



School grounds looking wonderful in the sunshine

Dear Parents and Carers



Our first regular newsletter is here with the children coming to the end of their first full week. There have been so many success stories to share as children settle into their new classes, learn their new routines and get to know the adults working with them this year.

We have the **PTA Welcome Back Party** on the field next Friday 19th September from 3.20pm, so do make sure you're around to relax with friends and enjoy the last of the summer sunshine. There will be drinks and snacks for sale along with hotdogs too.

We have the annual **Mini Marathon** taking place next Thursday 18th September too - pupils should wear their PE to school on that day. Last year was our first mini marathon - where pupils run laps of the field equivalent to the Year group they are in. They will also be bringing home a sponsorship form too with any sponsorship money going towards us buying equipment to use at break and lunchtime.

This year, we are going to be engaging more with the **Smartphone Free Childhood Initiative** and we have a parent meeting scheduled for **9am on 2nd October**. With that in mind, I wanted to share a blog post from a secondary school teacher regarding the amount of time his pupils spend on their phones. Do have a read of the [blog](#) - I'm sure you will all be as concerned as we are regarding the negative impact that phones can have on our young people. Just this week, the tragic event in America relating to Charlie Kirk had been circulated online within minutes with videos easily obtainable with a little scroll or swipe of a phone screen. If your child does have a phone, please ensure that their use is monitored by you and appropriate filters and blocks are in place.

We have organised for our Year 5 and 6 pupils to take part in some **drama workshops** based around phones, the impact of messaging groups such as WhatsApp and the dangers of apps too. These workshops take place later this term

You will see in your Arbor account our annual request for **voluntary contributions** to the school fund where the Governing board request termly voluntary contributions from parents. These funds are used to improve the learning environment and resources for the children. The current suggested donation is £22.00 per term or £60.00 per year. Again, this is voluntary and can be paid via Arbor. There is an option for other amounts should this be your preference.

Attached, you will find an application form for **Pupil Premium Funding**. Eligible pupils currently receive food vouchers during all school holidays and free holiday clubs at Easter, Summer and Christmas, as well as free school meals for this academic year. Please see the letter for eligibility criteria and send the office your completed form by the end of next week. We will also receive additional funds from April 2026 to support your child's education.

Mr Beavan



Quotes of the week

Coming back to school...

- "I like going to a new room for phonics" Andreas, Beech class
- "I have loved learning about Goldilocks" Nellie-Mae, Cherry class
- "I have enjoyed Arthur and the Golden Pope because it has Vikings and Gods in it" Isaac, Hazel class
- "In Year 4 we have been extending our knowledge of the 9 times table" Finley, Larch class
- "We wrote diary entries linked to our fascinating new book The Last Happy Ending, I loved it" Jessica, Poplar class
- "We've really enjoyed science and maths this week. Year 6 is fun" Abigail, Chloe and Freda, Yew class
- "I've enjoyed the street art work, particularly making my own picture using one point perspective" Arran, Willow class

Diary dates coming up



Thursday 18th September
Mini Marathon

Friday 19th September
PTA Welcome Back Party - 3.20pm on the school field

Monday 22nd to Friday 26th September
Y6 Residential trip to PGL Osmington Bay

Thursday 2nd October
FS2 My First Class Photograph with the Maidenhead Advertiser

Smartphone Free Childhood Meeting for Parents - 3.30pm in the Upper School Hall

Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd October
Whole School Photographs - Individual & Siblings

Good News Certificates



Year 1: Ella and Alfie

Year 2: Jasen and Delilah

Year 3: Ariana and Amber

Year 4: Lily and Louis

Year 5: Scott and Penelope

Year 6: Rudy and Teddie

Attendance

Lower School: Alder + Cherry joint winners with 100%

Upper School: Lime + Poplar joint winners with 99.2%

School attendance this week

96.4%



Last year average = 94.9%

Aiming for 97%

School Values



As teachers have been establishing routines with their classes this week, we reminded children about the routines for coming in from break and lunch demonstrating that they are ready to learn. Certificates were awarded for any representation of the school values this week.

Welcome meetings

We hope you appreciated the welcome meetings held by teachers this Wednesday. Just a reminder that any key information relating to your child's year group, including curriculum maps of what your child is learning, can be found on the class pages of the school website.

Uniform reminders

It is great to see so many children coming to school in correct school uniform. A reminder that children should have black trainers for PE; not white ones.

Attendance

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who make sure their children arrive at school every day and only take time off when absolutely necessary. Also, thank you for the efforts with punctuality this year so far. Remember, arriving at 9am each day means your child misses out on 15 minutes of learning each day. If this continued for the whole year, this would equal 8 days of school missed each year!

Talent Show returns

The Wessex Talent Show returns on the 23rd October this year. Once again, we will be entering two acts to represent the school in the Lions of Maidenhead's School Talent Show taking place on the afternoon of 22nd November. If you have a talent or skill to share, get practising!

Character Curriculum

Now that we have completed a full cycle of character curriculum traits, we will focus on building on the strengths of last year with many repeated traits to reinforce the expectations and perhaps some new traits. To keep us cheerful at the start of the year, we chose to have a focus on greeting people.

Greeting people



- Listen out for greetings
- Stopping and responding
- Giving a greeting back
- Introducing yourself
 - Smile
- Look at the person
- Give eye contact,



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 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



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride



GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Virtual Coffee Morning - Family, siblings and homelife

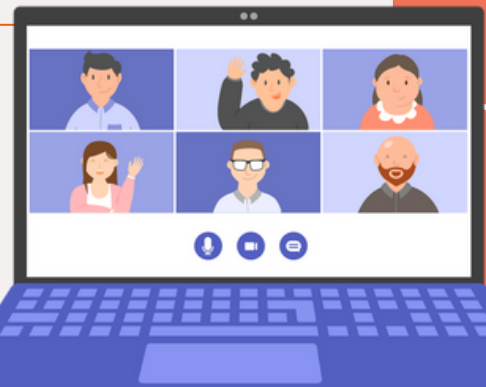
Friday 19 Sept - 10:00 - 11:15am

Join our online informal discussion to cover the following areas:

- Creating a home that works for everyone's needs and rhythms
- Supporting sibling bonds
- Navigating family tensions with empathy and realistic expectations
- Letting go of 'perfect' parenting

**25 spaces
available!**

Please note this is not a workshop but support group for parent/carers and any medical advice should be sought from your medical practitioner.



Sign Up Today!

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/pathway/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:



Gems.4Health@nhs.net



0800 999 1342



CALLING ALL SUPERSTARS!



**DO YOU LOVE TO SING, DANCE,
ACT, OR SHOW OFF A SPECIAL
SKILL?**

**NOW'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE AT
OUR WESSEX SCHOOL TALENT
SHOW!**

TALENT SHOW! THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER

**AUDITIONS TO BE HELD BY MRS ASHBY,
MRS EVES AND MRS POWELL
AUDITION DATES TBC**

**THE TOP TWO WINNING ACTS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTAKE IN THE
MAIDENHEAD LIONS TALENT SHOW, REPRESENTING WESSEX! -YOU MUST BE
AVAILABLE ON THE 22ND NOVEMBER TIME TBC**