

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



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HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

28th June 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I think it's safe to say, that the countdown has officially begun and to be honest, it's neck and neck in respect of who most keeps reminding me of the days left - staff or children. However, being the voice of reason, or just a grumpy old man, I keep reminding everyone that we still have a few weeks left!

As always - the following pages will regale you of our many sporting successes and the opportunities we have offered for Learning Outside the Classroom. Many more opportunities for this will be offered in July, but you'll simply have to wait to read about those.

I thought I would start by letting you know of some staff changes that will be happening at the end of this term.

Three members of our teaching staff are leaving us; Mr Young - who joined the school way back in 2010, Mrs Dalby, who came to Conifers in 2016 and Miss Curtis who joined us in 2017. Mr Young has always ensured that our children have the use of the latest ICT hardware and software and that they are safe whilst using it. He totally embraced our Learning Outside the Classroom ethos and needed little excuse to grab his wellies, a net and a bucket and with a class of children, terrorise the sea creatures of Newton's Cove. Mrs Dalby has brought music and song to the school and her direction of the Singing Club has provided the children with opportunities to sing, quite magnificently, in public, at many of our school functions, our Summer Fair being the latest. Miss Curtis has been responsible for putting art 'back on the map' for the school and amongst other things, the organisation and production of two significant displays, one national competition, set across the whole school, with a focus on the pollution in our oceans and the other, working with our partner schools, producing models of penguins, for display at the Sea Life Centre, again focussing on the need to reduce plastics in our seas. We wish all three every success with their future careers and know they will continue to have a positive impact on all they meet and interact with over the coming years.

Three members of our support staff are also leaving; Mrs Poolman - who joined the school in 1997, (that's not a typo - she really has been here that long) Mrs Dennis, who joined us in 2016 and Mrs Kirlaw, who came to Conifers in September 2018. Mrs Poolman started with us, at what was then, Westhaven Junior School and 'transferred' to what is now Conifers, in 2004. She has worn many hats during her time with the school but to summarise, she has been instrumental in providing positive change in the lives of our children for over 20 years! She has now decided to take some time for herself and will retire at the end of this term. She will take with her, our heart-felt thanks for her commitment to the school and the children during her time at Conifers.

Mrs Dennis has supported the school as a class teaching assistant and Mrs Kirlew has worked with-in both our THRIVE base and the classroom during her time at the school. Both colleagues quickly adapted to and have always promoted, the Conifers way of life, and although they will be missed, we obviously wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

We are excited to welcome two new teaching members of staff to the Conifers team - Mr Lyon and Miss Ramsey, who will join the school officially in September, but will be with us on the 9th July to meet their new class and introduce themselves to the children.

Lastly - Miss Nokes will be returning to Conifers after the summer holidays, but not before 'tying the knot' and therefore changing her name to Mrs Tozer. Our congratulations to her and her future husband and we hope everything goes smoothly and to plan on the 'big day'.

Lastly from me, I would like to say a massive thank you to the 'Friends' of Conifers, our PTA, who have been working tirelessly, all year, both behind and in-front of the scenes to raise money for the school. We had yet another extremely successful Summer Fair, raising over £2000, and their time and effort in organising this certainly paid off. My thanks to all who participated, either organising or running a stall or, as parents, spending money at one!

As always - my thanks to you, for your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER

Dates for your diary

Monday 1 st July	Yr6 -Redwood - WOEC
Thursday 4 th July	Yr2 - Going to the beach
Thursday 4 th July	Yr6 - Hawthorn - WOEC
Friday 5 th July	Yr6 - Redwood - WOEC
Tuesday 9 th July	Changeover Day, where children in Reception to Year 5 spend the morning in their new classes and Year 6 go to their Secondary School for the day.
Wednesday 10 th July	Yr6 - Hawthorn - WOEC
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly. There will be 2 showings again this year, 1 in the morning and 1 in the afternoon. Timings to be confirmed later.
Wednesday 17 th July	KS2 Sports Day - all day, more details to follow later
Thursday 18 th July	KS1 Sports Day - morning only, more details to follow later
Friday 19 th July	Children break up for the Summer holidays

Year 1 trip to the beach

Year 1 enjoyed their trip to the beach where they had a sandcastle competition and paddled in the sea. They enjoyed sausage and chips and they wrote a recount of their trip the next day. More pictures will be added to the Year 1 page on the website later.



