



The stage is set for the nativity practices to begin ...

### Dear Parents and Carers



The stages are out, the backdrops are up; it must be time for the countdown to Christmas in schools as we enter advent! A few important updates in this week's newsletter so do read on.

Over the past few weeks, we have been reviewing the **homework** we offer at Wessex. There is a huge variance in the demand for homework; some people want more, some less, and some none. Some children are keen to complete homework, some are ambivalent and for some, it can be a real battle to complete. Then there is the degree of challenge provided by homework which can be difficult to gauge for all children in the class. Homework also takes a lot of time to prepare and mark, which is time taken away from planning and preparing lessons and marking work. We have also needed to consider the range of views on screentime for homework - some parents want more; some want less or none.

We are very grateful to all of the parents who completed our survey asking for your views on homework. We have factored this feedback into our decisions too.

As a result of our review, we have decided to set homework relating to key areas of learning. All tasks will be set via Seesaw and will be updated weekly. Homework will be as follows:

**EYFS** - Phonics videos and tasks shared via Seesaw. Phonics speed sounds cards will be sent home as your child learns new sounds. A fine motor or short writing activity will be sent home in folders to support fine motor skills. These activities will be set or sent home on a Friday. Numbots can be accessed anytime, the recommended time is a few minutes each day.

**Year 1** - will set phonics videos, reading, spellings (paper based and online), and Numbots.

**Year 2** - will be set phonics videos, reading, spellings (paper based and online) and Numbots and/or Mymaths tasks.

**Year 3 - 5** will be set spellings (paper based and online), reading, TT Rockstars and Mymaths tasks.

**Year 6** - as Year 3-5 but may include further revision or tasks to prepare for SATs and Secondary school.

Again, thanks for all of your feedback relating to homework. We know that we are not going to satisfy everyone's requirements and so we would like to buy every child a grammar book so that for those who want a little more, they can complete a task a week set by the teachers but marked by the children/yourself at home. More to come about this in the new year.

**Wessex PTA  
Christmas Disco**

**Friday 13th December 2024**

3:30pm - 4:30pm  
Reception / Year 1 & Year 2

4:45pm - 5:45pm  
Year 3 & Year 4

6pm - 7:30pm  
Year 5 & Year 6

Please book on Arbor

**Tesco** stores collecting blue tokens for us:

- Maidenhead - Small unit SL6 1PY
- Taplow - Large unit SL6 0NX
- Slough - Burnham Rd Express - Small unit SL1 6LE
- Burnham High St Express - Small unit SL1 7JT
- Maidenhead Bath Rd Express - Small unit SL6 4AQ
- Maidenhead Furze Express - Small unit SL6 7NH

We look forward to seeing you at school on Monday at 2:45pm for our first **share your learning session**. Please arrive at the school office from 2:45pm to sign in to go to your child's class room to look at their books and see their learning environment. If you leave before 3:15pm, you need to exit via the office and sign out. If you leave at 3:15pm, you can leave the classroom and wait outside, where the children will be dismissed as usual. This session is for parents of pupils in Years 1 to 6 only.

**Mr Beavan**

### Quotes of the week

Favourites from this weeks learning...

"I've been learning how to add and it's super fun"  
Adam, Reception

"In DT I learnt how to make a candy cane prison with a glue gun" Flossie, Year 4

"I have learnt about comparing improper fractions"  
Georgie, Year 5

"This week I have been writing a biography about George Melies. I like the book because it has facts and fiction"  
Georgia, Year 6

