What a Fantastic start to the new school year!

Wow what a great start to the new school year! The children are working extremely hard and there is a real buzz about the school and their new topics.

I have shown several visitors around the school over the last few weeks, who have all commented on what a fantastic school we have and how well behaved and engaged the children have been in their learning.

After our first few full weeks back there has defiantly been lots happening at Wessex.

We have a display up in the entrance hall linked to our theme. Some children worked with art specialist Maureen Wells before the summer break to create some amazing pieces of art. The entire school will be creating some great art over the next term, which you will be able to see in one of our work sharing morning / after school sessions (Wednesday 11th December (further info will follow)).

Reception class have been busy settling into their new school and routines. The children have been painting self-portraits and sharing treasure boxes that they made.

Last week Year 1 and 2 found an enormous egg; on Monday it hatched and there was a baby dragon in the class. He was scared, and had flown onto the ceiling, the children had to make a ladder and decide what materials to use to make a warm nest for him. They have been writing about their Dragon and have started to create paintings as well as finding out about food groups.

Year 3 and 4 received a letter from the Earl of Warwick asking for the children’s’ help in the War of the Roses. They had an amazing visit to Warwick Castle, which we can highly recommend. They watched an archery show, climbed the ramparts and explored life in a castle. The falconry show was a real highlight with the birds swooping over our heads!

Year 5 and 6 had a visit from Merlin the magician, who is seeking to find the future King or Queen of England. They have been writing some fantastic descriptive sentences about Merlin and have made their own coat of arms. For DT some children have been exploring how to make a trebuchet and the levers you would need.

As a school we have also begun our mindfulness approach to learning. Children have been following on from their learning on growth mindset and have continued to learn about the brain. Hopefully they can tell you all about the Amygdala, prefrontal cortex and The Hippocampus (Guard dog, wise owl and Hippo). We intend to hold a parent information session with Clare Farrell who delivered the parent workshop on Growth mindset last year, which was really well attended. Further information will come shortly.

If you would like to get an insight into what this is about there are lots of clips on YouTube. Here is a link to a short video on what Mind up is all about:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfHNGaT4MPA

We are introducing brain breaks across the school and talking to the children about mindful listening, seeing and linking to behaviour, attitudes and attainment whilst ensuring the children are happy and love being at Wessex.
**Stick paintings on display in Chestnut Class**

### Superstar Litter Pickers

Several Wessex children decided to take part in their own litter pick at Ockwell's park over the weekend. They organised it themselves and we would like to congratulate them on their efforts in the community.

### Car Parking

Please can I take this opportunity to remind all parents that St Adrian's Close is residents only parking. For new parents to Wessex this is for anytime of the day and has a no stopping for any amount of time enforcement in place. So just parking for a few moments could get you a ticket. Please park on Wessex way or nearby roads and walk into school. Thank you to the majority of parents who follow this rule.

I was also disappointed to receive a complaint from a resident on Wessex way who was verbally abused by a Wessex parent after she challenged them for blocking her driveway and not allowing her to leave. This is not acceptable at any time and we need to be courteous to all our neighbours.

Please can I also remind parents the car park is not accessible to parents until after 5pm.

### Any Keen Green Finger Volunteers?

Mrs Elliott is looking for a few parent or grandparent volunteers who could spare a few hours a week to help weed and prepare our outdoor garden, over the summer as it has become a little wild and any help would be gratefully received. Please contact Mrs Elliott or Mrs Wardle if you can spare some time over the next few weeks.

The NSPCC will be holding an assembly in School Next Wednesday 2nd October, helping children stay safe. They will be back in the following week to hold workshops and then working with the children on an NSPCC fundraising challenge, please watch out for further information and parent letters.

### Thank you to the PTA for the return to school BBQ

The sun was shining for our annual return to school BBQ, it was great to see so many parents join us on the field. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the PTA for organising the event and the subsequent PTA meeting in which we got off to a fantastic start in planning events for the coming few months. The new chairs Heather and Honor welcome any parents who would like to volunteer some time to support the organisation of fundraising events.

### Office Phones

Please be aware that when you call the office to report an absence you can leave a message on the answerphone service. Please select ‘report your child absent’ and clearly give their name and reason for sickness. This needs to be done for every day they are off sick, unless you tell us the amount of time. The office phones will not be answered until after 9.20 so please ensure you can leave a message regarding absence.