The Quest continues…

The children have continued to work hard this term.

As you look around the school you see the building slowly transform into a castle, even now we have a draw bridge and portcullis in the upper school corridor! Please have a look around the school on parents evening after half term and see some of the amazing things the children have been doing.

We have also had a few trips and visits out where all the children have behaved impeccably and have been a real credit to the school.

There have been so many things happening including a trip from Thames Valley police to talk to Years 3 to 6 about responsibility and the role of the police when the children got to look around the van and explore some equipment. A glow disco was organised by the PTA and we would like to thank them for setting up such an amazing event for the children.

NSPCC

This term the NSPCC visited our school to deliver their Speak Out. Stay Safe. assembly to share information on how children can keep themselves safe from harm and get help if they have any worries. The NSPCC website has some really useful information on keeping children safe, from talking PANTS to approaching difficult issues, they have a range of tips and advice to help you keep children safe whether they’re at home, out and about or online. For more information please visit the NSPCC website:


Additionally Net Aware is a simple no nonsense tool for parents to guide them through social media, apps and games that young people use.

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/

If you’d like more free online safety advice, you can always get in touch with the O2 NSPCC Advice Line on 0800 800 5002. They are open Monday to Friday, between 9am and 7pm.

As a charity the NSPCC can only provide these vital resources thanks to the financial support and generosity of their supporters. I am delighted to say that our school has chosen to support the valuable work of the NSPCC this term by taking part in a fundraising event, we will give you an update on the amount raised after half term.

Car Parking and road awareness

Thank you to everyone who has been parking properly over the last few weeks. There have been a number of wardens on duty who have been moving people on and will ticket you as it is a no waiting zone.

I am concerned however about the number of children with their parents walking in the road and not taking care at a very busy time of day, please can I ask we all use the pedestrian gate and not the car park access gate to exit the school. Please can you also make sure children are walking sensibly home so they do not have an accident.
Thank you to all our volunteers

We have had a number of people volunteer for a range of things in school from supporting reading to helping weed and prepare the garden, thank you so much for your time and efforts, this is much appreciated.

Year 1 visit from Waltham Place Farm
Year 1 had a visit from White Waltham Farm today. She taught the children how to make their own apple juice using a special crushing machine. We even got to taste it! Grinding the machine was thirsty work!
Later we also did some flour milling and some mindful tasting, smelling and touching of grains. We learnt all about the different loaves of bread too! What a wonderful day.

Yr 6 residential
Year 6 had an amazing trip out to Norfolk lakes this term. This was the first time we have visited the centre and I know from feedback the children and staff had a terrific time and took part in a range of activities including sailing, climbing, canoeing and raft building. They were very impressed with the food!

Theology days
To enhance the RE teaching across the school the children have had their first termly theology days looking at the agreed RE syllabus and the big questions it asks. Year 1 and 2 had a visit from Joan Hicks, Yr 3 and 4 walked to Waltham Church for an amazing trip out which the children loved and Year 5 and 6 had visitors from a local church who talked about their congregation.

Harvest thanks
Thank you to all our children and families who donated to the harvest festivals this term. Maidenhead Food bank collected the food yesterday and had to bring two cars with them! They were very thankful to everyone at Wessex.

It was also lovely to see so many of you at the harvest assemblies and to listen to the fantastic singing the children were doing to celebrate harvest. We also had one phase linking their assembly to the Saxon and medieval theme!

Goats
We are excited to announce that some new members of the Wessex team will be joining us after half term. We would like to welcome Lilly and Poppy who will be arriving at Wessex on the first Monday back after half term. We will be holding special assemblies with the children on how to look after them. They are very used to interaction and have been used to the public. Please can we request that they aren’t fed anything except the food we give them and that if you do pet them in the morning there will be hand gel to use after. We will talk to the children about the goats and all the safety measures we will put into place. Mr McInerney will be organising volunteers and children to take part in supporting the looking after of the animals.
Halloween 2019
A Police message for parents from PC Graham Slater
Safeguarding Schools Officer

- Halloween will soon be upon us again on 31st October, which this year falls on the Thursday during half term break. In previous years, we have had a few problems in the local area with anti-social behaviour caused by a small number of teenagers who think this period is an excuse to behave in a disorderly way. Examples include vandalism, egg & flour throwing, underage drinking and illegal use of fireworks.

Parents, please speak with your children if they are planning to go out on Halloween night and evenings across the holiday week. Make sure you know where they will be going, who they will be with and what they plan to do!

- In the lead up to this period there has again been a combined effort between a number of local agencies including Police, Berks Fire & Rescue Service and Local Authority staff to try reduce any such problems across the half term week. There will also be increased Police and Community Warden patrols during this period to reassure residents and deter any antisocial acts. Those that do decide to behave in this way will be dealt with firmly.

- Please also consider the safety of your children. Trick or Treat is really an activity for younger children who should always be escorted by a responsible adult. Ideally, arrangements should be made in advance with householders that are happy to receive them. Teenagers should know that going around in large groups can be intimidating to many residents, road users and pedestrians. Elderly and vulnerable members of the community can find Halloween a particularly worrying time when they receive repeated calls at their door. Many residents do not want to receive Trick or Treaters at this time and their privacy and peace should be respected and not result in them becoming targets for abuse and vandalism.

For further Halloween advice please contact the Schools Officer or your local Neighbourhood Policing Team via the central police number: 101

Further details can be found on the Thames Valley Police website at:

https://www.facebook.com/thamesvp/