

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 23rd May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now the sun has finally started to make an appearance for more than one day at a time, we are all looking forward to our half-term and then the busy, final weeks of the summer term. Yes, our focus will steadfastly remain on learning, but we will also ensure a liberal helping of fun - however, before we launch into that, some news from the last half-term.

To start, we have to talk SATs. I know from past experience and the many conversations with you, that we all have our own personal opinions on the 'benefit' of testing and submitting children to those levels of pressure at such a young age. Unfortunately, as long as the politicians decide that they are the best way to 'measure' a child's performance, we, along with every other school and Year 6 child in the country, had to 'knuckle down' and 'crack-on'. At Conifers, that's exactly what our Year 6 children did and I'm confident that they have done themselves proud. They studied hard, remained focussed throughout and even managed the odd smile along the way. Fair play to them all! My thanks to the Year 6 staff and many others for starting the day early, providing breakfast each morning and supporting the children throughout the week. My thanks to you also, for your support from the home front - without it, many would not have done as well as they did!

Once again the children of Conifers Primary have had opportunities to extend their learning, outside the classroom, with trips to the Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre. All of which were extremely successful and all of which the children thoroughly enjoyed. I am sure that by now, you know how committed we are to using our environment to consolidate and extend learning, and we will continue to offer as many of these experiences to our children, as possible. I believe Mr Young has a few words to share about Year Three's 'rock-pooling adventure', a little later in this letter.

It was, as always, a pleasure to welcome so many of you to our Parent Evenings, and my thanks 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 personal 'shout-outs' to staff, thanking them for their commitment and dedication, which have been passed on to them and others, praising the work of the school in more general terms.



"My child continues to thrive here". "Please keep up the good work". "Really happy with the progress my children are making". "Very useful to see the progress in my child's books".

On behalf of myself, the staff and the Governors, I would like to thank you for your kind words.

Finally, I don't know if you have noticed, but we have had new improved 'Keep Clear' markings painted outside of our school gates on Radipole Lane. These were installed to improve safety for all of our children. Rob Camp, Safer Travel Officer from Dorset Council, will be monitoring the parking behaviour of parents on a regular basis, as many cars, still park very inconsiderately. Please help us to keep our children safe by **NOT** parking on these markings, thank you.

As always - thank you all for your continued support of the school - enjoy your Spring Bank Holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER

Dates For your Diary

- Tuesday 4th June is Class Photo's for all children
- Week beginning Monday 10th June, Book Fair is in School
- Tuesday 11th June is New Parents Evening for children starting in September, 6pm
- Friday 21st June at 3.30pm is the Summer Fair



Year 1

Year 1 have been building links with the wider community by visiting Buxton House Care Home during the year. We have enjoyed making crafts and cards and getting to know one another. The children also enjoy squash and biscuits which is a little treat! In between our visits we have been sending letters and pictures to Buxton House. In the Summer Term we will invite Buxton House and parents to a KS1 Family Assembly to share our experiences.

Miss Anthony
Year 1 Teacher



Year 3

Year 3 recently visited Newton's Cove for a day at the rock pools. Some of the animals observed included sea stars, sea snails and shore crabs. All involved had a lovely time as we also created beach art, produced a sketch map of the local area and even looked after our local environment by having a beach clean. We have been using the information to help us when we are writing our non-chronological reports. Big thanks to all the parent helpers!

Mr Young and Miss Nokes
Year 3 Teachers



Year 6

We would like to congratulate all our Year 6 children on working so hard to complete their SATs week. They were a credit to themselves and all the parents, carers and guardians that support them. Well done Year 6!

Can we also say thank you to the 'Friends' for proving the funds so that Year 6 could have breakfast throughout the week and also a big thank you to Morrisons for donating the brain food (fruit) before sitting their exams.

Mrs West and Miss Samuel
Year 6 Teachers

African Drumming Day

On the 15th July we have the exciting opportunity to take part in an African workshop hosted by African Activities, a company based in London. This day will consist of an African drumming session, traditional tales and some exciting potato printing art sessions!

This activity day will allow the children to experience what children in Africa might experience on a normal school day. Their close connection with tradition and nature will be the main focus of this day.

A huge thank you to the 'Friends' who have kindly agreed to fund this amazing opportunity.

Miss Jones and Miss Bridge
Global Learning team

Sport

The Year 3 and 4 football team enjoyed an afternoon out at the St George's Tournament on Wednesday 1st May. They were all very nervous as it was their first time out representing the school at sport. The team did fantastically well and grew with confidence the more they played. They managed to win 2 games, beating hosts St George's 2-0 and St Nicks 8-1, drew one against Holy Trinity and lost 2. The team had a great time and they are looking forward to coming back again next year.

The Year 4 Swim team enjoyed a fantastic afternoon out at the local schools Gala last week. The team competed in both relays and individual events. Macey Macconnachie snatched 4th place in the girls 25m Backstroke. Well done to everyone who competed in their first Gala!

Our resident Olympic hopeful, Geoff Goodrick, smashed the record books at a recent Gala for the first boy to medal in every event he entered. His results were as follows: 2nd in 100m Breaststroke, 1st in 50m Fly, 3rd in 200m Freestyle, 2nd in 50m Backstroke, 2nd in 50m Breaststroke, 2nd in 100m IM and 3rd in 100m Freestyle. Congratulations to Geoff!

There are places in both of the KS1 clubs, football runs every Monday and multi-sports event Tuesday. There is also places at Allotment club which is open to Year 1 through to Year 4. Please pick up letters from the office.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported Conifers at our recent events. The next term sees the Cricket, Athletics and Rounders teams competing to retain their titles!



Miss Frampton
PE Co-ordinator

