



Year 6 pupils enjoying OPAL resources

Dear Parents and Carers



It has been a great week at Wessex this week with lots of clubs starting alongside instrumental lessons for those who have chosen to play an instrument as well as pupils getting into their learning.

On Wednesday, pupils took part in the national 10@10 School Workout to celebrate National Fitness Day. Classes across the school joined thousands of children nationwide in a fun and energetic workout thanks to Leisure Focus, promoting the importance of keeping active and looking after our physical wellbeing.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and showed great enthusiasm as they exercised together. It was a fantastic opportunity to highlight the benefits of healthy lifestyles and helping our children to get 60 active minutes a day.

Last Friday, the PTA raised over £1100 from the PTA welcome back BBQ. What a lovely event it was! Seeing families catching up while children played happily or spent their money on the stalls was a joy to behold. Huge thanks, as ever, to Faye, Mairi and everyone who helped the event to run smoothly.

Reception children have been enjoying their OPAL experiences at lunchtime. So far, they have explored several zones including: dressing-up, stage and music, suitcases, bat and ball, and small-world resources such as the fire station and dolls' house. The children have shown confidence when exploring the different zones, mixing with children from other year groups and playing with siblings.

The older children quickly recognise the Reception children in their high-visibility jackets and are always ready to offer a helping hand. Several Year 6 pupils support Reception each day by helping children put on their jackets, leading them from the lunch hall to the playground, and playing alongside them. Some children have even taught their new younger friends how to play Duck, Duck, Goose.

The positive and nurturing approach demonstrated by Year 6 has been wonderful to see and has contributed greatly to the smooth transition at lunchtime. It has been fantastic to see the Wessex values in action.

Mrs Cox has started a new after school Forest Outdoor Learning Club in which the children attending have had such a fantastic time! They started with exploring the natural woodland area, spotting different trees, possible places for dens and helping this area flourish. This week - after the mandatory drinks and snacks to get the group energised - they 'released' quite a few trees from the grip of ivy which was growing up their trunks. This was a great opportunity to help keep the trees healthy as well as learning how to use secateurs safely. We look forward to hearing more from Mrs Cox's Club in the future!

This week sees the first week when children have been completing home learning. Thank you for supporting your child in the completion of their home learning. In many classes, participation is up on last year. It really does help consolidate learning from school when children get the chance to complete an activity related to their schoolwork at home.

We have recently seen children bringing in football, Pokemon or similar cards. Whilst we don't mind pupils bringing these in, we do not allow any trades. Whilst these are being played with sensibly, we will continue to allow children to bring them in however if this changes, we may have to ask children to keep their cards and collectibles for home.

Finally, lots of children are bringing in excessive amounts of stationary, teddies, squishies or notepads to their classrooms. Please remind children that they only need basic stationery at school and teddies, toys and notebooks do not belong in the classroom.

Mr Beavan

Quotes of the week

"I really like going to Mrs Cox's Forest club as I enjoy helping the environment and I like working together"

Alissa, Year 6

"At Forest Club I enjoyed cutting the ivy off the trees because I know it will help the trees to live much longer"

Sebastian, Year 6

"I loved pulling ivy off the trees - it was the best thing ever. I hit the jackpot! (the ivy was taller than me!)"

Jackson, Year 5

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
School Talent Show – 3:30pm Upper School Hall
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

Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th November
Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm to 6.30pm

Good News Certificates

GOOD NEWS

Year 1: Aaryan

Year 2: Ella and Lola O

Year 3: Rosie and Victoria

Year 4: Tariro and Shams

Year 5: Jamie and Darcey

Year 6: Gowtam and Ellie-Louise

Attendance

Lower School: Birch class winners with 98.6%

Upper School: Lime class joint winners with 97%

School attendance this week

94%



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

School Values



We talked about how everyone has a role to play at school and for the school to run successfully, we all have to **contribute** and do our bit. We looked at following routines and being ready to learn, which is what we chose as our Character Trait this week.

OPAL updates

OPAL continues to go from strength to strength. I was touring a visitor around the school yesterday and she was blown away by how engaged, happy and collaborative our children's play was. She was also incredibly impressed when children held doors open and introduced themselves to her! Well done, Jackson and William for displaying these character traits.

Thank you to everyone who has applied to become an OPAL Play Detective – the application process has now closed.

