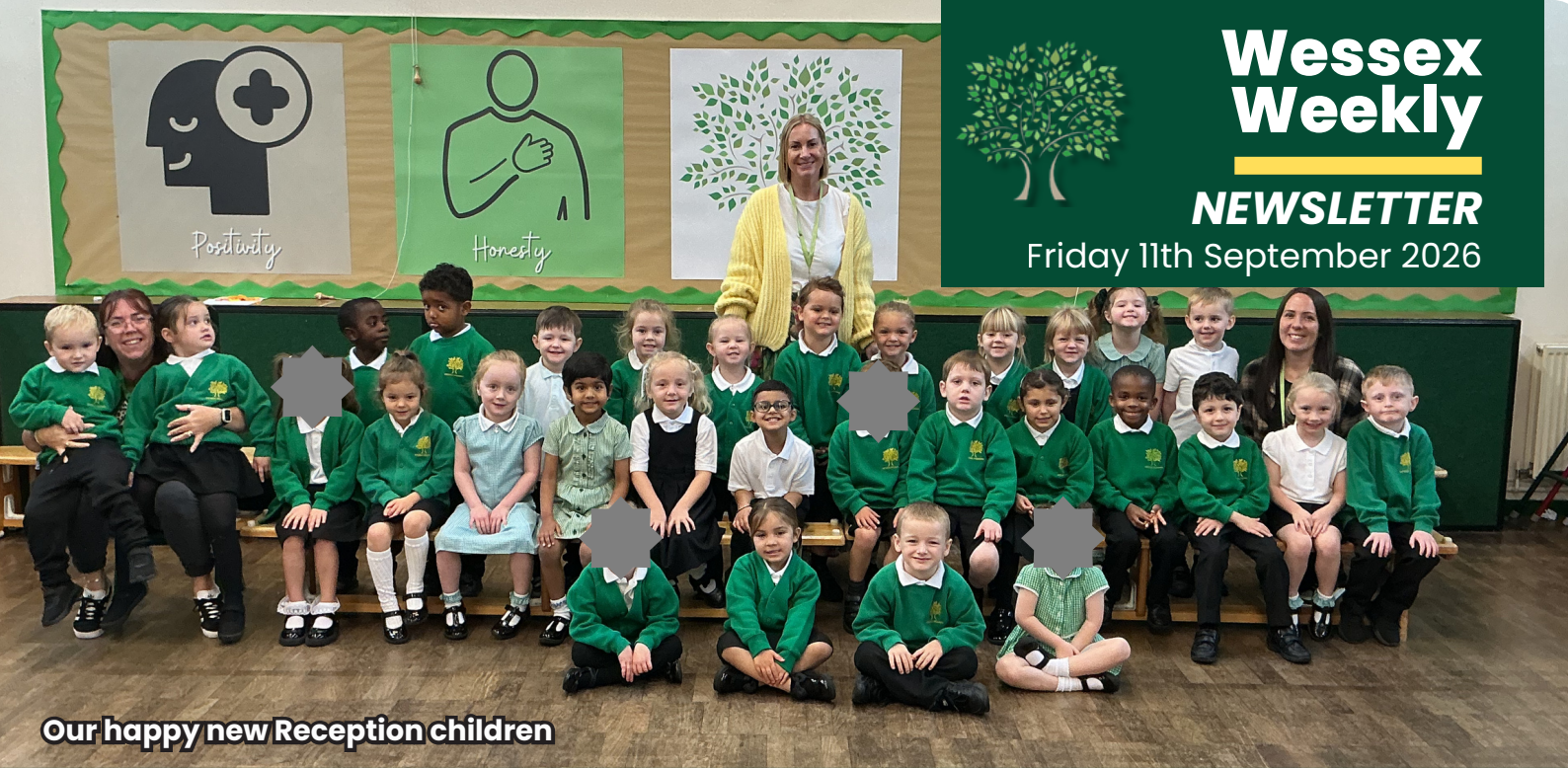




Our happy new Reception children

Dear Parents and Carers



Our first full week is coming to an end and we are all very quickly getting into the swing of things. It is so wonderful to walk around school and see pupils taking pride in their learning with very precise presentation in their books.

A few Headteacher golden stickers have also been given out already this year! Children have all been working incredibly hard to impress at the start of the year.

