



Breathtaking views from PGL Osmington Bay this week

Dear Parents and Carers



An incredibly busy week draws to a close with our Year 6 children coming back from a hugely successful week at PGL. It is a bit of a cliché but the experiences offered to children, the memories they make and the accomplishments gained from a week away are priceless.

Now, these weeks don't just happen by chance; there is so much preparation and planning that happens to ensure your children get these opportunities. And so, some thanks please... Firstly, the staff who have given up their week with their families to attend with the Year 6 children - Mrs Pope, Mrs Ashby, Mrs Richards, Miss Hyde, Mrs Patrick and Mrs Matthews very ably led by Mrs Cox. The team at school who have provided cover for colleagues who have been away at Osmington, including Mrs Oliva for teaching Larch class in Mrs Ashby's absence. Mrs Harley and the rest of the adults who designed and delivered a fabulous programme of activities for the Year 6 pupils who did not attend. Mrs Robinson and Mrs Ford in the finance office for all of the liaising with PGL, coach companies, collecting payments. Miss Adams in the front office for going solo this week. Finally, the staff at school who have enjoyed hearing updates from PGL and have covered lunch duties, assemblies or just been willing to reorganise rotas etc. Finally, thank you to the parents who have trusted us with your most treasured possessions for the week and see the value in such trips.

The rest of this newsletter is dedicated to Mr Porter, as today marks his final day at Wessex. Mr Porter has worked on this site for over 36 years! He began as a caretaker at the (then) Wessex Infant School and eventually became the site manager for the entire school.

Over the years, Mr Porter has dug countless ponds, built numerous sheds and buildings, and worked alongside a multitude of headteachers—each with their own weird and wonderful ideas that he's somehow made a reality. I did some calculations earlier this week: nearly 36 years equates to over 7,000 term-time days at school. That's 36 different cohorts of children - more than 2,000 pupils - whom Mr Porter has greeted at the gate or waved goodbye to at the end of the day.

There aren't many people like Mr Porter. While we often hear the phrase "no job too small," Mr Porter has truly embodied a "no job too big" attitude. He's happiest when hiring a digger and diving into a large-scale project. His work has undoubtedly saved the school many thousands of pounds over the years.

Now, Mr Porter and his wife Catherine can enjoy the peace and quiet of coastal life, far from the hustle and bustle of school buildings. Few people dedicate such a long stretch of their lives to one organisation, and the commitment Mr Porter has shown to Wessex will likely never be matched. So, for the final time today, we'll hear the jangle of keys and the click of the padlock on the gate - a sound that reminds us to say: we wish you, Mr Porter, a very long, happy and well-earned retirement.

Mr Beavan

School Tours and Stay & Plays



For pupils starting school in **September 2026**

Tour dates 9:15am - 10:30am:
Tuesday 7th October
Tuesday 14th October
Thursday 6th November
Tuesday 11th November
Tuesday 18th November
Tuesday 2nd December

Stay and Play dates
9:15am - 10:00am:

- Thursday 13th November
- Tuesday 25th November
- Thursday 8th January

Book via the website



wessexprimary.org
01628 626724
office@wessexprimary.org

Quotes of the week

PGL quotes from Year 6...

"The abseiling was so much fun because you had the experience of falling! It's been the best week of my life" Jack TS, Willow class

"The views are amazing, all the staff are amazing and the rooms are pretty cozy" Kaiden, Willow class

"It helps you overcome your fears - the big swing was scary but really fun" Tanaaya, Willow class

"It's been the best week I've ever had! The giant swing was really good because you could go 50% on the first go and then all the way up the next time" Annabel & Isla, Yew class

"It's been a fabulous week, with so many fun experiences...my favourite was the rock climbing. I got to the top and then abseiled down even though I'd been too scared to do the abseiling earlier in the week!" Eva MW, Willow class

"The vertical challenge was my favourite as it had loads of skills to practise, including a cargo net and rock climbing up a wobbly post!" Zach, Willow class

Diary dates coming up



Thursday 2nd October

FS2 My First Class Photograph with the Maidenhead Advertiser

Smartphone Free Childhood Meeting for Parents
9am in the Upper School Hall

Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd October

Whole School Photographs - Individual & Siblings

Wednesday 8th October

Y4 Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow Workshop

Friday 10th October

Y5 & Y6 Online Safety Drama Workshop

Tuesday 14th October

FS2 to Y6 Childhood National Flu Immunisation

School Tour - Prospective Parents FS2 Sept'26

Good News Certificates



Year 1: Eva and Sienna

Year 2: Jessica R and Ekambir

Year 3: Hunter and Scarlett

Year 4: Charlie Wo and Jackson

Year 5: Alissa D and Abigail

Attendance

Lower School: Beech winners with 96.5%

Upper School: Holly winners with 98.2%

School attendance this week

96.1%



Last week = 97%
Last year average = 94.9%

Aiming for 97%

School Values



This week's value was courage. It was chosen for all of the pupils who went to PGL this week and demonstrated courage when climbing up or jumping off things but also being courageous at nighttime when routines were different or when they tried some new food at mealtimes. Being brave helps develop courage - a fabulous value to have within you and one of which to be proud!



Mini Marathon funds

Don't forget to send in your fundraising from the mini marathon. Funds will go towards purchasing new playground equipment for your children to enjoy daily. As we value fitness at Wessex, we took part in National Fitness Day on Wednesday. Children joined the 10@10 nationwide 10-minute workout to celebrate physical activity. Coaches encouraged jogging, squats, boxing and more! Well done to everyone who joined the livestream and celebrated fitness and has brought in sponsor money.

