



**Year 6 pupils enjoying helping out at the Mini Marathon**

### Dear Parents and Carers



Our first main event of the year took place yesterday with our **Mini Marathon**. Last year was our first event of this kind and this year, the children very much enjoyed the event again with many children rising to the challenge!

Each year group took it in turns to run the number of laps of the field corresponding to their yeargroup i.e. Year 6 ran 6 laps and Year 4 ran 4 laps. Mrs Cox and the Year 6 helpers (above) had set up the course and Mr Porter and Mr Dalziel had got our new sound system out so pupils had music to accompany their laps. What was lovely to see were different yeargroups supporting their friends and cheering them on before completing their own mini-marathon. Remember that children can collect sponsorship for each lap or a total amount - forms are in the office or attached to this newsletter. There is also a "donation" option in Arbor if you wanted to transfer money electronically. Huge thanks to the Year 6 helpers, who helped with the organisation and also ran each mini-marathon with the younger yeargroups. What excellent role models they were today!

Taking place straight after school today, we have another one of our favourite events in the calendar, the **PTA Welcome Back Party**. There will be hotdogs, drinks, snacks and sweets on offer. Children can enjoy spending time with their friends on the school field. It's also a lovely opportunity for families to mix and mingle, especially for those who are new to the school - a chance to meet other parents, chat with staff and feel part of the Wessex community.

As always, events like this are not only great fun, but they also help raise valuable funds for the PTA, which go straight back into enriching the school experience for all our children. We hope to see you there!

Next week, we say bye to the majority of our Year 6 children as they head off to **PGL Osmington**, near Weymouth, Dorset to spend four nights away from home. The children will be tackling adventures such as sailing, abseiling, rock climbing, the giant swing, zipwires and more! Thank you to all of the parents who have supported their children to attend this once in a lifetime opportunity. As ever, thanks to the team of staff who dedicate a week of their lives away from their own families to ensure that the pupils are well looked after when they are away. We look forward to hearing all about it next week!

You may have noticed a **new face around school** with Mr Porter. **Mr Dalziel**, pronounced Dee-el, is our new caretaker and started with us on Monday. He is working alongside Mr Porter this week and next week, before Mr Porter retires after 36 years of service to the school! If you would like to contribute anything towards Mr Porter's leaving gift, please send it into the office. We are sure that you will welcome Mr Dalziel and his family to the school in the coming weeks.

**Mr Beavan**

### Fastest children from the Mini-Marathon

Congratulations to the following pupils who were the fastest in their yeargroups for years 3 to 6.

Year 3:	Year 4:	Year 5:	Year 6:
Luka	Jake	Peter	Maiya
Callum	Charlie	Penelope	Zach
Thiago	Michael	Daniel	Arran
Sebastian	Jamie	Tylar	Magnus
		Cheryl	Annabel
			Elisa

Thanks also to Zayena, Maiya, Isla, Freda, Aanya and Georgie for helping to keep track of the number of laps and also for being brilliant pacers for our younger children.



### Quotes of the week

Mini Marathon thoughts ...

"I liked watching and cheering my friends in Year 6"  
Ethan, Ash class

"I liked the running, clapping & cheering. I ran all the way without stopping"  
Elspeth, Ash class

"The running was fun"  
Henry A, Ash class

"I like running, I ran round once"  
Xavi, Beech class

"It was sooper dooper fun, I ran round fast"  
Sienna, Beech class

"We had a lot of fun, we ran fast"  
Henry & Lola C, Birch class



# Diary dates coming up



**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**  
Y6 Residential trip to PGL Osmington Bay

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**  
FS2 My First Class Photograph with the Maidenhead Advertiser

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

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**  
Whole School Photographs - Individual & Siblings

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October**  
Y4 Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow Workshop

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**  
Y5 & Y6 Online Safety Drama Workshop

# Good News Certificates



**Year 1:** Zulfi and Andreeas

**Year 2:** Dylan and Shaylen

**Year 3:** Victory and Sophia

**Year 4:** Darcey and Reema

**Year 5:** Oscar and Zedan

**Year 6:** Zach and Annabel

# Attendance

**Lower School:** Chestnut winners with 100%

**Upper School:** Larch winners with 100%

School attendance this week

97%



Last week = 96.4%  
Last year average = 94.9%

Aiming for 97%

# School Values



We discussed honesty as this week's value and linked it to how we record our work in our books. As a leadership team, we enjoyed looking at pupils' books this week and seeing how many of pupils take great care with their presentation in their books. We linked this to excellence in our school motto and we have all had a focus on keeping our work neat in our lessons.

# Gates and office hours

With Mr Porter retiring and Mr Dalziel starting, there will be a change in the opening time of the school office. Beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, the office will not be open until 8:30am. Any enquires about breakfast club need to be directed to the staff working there. There will not be the option for anyone to speak with someone in the office until the school day starts. Likewise, the school gates will only be manned between 8.30am and 4.30pm (office hours).

# Smartphone free childhood

We are very pleased and proud to be partnering with the Smartphone Free Childhood movement. As a result of this, we have arranged for a parent session to take place on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 9am** after drop off. We would encourage as many of you to attend from all year groups so that you can hear first hand the dangers smartphones have on children.

# Census Day 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Did you know that the number of children who have a school meal on Census Day - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October directly affects the funding our school receives?

Even if your child usually brings a packed lunch, just one school dinner on this day can make a big difference to the resources and support we can offer all our pupils.

Our meals are free for children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2. Please support us by booking a school dinner for your child on Census Day.

# Character Curriculum

One of our favourite character traits about pupils at Wessex is how polite they are; and there is something very polite about someone holding a door open for someone else. We discussed when it is appropriate to hold a door open and also how we do it because we want to and not because we expect people to say thank you, although we'd hope that people did.

## When to hold a door open



- How to check to see if you need to hold a door open.
- How long to wait for someone.
- How many children to open the door for.
- Saying thank you if someone opens the door for you.
- Not moaning if people don't thank you



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride

# 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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



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