

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

31st January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome the children back at the beginning of the term and be regaled with stories of exciting presents and time spent with family and friends. That all seems a long time ago now, as everyone has settled quickly back into the job of 'teaching and learning' and it is always a pleasure to witness the commitment and enthusiasm from both staff and children alike.

As mentioned in my last newsletter, after requests from parents regarding which methods were used to teach their children, we are now nearing completion of the short video clips, ready to go on our school website www.conifers.dorset.sch.uk which demonstrate the way in which 'cursive' handwriting is taught and ways in which some mathematical calculations are carried out. These have been very well explained by our pupils, who I would like to thank for their involvement and we hope you find them useful. My thanks also to Miss Treweek and Miss Worley, our English and Maths Leaders for investing their time in this enterprise. The clips should be ready and uploaded by the forthcoming weekend and can be found by following these links: from our Homepage - click Curriculum - Watch Cursive Handwriting or Watch Mathematical Methods.

Conifers has a long history of celebrating children's achievements and I often have the opportunity to see many pieces of excellent work, as these are shared with me on a daily basis. As a school, we have made the decision to extend our praise system to include weekly 'Star Mathematicians' and 'Star Writers'. So how does this work I hear you cry? Well, each week, staff, in each Year Group, decide on a pupil who they believe has worked the hardest or put maximum effort in to create a great piece of writing or solve a mathematical problem. These children are acknowledged and rewarded in a Whole School assembly, which we hold each Monday afternoon, then their work is shared with the school via a 'Celebration Board' which is located just inside the main school building. Next time you are in, please take the opportunity to have a look.

'Team Days' - over the past term, we have been trialling 'Team Days' in which we shuffle the entire school, from Reception to Year 6, and then consider topics from a British Values angle. Having children work together, across the entire age range has been a pleasure to watch as both the nurturing and supportive ethos of the school is readily demonstrated by them. Due to the success of these days, we intend to incorporate them into our yearly timetable and will hold them on the last Friday of each half term. Our next one will be Friday 3rd February (as the following Friday is an INSET day). The children will be looking at elements of the Rights Respecting School Charter and working together to ensure they understand the values of respect and that as a learning community, we must support one another to promote awareness that every voice has the right to be heard. The children will have a non-uniform day this day and bring in £1. The School Council will then decide which charity the money goes to. The last lot of money was split between Kingfisher Ward and SCBU at Dorset County Hospital.

As part of Safeguarding at Conifers and protecting your children from unlawful photography or video footage being taken, may I please request that whilst you are on school grounds or in the school building that you refrain from using your mobile phones, unless it is an emergency, thank you.

Remaining on a serious note, may I please remind parents of the importance of adhering to road safety markings. At the front of the school, we have double yellow lines on the slip road to the school gate. These serve two purposes; to ensure no obstructions block access to the school, in the case of an emergency and to provide clarity of vision for motorists, as children move freely on the adjoining footpaths. Unfortunately, there was a road traffic collision at the exit/entrance to the school slip road last week and emergency vehicles could not access the site due to illegal parking. At the rear of the school there are 'zig-zag' markings approaching the pedestrian crossing, on which it is an offence to stop unless doing so to allow pedestrians to cross. Inconsiderate parking on these lines represents a very obvious danger to all those using the crossing, as line of vision is greatly impaired. In short, to ensure the safety of all the children at Conifers Primary, we need motorists to show some consideration, follow the Highway Code and park legally. Without your support, I genuinely believe that someone is going to get hurt.

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 6th February, 3.15pm, outside the Rainbow Room. Come and grab yourselves a bargain!!



Year 1 - Baking Club

Year 1 are having a fantastic time at Baking Club and have made delicious treats such as fairy cakes and jam tarts. The children have been brilliant at weighing out the ingredients and mixing them altogether. Well done Baking Club Team!!

Miss Anthony and Mrs Hutchinson



Year 1 - Forest School

'Year 1 had a fantastic time carrying out lots of activities in the Forest School area for our Kenya Impact Day. We loved building a den using natural resources and we could even fit inside the den! The fire was amazing and we were able to taste some bread that Mr Young had cooked for us. We also used fabric and mud to create some brilliant art designs.'

Miss Anthony and Mr Young



PE & Sport at Conifers

Despite the cold weather of January, the sports fixture calendar is still full-up, especially for upper key stage two. The Indoor Football Tournament took place on Friday 20th January at Weymouth College, with Conifers taking one team. Unfortunately, they missed out on qualifying for the finals this year losing 2 games and drawing against Beechcroft.

However, the football teams luck changed on Thursday 26th January, as they retained their 100% record in the schools league beating St Augustine's 13-0. The scoring was opened by winger Ethan Cockings, followed minutes later by his older brother Kaylem. The goals kept on coming which each player managing to get on the score sheet. The team face Holy Trinity in the next round of matches, which looks set to be a cracker!

A group of gifted and talented Year Five pupils were invited to attend a rugby skills morning at Budmouth, despite the freezing conditions all the children had a fantastic morning and improved their rugby skills ready for the area tournament on Wednesday 8th February.

The extra-curricular clubs are continuing to run, currently their are still places in Dance Club on Mondays for Years 1-4, Netball Club on Tuesdays for Years 3-6 and Multi-Sports Club on Tuesdays for Years 1 and 2. Please see the office or Miss Frampton for a letter.



Year 5 and 6 indoor Football Team



Year 5 and 6 who beat St Augustines 13-0