Contact details check

Did you know that you can amend the details that we hold on file for you through the Arbor Parent Portal? If you have moved house, got a new phone or have any new medical/allergy information about your child, please make sure this is updated on Arbor. It is vital this information is up to date. We do also stipulate that we have **at least** two contact numbers in case of emergencies. If you do not have two numbers, please add a trusted friend, relative or neighbour who we can contact in emergencies.

PTA AGM date

The PTA AGM is on Tuesday 7th October at 7.30pm at Norden Farm.

Whether you've supported us before or you are new to the school, everybody is welcome. We'd love to see you there to start planning a brilliant year for our children while raising valuable funds for our school.

Last week's Welcome Back Party raised £330.33!

Character Curriculum

A real teacher favourite! We all love it when children are organised, have what they need and make sure that there is no lost learning time for getting pencils, taking off coats etc. Quite simply, a child who starts one lesson by thinking "what do I need to be doing?" is just what we're after at Wessex and so we have challenged all of our pupils to be demonstrating this trait all week!

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

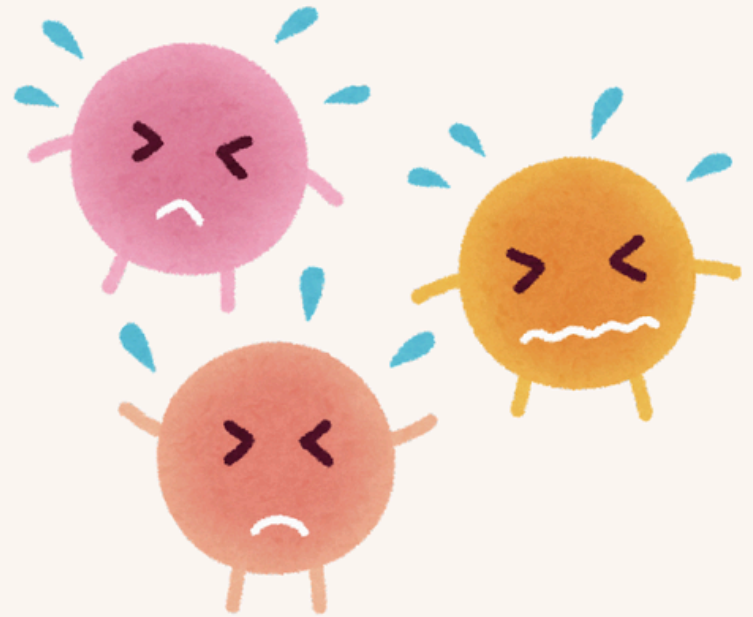


Pride

Having constructive conversations with distressed young people

What we will cover:

- Help to recognise how distress may present in young people and how to respond in the moment
- Recognition of barriers to communication
- The development of relevant skills to effectively communicate with distressed young people



**For parents living
in Windsor &
Maidenhead**

We will have staff who can
speak Urdu, Punjabi and
Potwari

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025

10 – 12PM

**Riverside Family Hub, West
Dean, Off Ray Mill Road West**

Contact: Arifa Naeem

07584205515

WRITING COMPETITION!



2025

Your story must be 500 words or less
and about anything you want!

Prizes:

An evening with Her Majesty the
Queen Camilla

Celebrity reads your story

Bundle of books

Your story can be handwritten or typed. No group entries.

Deadline: Give to Mrs Newman on/before
Monday 3rd November



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM



Berkshire Healthcare
Children, Young People and
Families services

LIVE

WEBINARS

2025

FOR
PARENTS
AND CARERS

TO SIGN UP, SCAN THE QR
CODES ON THE NEXT PAGE



Dates: Various



Time: 6pm - 7pm



Microsoft Teams

Please visit our website via the
QR code for more information
about our service



Please Note: Your child must attend an MHST school for access to the online webinars if you are unsure please scan the QR code above



01/10/25
**Introduction to the
MHST**



23/10/25
**General Mental
Health awareness**



11/11/25
**Managing Behavioural
difficulties**



26/11/25
**Managing Anxiety
Under 11s**



9/12/25
**Managing anxiety
Over 12s**

Scan the QR code to book your place

Maidenhead's Big Read



presents a Bookmark Drawing Art Competition

Theme: "Get Moving!" — Active Adventures in Books

About the Theme

Books don't just take us on mental journeys – they inspire us to move! This year's theme is "Get Moving!". We invite you to design a bookmark that captures the energy of being active, to explore how stories encourage physical activity, sports, and energetic adventures.

Think of:

- Characters running through magical forests 🌲
- Athletes chasing dreams on the field ⚽
- Explorers hiking mountains or sailing seas 🏔️🚤
- Book heroes who inspire you to get up and move 🛡️



How to Participate

- **Who:** Open to all students upto 14 years of age
- **What:** Create a drawing (hand-drawn or digital)
- **Format:** PDF or JPEG or PNG
- **Deadline:** 24th October 2025
- **Submit to:** hello@maidenheads-big-read-org.uk



Prizes & Recognition

- Winning entries will be printed on a bookmark during MBR2026
- Top artists will receive exciting prizes
- Selected entries will also be showcased at Maidenhead Library, MBR website & MBR social media
- Judging will be undertaken by local Children's Author & Poet Simon Mole

Why Join?

- Celebrate the power of books to inspire action
- Share your creativity with the community
- Be part of a fun and imaginative festival to celebrate love of reading



Let Your Art Move the Story Forward!

Whether it's a wizard sprinting through a spellbound maze or a soccer star from your favorite novel scoring the winning goal – show us how books get us moving!