

# CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

28<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a busy term draws to a close, we look forward to the Easter break, and hopefully no more surprises from the Beast, the Mini-Beast or any other 'Beast-Like' synonyms.

In my last newsletter I reminded you all about our 'Team Days' and 'House Afternoons' and this month I would like to recap on our commitment to offer children chances to learn outside the classroom. Over the past month, staff have all made a conscientious effort to provide at least one learning outside the classroom (LOTC) opportunity for the children in their class. The first opportunity was based around a Maths lesson, the second, based around an English lesson and the third, around a Humanities lesson. Staff were then given 'free reign', to choose any subject they liked, to build an opportunity for learning outside the classroom. We shall continue this throughout the summer months. It has been fantastic to watch the children using the school grounds and resources to help them learn, and the levels of engagement and enthusiasm have been obvious, as they actively seek alternative ways to extend personalised learning opportunities.

It was lovely to see such a vast array of costumes in school on World Book Day, and although this was a little later than originally planned, all the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. To see the theme of literature continued into the evening with 'Story Time' was wonderful and my thanks to staff for giving up their time to make this happen. My thanks also to Mr Young, for providing the Internet Safety talk for parents, whilst children enjoyed various stories around the school.

In keeping with the school 'LEARN' agenda - Listen, Engage, Ask Questions, Respond and Never Give up, Conifers have agreed to work closely with Bincombe Primary and Southill Primary. The reason for this is to 'Engage' with other Headteachers and staff to 'Ask Questions' about our schools and 'Respond' in a way that will help all of us 'Learn'. Mr Pallister and Mr Mason - Headteachers of the other two schools, have already visited and supported in our staff lesson observations, to quality assure our findings. I am happy to report that they both agreed with our judgements about the quantity and quality of good or outstanding teaching across the school. Moving forward, we hope to establish 'monitoring' sessions, where staff from all schools will meet to discuss what works well in supporting learning and sharing good practice, so children across all schools will benefit from the collaboration.

To end on a high, Conifers recently welcomed Kerry Smith to the school, who is the new SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Lead and Advisor for the Local Authority. Kerry spent the day in school looking at data, meeting with Mrs Roper - our SENCo and Assistant Headteacher, talking with the children, walking around the school to see them in action in the classroom, meeting with support staff, teaching staff and members of the Leadership Team. It was an extremely busy and rigorous day, as Kerry quality assured the school against the following aspects: Leadership & Management, Progress & Outcomes for pupils with SEND, Statutory Obligations, Governance, Teaching & Learning, Support Staff, Efficient use of resources, Engagement with pupils and families, Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare and Outward Facing. I am exceptionally proud to announce that Conifers was deemed to be either effective or highly effective in all areas of the review. It should also be noted that Mrs Roper was highly praised for her knowledge, skill and support for all of our SEND children.

Lastly then, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support, and on behalf of myself, the staff and Governors of Conifers Primary, I wish you a lovely Easter.

Mr A Johnson  
HEADTEACHER

## Green Dojo Card Reward Afternoon

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, the children who had stayed on green cards for behaviour in Key Stage one and Key Stage two during January and February, enjoyed their **Green Dojo Card** reward afternoon. Through the afternoon, the children had a choice of activities which included having their faces painted, watching a film with popcorn, decorating biscuits, dressing up, football and playing with a range of toys. The children had a wonderful time and enjoyed the reward time for always following the school learning charter.



The next reward afternoon to reward the children for staying on green for this half term, will take place after the Easter holiday.

### Peer Mediation at Conifers

In February, 31 year 5 children completed 2 days Peer Mediation training with Mrs Newport and Mrs Clarke. The children volunteered to complete the training. During the training, the children worked really hard to understand the different skills and experiences of being a Peer Mediator.

#### **What is Peer Mediation?**

- Part of a whole school strategy for resolving conflict, led by the children with adult support.
- Provides children with the skills and ability to facilitate problem solving between other children.

#### **The skills developed by the Peer Mediators**

- Listening
- Reflecting
- Recognising two sides of any one conflict
- Valuing opinions and feelings of others
- Looking for solutions with a win/win outcome
- Finding out both sides of the story

#### **How it operates...**

- Children choose to go to the mediators if they have been involved in a dispute or argument.
- The mediators work from a specific script which they work through to reach a solution.

- The children work through the process without the need of an adult and hopefully resolve the problem.

### **The process involves ...**

- Agreeing rules which need to be adhered to during the mediation.
- An opportunity for both children to explain their side of the story.
- Opportunity to say how they both feel.
- Opportunity to consider each other's feelings.
- Opportunity to think of possible solutions.
- Opportunity to reach a win/win solution.

### **PE and Sport**

The second half of the Spring term is our busiest term for sporting events and competitions. The term began with the Year 6 Tag Rugby team enjoying a fantastic day at the rugby club, it was a festival this year which meant it was all about being a good sportsperson. The Y4 teams entered the skills based tournament on Thursday 22nd March, despite only a few training sessions, the children did extremely well and scored some amazing trys.

The orienteering team, have participated in a weekly event at local schools in Weymouth, the finals are being held on Tuesday 27th March at the Nothe.

The netball team have had a success few weeks, beating Southill 6-0 in the first round of the knock out cup and coming third in the High 5 Tournament. Beating St George's and St Andrews and loosing narrowly to DMS and Radipole.

