with 98.7%

School attendance this week

94.6%



Last year average = 95%

Aiming for 97%

School Values



Assembly this week had an OPAL focus where Mrs Pope and Mrs Patrick talked through the successes of OPAL so far after our first week and also took ideas from children about what could come next and how we could innovate further what we currently offer. Mrs Pope introduced wonderful painted cable reels for the children to use at lunchtime along with 45 little

figures / toys which can be used for role play. We are so proud to say that NONE of them have been lost yet! Well done everyone!

Mrs Pope emphasised happy and safe play during the assembly and shared that we were looking for children to demonstrate all of our values this week. We are pleased to see that children have risen to the challenge!

Challenge Partners

Speaking of challenge, as part of our school improvement journey, we have joined an organisation called Challenge Partners. This is a national network of schools that work together to share good practice and support school improvement. Schools take part in peer reviews, where experienced school leaders visit each other's schools to offer constructive feedback, celebrate strengths and suggest areas for development. This helps schools continue to improve by learning from what works well elsewhere, all with a strong focus on improving outcomes for children.

Myself, Mrs Pope and Mrs Corbett have all been visiting other schools conducting reviews in the past few weeks. In turn, we welcome a review team to our school at the end of this term. The process has allowed us to reflect on what we do at Wessex and bring fresh ideas back to school.