You will probably be reading this after the PTA Welcome Back BBQ this afternoon. Inflatables, stalls, drinks, snacks and the popular BBQ meant that this year's event set the right tone for families to catch up, share stories from the summer and also raise some funds for the PTA. Thank you to Faye, Mairi and the wider PTA team as ever, for their dedication and drive to help events like these succeed. Later this term, there will be a meeting to discuss plans going forward this year and recruit more people to the PTA.

Thank you to parents and children who attended, staff who stayed late and helped on a Friday after school, the office team and Mr Dalziel for their support in setting things up and making sure everything runs smoothly.

We need to celebrate the children in Reception Class who have attended for the whole day today after increasing their time at school over the past few days. Mrs Corbett and the team are really pleased with how all children have settled in to school life and how they are already following our expectations. Parents and carers of reception attended their curriculum meeting this morning where Mrs Corbett shared key information about children's learning and had the opportunity to share the positives from their children's transition to school. Thank you for your contributions.

Some staffing news for you: during the summer break, Mrs Conlon informed us that she had been diagnosed with cancer and therefore we will not be seeing Mrs Conlon in her teaching capacity while she undergoes treatment. Following a recruitment process, I am very pleased to welcome Mrs Cameron, who will teach Lime Class from next week.

Mrs Cameron has been in school this week getting to know the school and children. I know you will join me in wishing Mrs Conlon all the very best as she undergoes treatment and welcoming Mrs Cameron to the Wessex team.

Pupils in Year 6 currently have the opportunity to apply for leadership roles in the school. These include being House Captains, members of the Junior Leadership Team, Growth Mindset Ambassadors, Sports Leaders and Active 60 Ambassadors. Pupils have been writing their applications before Mrs Oliva and Mrs Cox interview pupils as part of their recruitment. We hope that this experience provides pupils with some exposure to the world of applying - and interviewing for jobs - in the world of work. Good luck to everyone applying. We know there will be some difficult decisions to be made.

Similarly, pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 can apply to become OPAL Play Detectives. OPAL Play Detectives help make playtimes fun, safe and enjoyable by sharing play news, checking equipment, promoting safety and recognising positive play. They are role models who help improve outdoor play by encouraging teamwork, responsibility and good behaviour across the school. Application forms are available from today and should be returned to class teachers on Friday 18th September. Good luck to everyone applying! For more OPAL updates and news, please see page 2.

Mr Beavan

Quotes of the week

"Art is my absolute favourite subject. This week we drew pictures of animals using pencils which we then went over with fine liners"
Keya, Year 3

"I liked PSHE this week, we worked together to come up with ideas of what a nightmare school would like, we drew ideas on a big piece of paper. We are all really pleased that Wessex is not like this"
Victoria, Year 4

"I love the den building, there is always so much to play with, it is so much fun"
Jackson, Year 5

"OPAL is lots of fun because we communicate with other children from all year groups"
Maddison Year 6

Diary dates coming up



Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd October
Individual and Sibling Photographs

Monday 19th October
Childhood National Flu Immunisations
Programme Reception to Year 6 – more details to follow

Thursday 22nd October
Last day of Term 1 – 3.20pm Finish

Friday 23rd October
INSET DAY – NO SCHOOL

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October
HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 2nd November
Start of Term 2 – Autumn Term
8.45am – 8.55am start

Good News Certificates



Year 1: Dexter

Year 2: Ruby SJ and Bella

Year 3: Dylan and Adam

Year 4: Louie and Lily

Year 5: Charlie Wh and Elijah

Year 6: Alessia and Demi-Lea

Attendance

Lower School: Chestnut class winners with 98%

Upper School: Hazel & Lime class joint winners with 100%

School attendance this week

95%



Last week = 91.1%
Last year average = 95%
Aiming for 97%

School Values



Our first Monday assembly of the school year focused on the opportunities that lie ahead. Using the image of an open door, we discussed how opportunities are often presented to us, but we need to be willing to step through the door and make the most of them.

We explored the many opportunities available this term, including our extra-curricular clubs, and were delighted to welcome Debbie from Little Tanks Drama, who shared what pupils can expect from her after-school club. As we begin the new academic year, we encouraged the children to look out for opportunities to learn, participate, help others and enjoy new experiences throughout the week.

OPAL updates

Last week, children were reminded in their classes about the key features of our OPAL play provision, including the different play opportunities available, where the play zones are located and how they can enjoy happy and safe play while demonstrating our school values.

Last Friday, Mrs Pope and Mrs Patrick launched water play in Zone 3, alongside a stage area with music played through a digital radio tuned to a children's station. These new additions have been thoroughly enjoyed and have inspired lots of imaginative performances on the stage. We have been particularly impressed with the children who have engaged with the water play, demonstrating excellent problem-solving, cooperation and teamwork skills.

