

# CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER  
Mr A Johnson

5<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we rapidly approach the Easter break, we can look back at yet another busy term and wonder where the time went.

A quick recap of events reminds us of our 'Team Days', in which we shuffle the entire school, from Reception to Year 6, and then consider topics from a British Values angle. We hold these on the last day of each half term, or as close as possible, and this week it will be on Thursday and focussed on Global Easter.

I genuinely hope you have had the opportunity to visit our website and check out our short video clips, demonstrating the way in which 'cursive' handwriting is taught and ways in which some mathematical calculations are carried out. If you haven't yet done so, please follow these links; from our Homepage - click Curriculum - Watch Cursive Handwriting or Watch Mathematical Methods.

Our whole school assemblies, held on a Monday afternoon, have been jammed with opportunities to celebrate the childrens' successes, both collectively and individually. The 'Attendance Award' goes to the class with the best attendance over the preceding week, and although Maple class were always strong contenders, others are now vying for the position. House Point prizes are awarded to the children lucky enough to be picked from the 'golden tombola', all of whom have worked exceptionally hard to earn their points and the 'House Cup' goes to one of the following; Pegasus, Phoenix, Dragon or Gryphon, dependent on the pupils who, collectively, gained the most points across the school. The 'Star Mathematician and Star Writer' awards have gained momentum and many children have already been openly applauded and rewarded for their efforts and presentation of work.

Staying with the curriculum and to ensure Conifers Primary offer opportunities beyond the classroom, children have started their afternoons at Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre, where they are enjoying challenges such as rock climbing, tunnelling and orienteering. As a school, we strongly believe that children must be offered every opportunity to succeed, and if this can be demonstrated and rewarded in areas away from class based activities, we need to seize this and allow every chance for our children to shine.

Our science week saw children exploring our outside areas, looking for and researching the many creatures they found. We are investing both time and money to extend the opportunities for learning outside the classroom and any opportunity we can find to contextualise that learning will be monopolised to ensure the provision of a creative curriculum.

Before I end, I would like to extend my thanks to The Friends of Conifers (PTA) for their enthusiasm and commitment in organising and supporting the school's Film Nights, Discos and Red Nose Day. My thanks also go to the staff, for their time in support of these activities.

Finally, on behalf of myself, the staff and Governors of Conifers Primary, I wish you all a lovely Easter.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson  
HEADTEACHER



## PE and Sport at Conifers

We've had another busy few weeks with sporting events at Conifers. On Thursday 9th March, the Netball team competed in the local schools competition at Budmouth. The team played 5 games, beating St Mary's and Radipole B. The team was made up of Year 5s and one Year 4, we all had a fantastic afternoon in the sunshine!

The football team have also been busy, they attended the Nash Cup on Friday 10th March at Redlands alongside a girls team. Unfortunately, neither team managed to make the semi-finals - hopefully next year! Conifers invaded Holy Trinity on Friday 17th March for a double header, the Year 5 and 6 team won 1-0 thanks to a wonderfully set up goal from Kai Pearce which allowed captain Kaylem Cockings to net the only goal. The Year 3 and 4 team had a tense game, with Oakley Henson, Theo Dodds and Harrison Carter all impressing on their debuts. The final score was 6-6, with Natan Liro scoring 5 and Theo Dodds scoring 1. The Year 5 and 6 team face Radipole on Friday 24th March at home.

The Conifers Swimming Team entered the Year 5 and 6 Gala at Weymouth and Portland Swimming Pool on Thursday 16th March, all of the team represented the school well and many of them taking on a new challenge of swimming 50m! Our top performances came from Lawrence Goodrick in the 25m butterfly and the 50m, freestyle and Morgan Sketchley in the 50m backstroke.

The Extra-Curricular Clubs timetable is jammed packed with lots of activities for your children to get involved with. There are currently places in the Year 1 and 2 football club on a Wednesday with Mr Cartwright and the Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 football club with Mr Davis on a Friday. Please see the office for a letter.

Throughout the Spring and Summer terms all classes will enjoy an afternoon trip to WOEK, please ensure that your permission slip and payment are given to the class teacher promptly. Payments can also be paid online.

Finally and once again a huge thank you to all parents who have supported our teams recently!

Miss Frampton  
PE Leader



### Year 3 - Science Week

This week year 3 have been embracing Science week by exploring our outdoor areas. The children have been exploring the many creatures hidden in our school grounds and researching them using iPads and identification guides. The children have recorded the amount of each creature they found in the nature and forest school area and were able to use that data to produce graphs. The children were able to not only explore grassland and woodland habitats but a pond habitat as well. The children explored our school pond and found lots of Palmate Newts as well as hundreds of tadpoles.

Miss Ryan  
Year 3 Teacher



### Environment Club

The Nature Rangers club has started after school and the children have been hard at work planting hedging plants and willow trees that will be trained into a living willow tunnel. They have also been hard at work collecting rubbish from the school grounds. Thank you to this band of dedicated young people who are helping to improve our outdoor spaces.

Mr Hutchinson  
Environment Co-ordinator



School finishes on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April, at 1.30pm for Easter, and reopens to children on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