The swimming team had a successful day at the Year 5 and 6 gala, with the standard of swimming much higher than before. We secured plenty of second and third places in their heats and the children were very well behaved on poolside.

Finally the football teams enjoyed an afternoon at the Nash Cup on Friday 23rd March. The girls team lost out on making the semi-finals on goal different, but being a year 5 team know they can build on this for next year. The Boys team, had a successful afternoon, beating Holy Trinity, drawing with Chickerell and narrowly losing to sat George's. But this meant they progressed to the semi-finals and faced Radipole. The final score was 1-1, which meant three minutes of golden goal extra time. However, neither team could score. Conifers managed to win on penalties with Dan Heath having a stormer between the sticks. The final against Holy Trinity was a nail biting affair, neither team could score, which meant penalties again. Unfortunately, we lost on sudden death penalties. However, runners up is still a huge achievement!

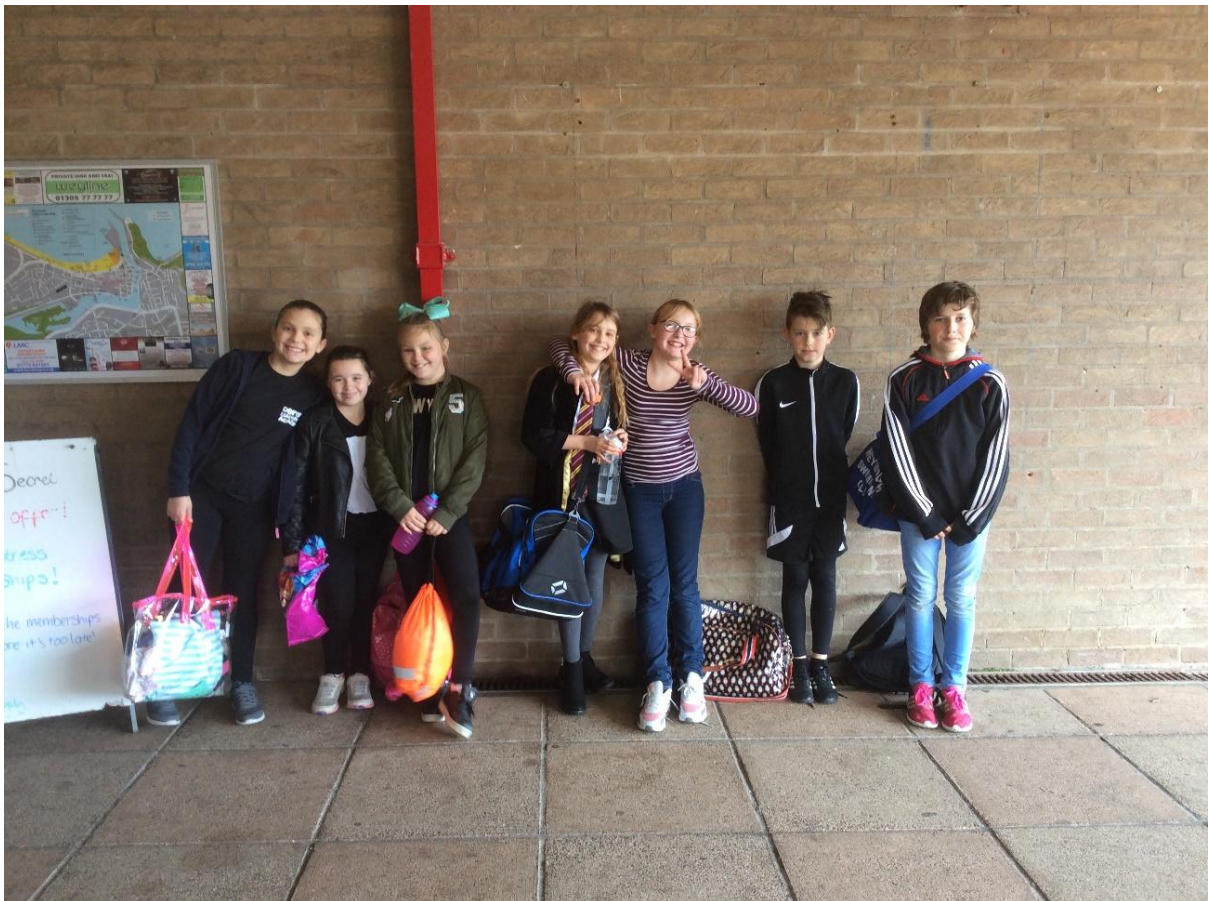
A massive well done to all children who have represented the school this year, and thank you to all the parents who have supported and helped with transport.

Miss Frampton  
PE Leader

## NETBALL TEAM



## SWIMMING TEAM



A special mention to the Year 5 Orienteering team. We came third out of the 6 competing schools overall and Aiden Barrett and Luca Gulliver won out of all children who competed. All children in the team participated with great enthusiasm and represented the school incredibly well.

Thank you

Mrs Treble

### **PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS**

We are pleased to announce the results of our Parent Governor Elections. The nominees voted in are Miss Rebecca Fuller and Mrs Sam Stevens. Thank you to everyone who stood and thank you everyone for taking part in the vote.

### **REMINDER**

Don't forget School breaks up tomorrow at **1.30pm** for the Easter break and children return to School on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April, thank you.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Did you know that cuddling your child can benefit their brain?



It releases happy hormones

It reduces stress and increases resilience

It communicates love

It communicates safety