

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

29th June 2017

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we race towards the end of term, we can look back on another very busy month of learning with many opportunities to do so, outside the classroom.

Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 have all enjoyed their time at the Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre where our younger children participated in Team Challenges, Rock Climbing on the Tower, or squeezing themselves through the tunnel system. Fair play to some of our staff, who also put themselves through the same torture, I mean, excitement!

Year 6 enjoyed a day's sailing where the wind varied from trying to capsize us all on one day, to non-existent on the next. Strangely enough, everyone ended up getting wet anyway - myself included. They also spent the day Abseiling at Portland, Coast-steering around the rocky bays at Portland Bill, Climbing and Kayaking. Hopefully they will take those happy memories with them as they start their new schools in the autumn of 2017. I am sure they will take the memory of their London Trip with them, as this is all many of them have spoken about since they return from their residential trip to the capital.

Year 3 spent a blisteringly hot day, Rock Pooling at Newton's Cove and found all manner of sea creatures, some of which were less happier than others at being captured and scrutinised in a bucket. However, the children had a marvellous day, and my thanks to staff and parents in helping us provide that valuable opportunity.

Whilst on the theme of parents, I would like to say thank you to the Friends of Conifers, our PTA, who have been working tirelessly both behind and in-front of the scenes to raise money for the school. A little more from them can be seen, later in the Newsletter.

Conifers will bid farewell to some staff members at the end of this term and we wish all of them well. From our teaching staff, Mr Hutchinson, who has been with the school for too many years to mention (ssshh....12 of them) leaves to continue his passion for teaching in another local school where he will undoubtedly build on all the experiences shared with pupils during his time with us. Mrs Minshall (up until very recently Miss Coventry) leaves to move closer to her husband, and our belated congratulations to them both, and again, continue her passion for teaching in a school local to him. Mrs Brock, who joined Conifers at the start of 2016, leaves to further her professional counselling training and work with other local schools. A huge thanks of gratitude to them all. From our support staff, Mrs Aldous is retiring after having supported children at the school for over 20 years, which I am sure deserves a medal of some description! Miss Redwood leaves us to have her first baby and we wish her the very best for that momentous and joyous occasion. Mrs Woolrich and Mrs Sibeth also leave the school to continue working with children in other local schools and we thank them all for their hard work and support for all the children they have supported at Conifers.

We have recently welcomed Mrs Newport and Mrs Glover to the school who will lead and supervise our Thrive base and we look forward to welcoming Miss Curtis, who will be teaching in Year 1, Miss Blake, who will be teaching in Year 2, Miss Jones who will be teaching in Year 5 and Miss Samuel, who will be teaching in Year 6. Your child will bring a slip home tomorrow informing you of their new class, teacher and TA in September.

It is an exciting time for Conifers as we start a new chapter in the school's life and we look forward to building on all the positives achieved throughout the last academic year.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER



Lost Property Sale

Don't forget there is a Lost Property Sale the first Monday in every month, the next one is Monday 3rd July, 3.15pm, outside the Rainbow Room. Come and grab yourselves a bargain!!



Please remember to name your children's clothes; we get so much in lost property and nothing is named.

Hot Meals

Thank you to everyone that has registered and is using www.scopay.com/conifersprimary-dorset for online payments of trips and ordering of Hot School Meals. From September, KS1 parents, if you do not order your child a meal on line there will be no meal provided for your child, and you will have to send your child in with a packed lunch. There will be no spare lunches anymore. If anyone still needs any help please contact the office, we are here to help. Look out for the new menus coming home next week; meals will need to be ordered by Friday 14th July for September 2017.

Friends

The 'Friends' would like to thank all parents, carers and students for your continued support this past year. The funds that you have helped to raise so far, have contributed towards the cost of a coach for Miss Frampton to take some children to The County Cricket Festival in Wimborne, funded a trip to Monkey World for the Thrive Base and they are also funding the Year 6 Leavers BBQ.

Fund raising so far this year included The Penny Drive which raised £437, this was an amazing success, Sycamore won the extra golden time. 'Bag2School', with all your donations of clothes, raised £132. The Friends are looking to run the 'Bag2School' every 6 months.

Our grateful thanks go to our PTA members, Rebecca Fuller, Chair, Sammy Stevens, Vice Chair, Lara House, Treasurer, Kerris Dark, Secretary and Marissa Limerick, Committee Member. They have worked tirelessly these past few weeks to get this Summer Fair up and running. If there are any other mums or nans out there who would like to join these lovely ladies, we would love to hear from you. The Friends now have a Facebook Page called 'Friends of Conifers Primary School', please go to their website and like their page, it is constantly being updated with lots of exciting news.

