



Wessex Weekly

NEWSLETTER

Friday 3rd October 2025

Year 6 netball team victorious in their first match against St Edmund Campion

Dear Parents and Carers



It's been fabulous to be around the school this week popping in and out of classrooms to see the great learning that has been going on. Not only have we academic achievements to celebrate, we have sporting successes and also parental engagement updates.

Firstly, a staffing update. Some of you may have noticed that Mrs Denning has not been on the gate this past week. Mrs Denning is currently not in school and will be back after half term. If you had any meetings or updates scheduled with her or if you were expecting paperwork or forms, please contact the office and we will be in touch to reschedule/resend.

You will not have failed to see that we are passionate about keeping children safe online. Therefore, it was wonderful to hear about the concern of parents who attended the Smartphone Free Childhood session yesterday. What was pleasing was that there were parents from a wide range of year groups present. We had a very fruitful discussion around the benefits and dangers of smartphone use for children and explored some of the risks. We discussed some possible solutions and ideas that parents can use to help support their children growing up in today's technological age. See the second page for what you can do to help support your children.

Continuing this theme, we are very pleased and proud to have joined forces with The Drama Guru, who is going to come and lead a sessions for each class in Year 5 and 6 around:

- Understanding the emotional and social consequences of late-night messaging and digital peer pressure
- Encouraging empathy and respectful online behaviour
- Developing self-awareness around digital habits and their longer-term impact.

It's a busy week in Year 6 as pupils put themselves forward for leadership roles including, Sports Leaders, Junior Leaders, House Captains and Growth Mindset Ambassadors. Mrs Oliva and Mrs Cox will be running a selection process in the coming week. During this process, Year 6 pupils have to write a letter of application and then take part in an interview with Mrs Oliva and Mrs Cox. Best of luck, Year 6!

We are looking forward to hearing the outcome of these sessions next week and we will share children's thoughts via the quotes of the week.

Next Thursday sees Mrs Eves, Mrs Powell and Mrs Ashby audition pupil's acts ready for the school talent show after school on the last day of term - 23rd October. If you have not yet signed your child up, please do so [here](#).

Yesterday also saw our first sporting fixture against St Edmund Campion Primary School and I am delighted to report that we won 9 - 6. Well done to the team.

Mr Beavan

School Tours and Stay & Plays

For pupils starting school in
September 2026

<p>Tour dates 9:15am - 10:30am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 7th October Tuesday 14th October Thursday 6th November Tuesday 11th November Tuesday 18th November Tuesday 2nd December 	<p>Stay and Play dates 9:15am - 10:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 13th November <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuesday 25th November <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thursday 8th January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Book via the website

🌐 wessexprimary.org
📞 01628 626724
✉ office@wessexprimary.org

Quotes of the week

Netball quotes from our winning team...

“The netball game was brilliant and especially that we won. The score was 9-6, it was a competitive battle against St Edmund Campion. It was hard but we knew we could do it”
Chloe, Willow class

“They were really hard to play against but the score ended 9-6 to Wessex. In the first half St Edmund Campion were ahead by double our score but we managed to catch them up in the second half and beat them by 3 goals. It was really fun because it turned me into a more competitive player”
Freda, Yew class

Diary dates coming up



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

Friday 17th October

Harvest

Thursday 23rd October

Wessex Talent Show – 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Friday 24th October

INSET DAY – No School

Good News Certificates



Year 1: Lola C and Scarlett

Year 2: Harry and Anna

Year 3: Isaac and Joshua

Year 4: George and Summer P

Year 5: Zia and Abdirahman

Year 6: Arran, Holly and Jasmine

Attendance

Lower School: Beech winners with 100%

Upper School: Hazel winners with 98.1%

School attendance this week

95.4%



Last week = 96.1%
Last year average = 94.9%

Aiming for 97%

School Values



Respect



This week's value is respect, one of our school values. As we are beginning October, this is the month where we celebrate Black History Month. Also, we looked at Yom Kippur, the Jewish festival. Many pupils developed further knowledge of Judaism and also renewed their understanding of respect for all cultures during our discussions around Black History Month.

Smartphone Free Childhood

We're hearing more and more from parents who feel uneasy about the growing role of smartphones in children's lives – especially as they enter the later years of primary and start secondary school. The reality is, these devices are becoming part of childhood far earlier than most of us expected.

That's why we're supporting a simple but powerful idea: the Parent Pact, part of the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign. It's a growing national movement of families choosing to delay giving children smartphones until at least age 14, and social media until 16 – and doing it together, so no one feels like the only one holding out.

There was a parent session, led by parents from the Smartphone free childhood campaign, yesterday which was attended by a range of parents from across the school. If you want to find out more about it, you can [access the slides](#) and [sign the parent pact](#). Thank you to those who attended and looking forward to hearing the word spread.

October holiday club

Unfortunately, Get Active has decided that it will not run a holiday club at Wessex over October half term. The decision has purely been made relating to the costs to run the club. At the moment, there is not enough interest for the holiday club and so regrettably the club can't proceed.

Character Curriculum

We have been ensuring that children follow the agreed routines at school over the first few months of the school year. Last week had a theme of being ready for learning and this week's is much the same but the beginning of the school day. Making every moment at school count is so important so if children can be settled for learning two minutes earlier each day, this will equate to six extra hours over the school year – that's an extra day!

How to come in to the school



- Be in correct uniform and shoes
- Walk to their entrance door.
- Enter the building quietly.
- Say good morning to friends and adults.
- Put things away quickly and sensibly.
- Leave their cloakroom or locker space tidy.

Find their seat / carpet space and begin morning work.



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride

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!