As we continue to develop our OPAL play provision, we are looking for donations of tarpaulins and beach towel clips to support our den building activities. If you have any spare items that you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the school office.

Feeling under the weather

We know that children are not always feeling 100%, but are not ill enough to stay at home. In these cases, it is better for children to attend school and enjoy being with their friends and taking part in lessons. To help us support these children, we have introduced an Under the Weather Form. This allows you to let us know if your child is feeling a little unwell before they come into school. Please always consult the Is My Child Too ill For School advice from the NHS (also see the leaflet attached)

By sharing this information, staff can keep an eye on children throughout the day, offer reassurance where needed and contact you if we have any concerns to discuss next steps.

We hope this will support good attendance while ensuring that children feel safe, cared for and supported in school. You are still very welcome to phone the school office if you would prefer an update on how your child is getting on that day too.

Guitar taster sessions

Mr Holwill, our guitar teacher, still has some slots for his weekly guitar lessons. He is offering free taster lessons next week. Please email him directly on GarethHolwill@berksmusictrust.org.uk to book a free taster session for your child.

Being organised for learning



- Enter the lesson ready for learning
- Think "What do I need?"
- Think "What do I not need?"
- Think "What routines do we have?"
- Follow the classroom expectations
- Start the Do Now at the beginning of the lesson



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride

Are you raising the child of a relative or a friend?

Whether you have a special guardianship order, child arrangement order or no legal order in place, you and your child are eligible for support and advice to help with education.

This could include:

- Pupil Premium funding
- advice and support from AfC Virtual School
- advice and support from other organisations



For more information, please contact Rebecca Lloyd at AfC Virtual School or the designated teacher in your school.

Email: rebecca.lloyd@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES

Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO

Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels. Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly. Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly. Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school. Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment. Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away. Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'



Wessex

TALENT SHOW



Do you have a
talent you'd love
to share?

Unleash your
inner star!

October 22nd
3.30pm
Upper School Hall

★ Sing your favourite song!
★ Show off your dance moves!
Perform a musical theatre number!
Wow us with your gymnastics skills!
Play a musical instrument!
Make us laugh with a comedy act!
Perform as a musician!
or surprise us with a hidden talent!



The top two acts will go on to
perform, representing Wessex
at The Maidenhead Lions
Primary School Talent Show!
You must be free to perform
on Saturday 28th November @
Furze Platt Senior school
auditorium.

How to
Register?



Any questions speak to Mrs Eves or Mrs Ashby

DESBOROUGH BOWLS CLUB: JUNIOR SECTION!

Calling all young bowlers
aged 8 to 16!

Whether you are a total beginner
or have played before, come and join
our brand-new Saturday morning
sessions. It is all about having fun
and learning new skills.

CHOOSE YOUR CAMP:

WHEN & WHERE



START DATE:
Saturday 19th September 2026



FREQUENCY:
Every Saturday morning
(unless advised)



TIME:
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM



LOCATION:
10 Green Lane,
Maidenhead, SL6 1XZ



COST:
ADMISSION IS FREE!



THE FUN SKILLS CAMP (YOUNGER BOWLERS)

- ✓ Relaxed and exciting introduction.
- ✓ Soft, colourful bowls used.
- ✓ Fun activities to build skills.



THE TRADITIONAL SKILLS CAMP (OLDER BOWLERS)

- ✓ Use standard bowls.
- ✓ Learn traditional techniques.
- ✓ Practice game strategies.

PERKS & EQUIPMENT



**ALL EQUIPMENT
PROVIDED:**
Just turn up
and play!



**FREE
REFRESHMENTS:**
Provided for all
participants during
a half-time break.



**CLUB CAFE
OPEN:**
Available throughout
the session for
parents and spectators.

FOOTWEAR RULE

(TO PROTECT OUR PLAYING SURFACE)



ALL BOWLERS:
Must remove
outdoor shoes
before
participating.



OLDER BOWLERS:
Flat-soled
footwear may be
permitted on
the green.

GET IN TOUCH & SIGN UP!



PHONE:
01628 629403



EMAIL:
admin@desboroughbc.com



STAY UPDATED:
Contact us to sign up for regular
news and updates about the
Junior Section!

Dola AI

⇒ **OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES!** ⇒

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