

# WESSEX WEEKLY

END OF  
TERM  
ROUND UP  
EDITION

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

ASSEMBLY THEME - PEACE

Welcome to our end of term round up, celebrating all the great work the children have been doing over the last six weeks. I know I am very proud of the amazing things they have achieved and so are the staff. We have had a number of visitors this term and a number of school trips, where the children have behaved impeccably and are a real credit to themselves. Some of my highlights have been the two amazing class assemblies, the work shared with me for the Golden Folder and looking at some really stunning homework from dragons in Yr 4 to all the mountains in Yr 5. Mr Lloyd's class were also fantastic at the schools dance festival this week and I know they worked very hard on their performance which I have to say was amazing to watch! One very proud Headteacher this term, well done to all the staff and children! I wish you all a happy and restful half term.

## Nursery Class

This term Nursery have been enjoying exploring a range of printing activities and discovering what happens when the colours are mixed together.

We have also been listening to the story of the Three Little Pigs and Cinderella and acting out the stories with our friends. We have also enjoyed creating handwriting patterns in the rice, porridge oats and flour.



## RECEPTION CLASS

This term Ash and Alder have thoroughly enjoyed their outdoor learning sessions, running, rolling and exploring in around our school environment.

There have been several visitors to our classrooms this term such as, Super Explorer, have a go hero, Agent Ideas and Achieving Iron Man, you may have heard about them! They have set us many challenges to do around our learning environment. We have been exploring, having a go at new activities, creating our own games and being proud of what we achieve. We will be introducing more characters next term to support the children with the characteristics of being an effective learner.

## Year 1

We have had a very busy term in Year 1 and the children have all been excellent at getting to grips with the new demands made upon them! As you will be aware we have had some staffing changes with Miss Ward joining us from South Africa, all the children have made her feel very welcome and she has very quickly settled in to teaching at Wessex. The children have been concentrating on constructing correctly written sentences. They have all worked very hard to remember that they need a capital letter, full stop and finger spaces in every piece of writing they do. The children are carefully using their phonics to help them spell. To encourage the children to write sentences we have worked on stories that have included The Rainbow Fish and The Magic Porridge Pot, by the end of this unit of work the children even had a go at writing their own story!

We have also looked at instructions about making things as well as looking after a pet. The children really enjoyed using 'bossy' words and were very successful with their instruction writing. We have also written some outstanding poems based on our senses and the rain. The children thought up some very imaginative words to use in their work.

In Maths the children are continuing to learn to write their numbers correctly. We are counting to 100 and beginning to count in 2's. We have concentrated on knowing the value of numbers and spent a lot of time counting and ordering numbers. The children are confident at adding and subtracting numbers with some going as high as 50! They can recognise the different operation signs (+ and -). They enjoyed making shape pictures and could name and describe 2D shapes really well. The children really enjoyed measuring items in the classroom using nonstandard units such as cubes.

In Science they have been looking at how they use their senses and have really enjoyed the practical side to science. The children were very knowledgeable about materials and have learnt to use scientific vocabulary to describe them.

The staff in Year 1 would like to thank all the carers of our Year 1 children for all the support you provide to your children. There is a high standard of homework being handed in which the children love to share. There are more and more children reading at home and doing their spelling each week. Please keep it up as it is our aim to have every child reading at home at least 5 times a week.

Thank you,

Year 1 staff

## Year 2

This term the Year 2 children's imaginations have been captured by aliens, habitats and oceans. They have found out about an alien called Beegu and written their own alien adventures. They have looked at the features of our world, including those made by humans. The children have made their own maps and created keys to explain the features. There has been a lot of interest in the plants and animals of the rainforests and the children have produced some lovely art work and interesting information texts about this.

In Maths, for most of the term, the focus has been on building up a quick recall of addition and subtraction with numbers to 20. Using this knowledge to problem solve has challenged many of the children! The children have been working hard to learn their 2, 5, 10 times tables and have enjoyed building 3-D shapes using nets.

In P.E. the children have learned and developed a 'tutting' street dance to the song Rather Be. Some of the Year 2 children represented the school at a cricket festival held at Desborough School. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and represented the school enthusiastically.

