

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



24th May 2017

HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the days growing warmer, we look forward to a busy, final summer term, in which the focus will steadfastly remain of learning, but ensuring a liberal helping of fun is also on offer. However, before we launch into that, some news from the last term.

To start, let's talk SATs. I know many will wince at merely reading the word and all of us have personal thoughts and opinions on the 'benefit' of testing and submitting children to those levels of pressure at such a young age. However, as long as the Government decree they are compulsory, every school and Year 6 child in the country will suffer that necessary evil. That said, our Year 6 did themselves proud. They studied hard, remained focussed throughout and even managed the odd smile along the way! I applaud them all. My thanks to Year 6 staff and others for starting the day early in order to provide breakfast each morning and thank you for your support in donating funds in order for this happen. A shout out to Morrisons also, who very kindly donated some money to help 'boost the coffers'.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you to our Parent Evenings, and thank you to all of you who took the time to answer our short questionnaire and provide feedback comments. Once again, we received just short of two hundred replies, all of which were very positive, indicating that you either agreed or strongly agreed with everything the school was doing. Many of you also took the time to leave a small comment; some personally thanking staff for their commitment and dedication, which have been passed on to them and others praising the work of the school in more general terms.

"A great understanding of what I can do to encourage my child at home". "My child is thriving now at this school". ".....The school fully supports my daughter's learning and inclusion". "All staff are amazing, office ladies are lovely and always very helpful".

The only two replies we received that indicated disagreement were based around homework. This issue will always remain one for debate, with some parents in agreement of its use, some wishing to see even more and others, entirely against it. What I will say, is that Conifers will always ensure that any homework set is pertinent to what your child is learning about, whilst designed to help them further their understanding. We also received some constructive feedback on the possibility of organising 'parent workshops' to help you, help your child with their learning. This would be an obvious extension to the short film-clips we have posted on our school website, so watch this space for further details on how we can put this suggestion into practice.

Once again the children of Conifers Primary have had opportunities to extend their learning, outside the classroom, with trips to Marwell Zoo and Stonehenge. All of which were extremely successful and details of which can be read on the following pages.

I am sure that by now, you know how committed we are to outside learning, and we will continue to offer as many of these experiences to our children, as possible. With this in mind, the financial constraints that we are all facing and the increasing costs of trips and residential, we will endeavour to allow as much notice as possible for upcoming trips.

Currently, Conifers offers two residential trips; one in Year 5 and one in Year 6. From the next academic year - September 2017 we will be changing this. The residential trips will be offered to Year 4 and Year 6 children. The rationale for this is two-fold. Firstly, children in Year 4 seem to struggle in cementing relationships with their peers, so an opportunity to help develop and strengthen this should be seized upon. Secondly, it allows you as parents an extended period of time to spread financial outlay, in the event your child wishes to attend both trips.



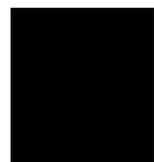
Lastly, from me, comes some immediate farewells and news of some staff changes for the last half of the summer term. Miss Charlton has successfully completed her Headship qualification and left Conifers on the 30th April for new adventures. She wishes to thank staff, parents and children for all their support over the past six years. Miss Clark leaves Conifers this half term, to carry on her work with supporting pupils at another local school, where I am sure they will benefit greatly from her skill and knowledge, as much as our children have done so here. We wish them luck in their future endeavours. Mrs Dalby will be taking some time away from school to recuperate from an operation. I know, that those of you who know her, will join us all, in wishing her a very speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her back in the near future. In her absence, Mrs Burden, who is a very experienced teacher at our school, will be covering her class for the final half term.

Reminder - 'Team Day' for children is this Friday and children can wear non-uniform to school and bring in £1 donation.

Thank you all for your continued support of the school - enjoy your Spring Bank Holiday, children return to school on Monday 5th June.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER



PE & Sport at Conifers

On Wednesday 3rd May, Miss Frampton and Mrs Wilson took the Year 3 and 4 football team up to St George's School, Portland for a tournament. The boys were excited and had high hopes for the afternoon.

The group games were against, Chickerell, Wyke Regis and Radipole. Conifers beat Radipole twice, drew against Wyke Regis and lost narrowly against Chickerell. The boys all played fantastically well together and are looking forward to representing the school in our senior team next year.

Pine class travelled to Colfox School in Bridport, for the Tri-Golf Festival on Thursday 27th April. It was a warm day and a great opportunity for the whole class to experience competitions against other schools. The children were split into 3 teams and were competing against schools from Weymouth, Dorchester and the Bridport area. Each station involved a different holding skills, putting, driving, hitting targets and coloured cones. All children thoroughly enjoyed the day and were a credit to the school.

There are plenty of Sports Clubs to get involved with this term, Rounders on a Monday, Athletics and KS1 Football on a Wednesday, Taekwondo on a Thursday and KS2 Football on a Friday. Can I remind parents that clubs do change every term, and new letters are sent out which require new permission slips to be handed in to the office.

I look forward to receiving all your PE and Sport surveys, your opinions are greatly valued and will help me to build on our PE and Sports provision next year.

Miss Frampton
PE Leader

Reception

Reception have been working super hard to get our outside garden looking fabulous! We had lots of fun and enjoyed getting very messy digging and planting!



Mrs Hutchinson and Miss Ward
Classteachers



Year 1

Year 1 had fantastic time learning about the African animals at Marwell Zoo. We saw giraffes, tigers and zebras to name a few and the children were exceptionally well behaved - well done Year 1 and a BIG thank you to all of the parents and support staff that helped up with the trip.



Miss Anthony and Mr Young
Yr1 Classteachers

Year 2

Miss Treweek and Mrs Dalby would like to say a big 'well done' to everyone in year 2 for completing their special quizzes (SATs). We are extremely proud of them all.

Miss Treweek and Mrs Dalby
Yr2 Classteachers

Year 5

Year 5 had a lovely time on their recent trip to Stonehenge. They participated in a workshop where they learnt to make fences, rope and experienced a Neolithic house. Thank you to all of the helpers who came with us on our trip!



Miss Coventry and Miss Noakes
Yr5 Classteachers