Today, we introduced three new doll houses and launched tyre play as part of our OPAL provision. During the OPAL assembly, the children shared ideas for how they could use the tyres in their play, and we talked about maintaining a happy and safe environment for all. The children enjoyed exploring these new additions and we look forward to sharing a more detailed update on tyre play in next week's newsletter.

A reminder that children are welcome to bring named wellies and waterproofs from home to support all-weather play. We do have some spare wellies and waterproofs available in school for children who need them.

Homework changes

In the welcome meetings held this week, you will have heard about our revised approach to home learning. Rather than homework being predominantly screen-based, we have returned to homework books. Most year groups will receive a weekly maths task, English task and spellings. Pupils learning phonics will continue to receive links to support their reading, while pupils in Years 5 and 6 may receive slightly extended tasks to help prepare them for secondary school.

We have made this change to reduce screen time and encourage children to develop their independence, handwriting and presentation skills. We appreciate your support with this approach.

Talent Show

This week, we received confirmation from the Maidenhead Lions that their local talent show will be held on Saturday 28th November at 1pm. We have taken part since the event began and it is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to showcase their talents. To select the two acts we can put forward, we will hold our own Wessex Talent Show towards the end of this term. Start thinking and practising now, as Mrs Eves and Mrs Ashby will be asking for names and act details over the coming weeks. Good luck!



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride



Play Detective Role



OPAL Play Detectives

Our Play Detectives help make lunchtimes fun, safe and exciting for everyone. They have important jobs to support outdoor play, which is happy and safe.

Communicators

- Share OPAL news through announcements and signs.
- Help create displays for the OPAL board.
- Take photos and write short reports about playtime.
- Help with assemblies by informing others about new play ideas.
- Show good play behaviour, including playing in all weather and following playground rules.

Weather Checkers

- Check the weather each day.
- Help decide which play equipment can be used (for example, what can get wet and what needs to stay dry).

Loose Parts Organisers

- Check items are still safe to use.
- Recycle or remove broken items (for example, damaged cardboard).

Safety Helpers

- With an adult, check new play items before they are used.
- Look for anything unsafe, such as sharp edges or broken parts.
- Help think about risks and how to keep everyone safe.

OPAL Award Presenters

- Look out for children showing great play each day.
- Choose and present awards such as:
 - *Most Creative Play*
 - *Best Tidying Up*
- Celebrate positive behaviour and teamwork during assemblies or class time.

The play detective role is available for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 so if you would like to be a play detective, you need to apply for the role.





What next?

If you are interested in becoming a play detective, then you need to write and let Mrs Patrick know:

- Why you want to be a play detective?
- What qualities you have for the role?
- Don't forget to write your name and class on your application - you can ask an adult at home to help you
- All applications need to be completed and handed to your class teacher no later than **FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER at 9am.**
- Mrs Patrick and Mrs Pope will read all applications and decide which children they are choosing. If there are a lot of applications Mrs Patrick and Mrs Pope may have a meeting with you to help them make their decision.



Date:

Monday 7th September to
Monday 7th December

Animation Expressions

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Where Imagination
Becomes Animation.

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SCHOOL**

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3.20pm-4.20pm
13 sessions**

**Price £110.50
15 spaces**

Years- Year 3,4,5,6

**CREATE
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HAVE FUN!**

For bookings and more information, please email:

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Wessex Primary School

Building Confidence & Well
Being through Drama

Little Tanks drama club is enrichment for your child as it aims to develop children's confidence and well-being. Throughout the term the children will partake in games and activities that will be fun, exciting and engaging. We believe that by embedding your child's resilience it will give them a more positive approach to developing their strengths even further. Work on an end of term show to share with parents during the last session.

Autumn Term 2026

15th of September – 8th of December*
(excluding half term & parents evening – 27th of October & 17th of November)

Years: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

Day: Tuesday

Time: 3.25 - 4.25pm

Venue: Upper School Hall

Cost: £90.00

To avoid disappointment please complete your form and fee as soon as possible as there are only 20 spaces per course. We work on a first come first serve basis once the payment & online form has been received

*Please note these dates are subject to change

Contact Us

Phone: 07977220965

E-mail: debi@littletanks.co.uk

Website: www.littletanks.co.uk

Please [click here](#) to complete the registration form online and make the payment to secure your child's space.