The term was ended with an excellent Homework Gallery which showed the children's hard work and huge effort.



## Year 3

Have continued to enjoy a wonderful, rich, varied curriculum. To date, they have appreciated

- The opportunity to have football lessons through the FA with an experienced professional coach.
- Learning how to play the recorder with Mrs Corbett in Holly Class.
- Learning to look after tropical fish in Hazel Class on the fish keeper fry programme with Maidenhead Aquatics.
- Gaining first hand experiences with mummies and touching artefacts from Ancient Egyptian at the Ashmolean museum. Learning to ask questions about objects and finding clues.
- Lots of children have been using a pen for the first time in Year 3 and having their pen licenses have given them a real boost.



## Year Four

Have had a busy term! Swimming lessons started which has been a great way to end each week and the children's skills are improving all the time. We have been impressed with the behaviour of our children when representing Wessex outside of school, showing good manners and respect to each other and other adults.

We've been learning about the Romans - including finding out about Boudicca who we all agree was an impressive but fearsome woman - we're not too sure we'd want to meet her! In English we've been enjoying watching an animation of the book 'Tuesday' and trying out a variety of ways to make our writing exciting.

Lots of us have been enjoying playing games on Mathletics and earning our bronze and silver certificates - we're excited to have our first gold certificate, too! Larch maths class have been trialling using rock music to recall multiplication facts quickly! They look forward to sharing it with Lime maths group and parents!

Last week Lime Class put on a poetry concert for their class assembly. Everyone was impressed with how they wrote and performed their own poems and enjoyed finding about the mechanics of poetry from the poetry detectives.

Our homework gallery this week was a lovely way to celebrate the hard work children do outside of school - we hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to another busy but fun time next term.

Year 5 have had a busy term and have worked incredibly hard! In literacy, the children have been studying mystery and suspense writing and have produced some wonderful work based on a short story called the Road's End. In Maths, the children have been working very hard on multiplication and division. They have enthusiastically taken on the challenge of the Times Tables Rock stars and are trying improve their times tables by becoming various levels of rock stars! The improvement in their times tables has been great to see. This has linked in perfectly to music where we have been looking at Rock music – we have been listening to **Living on a Prayer** and **We will Rock You**. The children are learning to play the glockenspiel in tune to them – Jon Bon Jovi would be impressed!

In History we have been studying the Ancient Greeks, looking at various topics such as democracy, Greek theatre and sports, famous Greeks such as Aristotle and Plato, the Greek Olympics and comparing it to modern day Olympics and Greek pottery. Our art topic links in to History where the children have made stunning Greek pots using clay.

The children have particularly enjoyed using the Learn Pads to do topic research and we have also been using them in Maths and Literacy. In PE we have been learning hockey and some children have been doing some outdoor learning where they have been working together to clear part of the very overgrown environmental area.



Year 5 Greek Pots and working in the environmental area

### Year 6

This term, Year 6 have been working very hard. The term kicked off with a marvellous Maya workshop in which the children learned a lot about the ancient civilisation. They got to play musical instruments, chant in the Maya language and even play the world's oldest ball game!

In Science, we have been learning all about Evolution and Adaptation including learning about the 'Greatest fossil hunter ever' Mary Anning. We have also looked at what Charles Darwin discovered and what we inherit genetically from our parents. In Art we have been using oil pastels to create a picture of an Amazonian animal. We have not drawn the entire animal, instead choosing squares of the animal to draw, putting them together to create a masterpiece!

The children have put themselves into the shoes of a WWI soldier in the trenches and have written letters back to their loved ones in English. They are focusing particularly on varying their types of sentence and also their sentence openers. In maths, Y6 have been getting to grips with fractions and algebra in addition to transformations such as reflection and translation. In P.E. we have been learning how to play hockey. Yew have been doing Gym and Willow have been creating their dance for the Dance festival.



### Important Dates

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Keeping children safe online  
Parent Workshop @6pm – Please do come along it is so  
important in this electronic age with social media and  
pressures on children to keep them as safe as we can.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March WORLD BOOK DAY –Come dressed as  
your favourite book character.

Parents' evening- More information for bookings after  
half term: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Year 1 and 5 enjoy working together as Buddy classes creating an under the sea inspired display!