The Friends have lots of events planned for the new school year in September!!

Summer Fair

This Friday as you may all know is our Summer Fair. This starts at 3.30pm until 5.30pm. There will be programmes on sale with a full list of events. Lynch Lane Garden Centre have kindly donated a garden table and chairs for our grand raffle, tickets will be on sale at the Summer Fair or pop into the school office and pick up a few books. This Friday will also be non-uniform day for all of your children.

Medicine in School

If your child has to take medication in school for any reason, the medicine has to be clearly labelled with their name and class. We will only take medicine that has been prescribed or has to be taken 4 times a day, thank you.



Year 6 WOEC pictures



Year 6 London pictures



Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about baptism and the church within the community. To enhance their learning they visited our local church, St Paul's, and spent time with Father Richard learning about baptism.



Changeover Day

Changeover day this year is Tuesday 11th July. Year 6 children will spend the day at their new Secondary school and children in Reception to Year 5 will all move up a year and spend the morning with their new class teacher at Conifers.

Phone Calls to the Office

If your child is absent from school for ANY reason please call the absence line and leave a message, you do not have to speak to the Office. Also if children have a hospital appointment, doctors or dentist appointment you need to provide medical evidence. Attendance is very important, EVERY child should have 97% and above. If you need to get a message to your child, please phone the office before 1pm as messages received after this time cannot be guaranteed to reach your child, obviously every effort will be made, but this will not be guaranteed, thank you.

Library

As is usual near the end of a term, especially the summer term we would like to ask for all library books to be returned by 12th of July in order that a stock check can be undertaken. Thank you.

From next September all children (except Reception) will be able to access the library from the pupils page, on the school web site, by using their own school login details. They will be able to search for books, read the synopsis, reserve books, write reviews and more. Some children may like to try it now just to see what can be done. If there are any problems with logging in from September Mrs Poolman will be happy to help if she can.



Team Day

The "Conifers Team Days" are now a part of Conifers life and happen at the end of each half term. Last half term our team day linked to Rights Respecting Schools and hinged around the story of the lovable elephant "Elmer." The children were encouraged to embrace their individuality and differences. They did this superbly well! For more... please see the photos on the school website. This half term "Team Day" needs to happen a little earlier than usual, on the penultimate Friday of term, the **14th July**, just before the last week of term. The children will be experiencing a Super Science activity, and some Beautiful British Values craft activities all centered around the theme "Sun Safety." We are sure the day will be fun for all!

'Bike it'

Thank you to everyone who supported our 'Big Pedal' event last term. It's great to see lots of you enjoying the exercise whilst having fun!

We have very kindly been given 3 balance bikes from the bike shop; this has been funded by Sustrans. The Reception children are having lots of fun with these.

Our next bike themed event is next Friday 7th July. We are holding our 'Bike Breakfast'. This is to encourage pupils, parents and staff to get on their bikes and take a journey to and from school. There will be a drink and a snack for everyone who cycles to school on this day. This does not include rollerblades or Heeley's! A letter will be sent out early next week with further details.

PE and Sport at Conifers

Once again it's been a jammed packed term full of summer sporting events. It started off on Wednesday 7th June, with the year 5 and 6 cricket teams enjoying a day of sunshine and cricket. The Year 5 team won the tournament and have got through to the country finals, Which take place on Wednesday 5th July in Wimborne. we wish the team every success.

Miss Ryan and Mrs Wilson took the athletics team to the South Dorsets on Friday 9th June at Budmouth. The team did extremely well, with four children qualifying for the county athletics event over in Bournemouth. Scarlett Paul qualified in the 60m sprint, Tianna Runyard qualified in the 75m sprint and the relay team, Sophie Harper in the 55m hurdles and Corey Vanstone in the long jump. We wish all these athletes the best for the competition on Friday 7th July.

The year 4 rounders team came a credible second place in the local schools rounders tournament, they beat St Johns, Beechcroft and Southill, only loosing narrowly to Holy Trinity by 3 rounders.

Can I remind all parents who have had children represent the school this year to check for school kit. We have a lot of rugby, football and Conifers Polo shirts missing.

Thank you to all the parents who have returned their PE and Sport Premium questionnaires your opinions are all valuable.

Volunteer Reading

Would anyone be interested in listening to children read, any afternoon from September? For more information please contact Mrs Paice (TA) for more details, thank you.

Reminder for all parents that children do not ride scooters or bikes in the playground before or after school.

Photographs

Today your child will be bringing home their class photograph. You have the option to pay online or by cheque to the Office. The deadline for monies to the Office is Monday 10th July 2017, thank you.