# Diary dates coming up



## Monday 2nd December

Parent Participation Session – 9:15am – 10:30am

## Monday 2nd December

Share your Learning – Year 1 to Year 6 – 2.45pm to 3.15pm

## Tuesday 3rd to Friday 6th December

Travelling Book Fair – 3.25pm to 4pm – Lime Class

## Friday 6th December

FS2 (Reception) Christmas Stay and Play – 8.45am to 9.45am

## Monday 9th December

Panto performance of Sleeping Beauty to the whole school – 9.45am to 10.45am

## Wednesday 11th December

FS2 (Reception) Nativity – 9.15am to 10.15am

## Thursday 12th December

School Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper Day

## Friday 13th December

PTA School Discos – payment to be made on Arbor

## Tuesday 17th December

KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Nativity – 9.15am to 10.15am

## Wednesday 18th December

KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Nativity – 9.15am to 10.15am **EXTRA PERFORMANCE**  
KS3 (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6) – Carols Round the Tree – 2.45pm

# Good News Certificates



**EYFS: Bella and Andreas**

**Year 1: Rex and Gracie**

**Year 2: Derrivan and George**

**Year 3: Aralola and Daniel**

**Year 4: Harry and Ellie-Louise**

**Year 5: Riley and Azlan**

**Year 6: Jake and Reggie**

# Attendance

**Lower School: Beech winners with 96.8%**

**Upper School: Hazel Winners with 97.7%**

School attendance this week

**94.6%**



Last week = 94.5%  
Last year average = 95%

**Aiming for 97%**

# School Values – Giving



This week, we started to think a little about Christmas now that the Christmas adverts are encouraging us to spend money. We agreed that we can give our time, effort, skills or experience to help others and everyone has been trying to help each other out this week.

# Easy fundraising

Wessex Primary School is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself. These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page [here](#).

# Goat update

Lily, Poppy and Dexter won't be returning to Wessex anytime soon. There has been much discussion at school about our resident goats and what happens next. The level of care that they need and the amount of time this takes is a huge commitment. All of this is time on top of the day-to-day job of working in a school. Also, some of the goat pen area needs a little bit of TLC to be an environment where the goats can thrive. With all of these things considered, it has been decided that the goats won't be returning to Wessex just at the moment.

# Swimathon

We are excited to have three teams entered for the 40th Annual Swimathon taking place on **12th January 2025** at Braywick Leisure Centre. Last year's teams had great fun and anyone able to confidently swim 25m is welcome to come and join us. We are swimming from 4 – 5pm. If you are interested in taking part, please let the office know, and you can begin fundraising by following this link [here](#).

# Character Curriculum

Along with our value of giving, we discussed how we can volunteer our time or skills to help others but we also talked about offering help not for reward but for self-gratification and feeling positive. We also discussed how offering to help too often may not be well-received.

## Helping other people



- Does the other person need help?
- Can you stop to help them?
- Ask if the other person needs help
- Accept that they may not need help
- Do it because you want to; not for praise, thanks or rewards.



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride

# WINTER CAMP

ACTIVITY

Where Every Activity Builds Skills



Dates between:

20th December - 3rd January

For ages 4 (Reception+) - 16

£32.45

Half Day

8am - 3:30pm

£34.45

Full Day

8am - 6pm

SAVE WITH OUR NHS, SIBLINGS,  
AND MILITARY DISCOUNTS!

**HAF spaces available!**

Contact our admin team  
for more details



- Themed Crafts
- 20+ Sports
- Creating, Making, and Designing
- Science Experiments

## WHAT'S ON...

- Themed Games
- Challenges and Competitions
- **And Much More!**

See Full  
Venue List!



# WINTER CAMP

## HAF

Get Active 

SUPPORTED BY ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD COUNCIL

Ages  
4+



Dates between:

23rd December - 3rd January

Wessex Primary School

Maidenhead, SL6 3AT

9:30am-3:30pm

IS YOUR CHILD ENTITLED TO INCOME RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

This Winter Break, children all across Wokingham that are in receipt of Free School Meals can access FREE Christmas Activities over the Holiday.



- Themed Crafts
- 20+ Sports
- Creating, Making, and Designing
- Science Experiments

## WHAT'S ON...

- Themed Games
- Challenges and Competitions
- and much more!

See More  
Details