Forest School - Larch class

On Monday 3rd June the children thoroughly enjoyed spending the afternoon in our Forest School Area. They came up with a list of rules and all signed their name in agreement. They enjoyed collecting sticks for the fire, climbing trees, building dens and hunting for bugs and flowers.





Year 1/2

Year 1 completed their Phonics Screening and Year 2 completing their SATs (quizzes). They all did really well and we are very proud of them all.

Miss Treweek

Sport

Athletics

We've had a super successful day on Friday 21st July at the athletics with 6 children definitely qualifying for the county finals.

Scarlet Paul in 75m sprint

Kacey Baber in throwing

Theo Dodds in long jump

Tyler Howe in 55m hurdles

Declan Davis in long jump

Mackey Macconnachie in 60m and long jump

A huge thank you to Mrs Dennis, Mrs Fairclough and parent helper Mrs Goodrick who came and did a great job looking after the team whilst I ran the track events.

Yr4 Rounders

Year 4 were crowned Rounders champions at the tournament on Thursday 21st June.!

This is the 3rd time we have won the trophy... I think that means we get to keep it?

Thank you to my able assistant Mrs Moorley!



Year 6 Rounders

The Year 6 rounders team won the tournament yesterday afternoon, beating all teams they played against. The Year 5 team came second, losing only to our year 6 team. Congratulations to all of the players. Thank you again to my most able assistant Mrs Moorley.



Happy School

Over the past few months, year 5 have been a part of the 'Art of Brilliance' project. The aim of this project is to develop a well-being ethos that is embedded and sustainable as it led ultimately by the children themselves.

Our year 5s have eagerly shared their message and experiences with the whole school through a well-being day, whole school assemblies and have many plans to share our positive messages with the local community.

The language, shared on the training, has now been adopted by the school with many regarding themselves as 2%ers!

As a school, our next step is to share our well-being knowledge with parents and the wider community. Year 5 have expressed their keenness to: visit other schools; invite parents in to assemblies and visit the local care home.



Bikeability

SafeWise is working in partnership with Dorset Council to offer Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability cycle training courses for pupils in years 5 & 6 this August at the Safewise Centre on Radipole Lane in Weymouth.

Please find a link attached

<https://www.safewise.org/bikeability/>

Hot Meals

From September 2019, the price of School Meals will increase to £2.45 each.

Scopay

We are pleased to announce that our online payment and school meal provider now has a mobile app. This is available to download for free from the app store, on IOS and android. It will go live on 8th July. Any questions please contact Mrs Hansford in the school office.

Meet and Greet

The 'Meet and Greets' are planned as followed:

Reception to visit Year 1	Wednesday 10 th July 9am-10am
Year 1 to visit Year 2	Thursday 11 th July 9am-10am
Year 2 to visit Year 3	Tuesday 9 th July 2pm-3pm
Year 3 to visit Year 4	Wednesday 10 th July 2pm-3pm
Year 4 to visit Year 5	Thursday 11 th July 2pm-3pm
Year 5 to visit Year 6	Friday 12 th July 2pm-3pm

On these days, if you intend to participate, please drop your child/ren off at their current class and make your way to the front entrance, where you will be granted access as soon as the children have settled in their new class. If your meeting is in the afternoon, please report to the main office on arrival and then collect your children from the playground, as normal, at the end of the day.

Governors

This is just to let you know what some of the Governors have been doing with their time. We meet as a Full Governing Body every half term and keep in touch via email in between, as well as coming into school to talk to staff. We also attend training - recently the Chair and Vice-Chair attended a Chairs' Briefing, organised by Dorset Governor Services. We heard all about a new initiative to ensure our children have appropriate careers guidance in school and also about what the Ofsted Inspectors will be looking for next time they visit.

Our Parent Governors, along with other members of the Friends, organised a very successful Summer Fair on the 21st June, luckily, with very good weather. I am confident it was enjoyed by everyone who attended and I would like to thank you all for coming along and making it such a well-attended event. I enjoyed being on the Raffle stall and chatting to everyone who bought tickets.

The Governors would like to wish everyone a very happy summer holiday and we will keep our fingers crossed for some good weather.

Quote of the day

What it's like to be a parent: It's one of the hardest things you'll ever do but in exchange it teaches you the meaning of unconditional love.