Spaces are only allocated on receipt of both the form and fee

Payment Details

Account Name: Little Tanks Ltd

Account Number: 99493876

Sort Code: 60-83-71

Cost: £90.00

Reference: WS + your child's name



**MAIDENHEAD
UNITED**
IN THE
COMMUNITY



WESSEX

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS



YEARS 1-6
GIRLS FOOTBALL



EVERY WEDNESDAY
3.30 - 4.30PM



YEARS 1-6
DODGEBALL



EVERY THURSDAY
3.30 - 4.30PM



START DATE: W/C 7TH SEPTEMBER

END DATE: W/C 7TH DECEMBER

NOTE: EXCLUDES OCTOBER HALF TERM

Maidenhead United in the Community are running afterschool clubs at Wessex for boys and girls, starting again in September, through to December, excluding October half term.

These sessions will focus on developing ability, confidence and skill in a fun environment and will be run by FA qualified coaches.



**PROUD TO WORK
WITH WESSEX**

**SCAN TO BOOK
AND FIND OUT MORE**



POWERED BY PEMBEE



FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND BOOKING, PLEASE CONTACT:
mark.nisbet@maidenheadunitedfc.org

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"JUDO ISN'T JUST A SPORT—
IT'S **A PATH** TO INNER SELF
BELIEF, CONFIDENCE AND RESILIENCE."

Contact us to sign up.
Spaces are **Limited to 25.**



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Every **Tuesday** from
8.00am-8.45am @ Wessex Primary School
Start date: **Tuesday 15th September**



Open to KS2 pupils.

£110 a term (11 weeks)
(free kit hire included)



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BJA Level 2 coach.
GBR Int. Judoka.
2nd Degree Black Belt.
15+ Years Competitive
Experience.
Diploma in Sporting
Excellence.

柔道

BRITISH
JUDO





iPro Football COACHING



BOYS' ONLY
Wednesday After School Football Club @ Wessex Primary School

iPro Football will be holding an After School Football Club at your school during the Autumn Term.

Contact: Office 07908 172175 Email: office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk

Guided by our team of our fully qualified professional coaches, the course will work on developing players skills as well as having small sided matches, competitions and fun for all!

Day & Time	Wednesday – 3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Course Duration (12 sessions)	Wednesday 16th September – Wednesday 9th December 2026 (Exc Wednesday 28th October - Half Term)
BACS Payment: Sort Code 09 01 29 Account Number 32421826 Account name: iPro Football Coaching Ltd Forms to be completed and emailed to office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk.	£96.00 – 12x Sessions NO forms or payment to be returned to the School Office
Age Groups	Open to boys in Years 1 - 6 Children will be grouped as follows: Group 1 – KS1 Group 2 – KS2 Minimum number 10 – Maximum 15 per group
Kit Required	Boots/Trainers/Shin pads/Drink & Weather Appropriate clothing.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. To secure your place, please complete the attached form and email it to office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk. This course is **non refundable** however a credit note may be issued for use on a course at a later date.
If you require any further information, please contact the iPro Football Coaching office using above details.

IPRO FRIDAY ADVANCED TRAINING CENTRE

Outfield Players & Specialist GK Section – Limited places

Development and Advanced sessions running weekly for talented grassroots club players in addition to all local club football.

For further info & to book your FREE trial please contact

BIRTHDAY PARTIES!

Are you football mad?

Would you like to enjoy a football birthday party with your favourite iPro coach?

If so please contact Office Manager, Julie Adams,
office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk

****Please Complete in Block Capitals****

Wessex – Autumn 26

Child's Name _____ DOB _____ Year Group _____

Home Address _____ Postcode _____

Payment method (please tick) BACS []

Email address _____

(Please provide us with a clear email address so we can keep you up to date with everything iPro)

Emergency contact name _____ Mobile No. _____

Medical conditions _____

(Children attending who require Epi pens must have written letter of consent to allow our staff to administer treatment. In the unlikely event that your child should need first aid and /or be transferred to hospital, by signing this form you give permission for our staff to do so. You also confirm that all relevant medical conditions have been disclosed). I understand and accept that whilst reasonable care will be taken, neither 'iPro Football coaching', not any personnel authorised by it, not the school or facility at which the course is being held, will be held responsible for any loss or injury suffered by, or to the applicant, howsoever caused.

Signed _____

(Parent/Guardian) Date: _____

iPro Football reserves the right to take promotional photographs and images of any of our coaching courses. These images will only be used to promote and advertise recognised iPro Football events. If you do not wish your child to appear in any iPro Football literature please tick this box []



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