

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

23rd May 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

With the sun finally making an appearance for more than one day at a time, and the world gazing slightly further afield than the royal wedding - we start to 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 half-term.

To start, let's talk SATs. I know from past experience and many conversations with you, that we all have personal thoughts and opinions on the 'benefit' of testing and submitting children to those levels of pressure at such a young age. Unfortunately, as long as the Government 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, will have to 'knuckle down' and 'crack-on'. In that vein, our Year 6 did exactly that and have done themselves proud. They studied hard, remained focused throughout and even managed the odd smile along the way. Fair play to them all! My thanks to the Year 6 staff and 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.

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 outside learning, and we will continue to offer as many of these experiences to our children, as possible.

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 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.

"My child continues to thrive here - it's such a nurturing school". "Please keep up the good work". "Really happy with the progress my children are making". "Great school, great staff".

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

To end, a quick shout out to the PTA, who do a great deal for the school, and have been working industriously both behind and in-front of the scenes, offering cakes sales and school discos, to name but a few ventures. They also funded the Breakfast Club for Year 6 during SAT's week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their time and effort, in raising additional funds for the school and the children. Long may it remain.

Thank you all for your continued support of the school - enjoy your Spring Bank Holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER

PE and Sports at Conifers

The Summer term has meant our gifted and talented PE program has begun on a Monday after school, for KS2 children who excel in rounders, cricket and athletics. With the competitions for these sports happening in June, the children have been training hard ready to win!

The Year 6 Football Team finally won some silverware, they were crowned the Indoor Football Champions at the end of April, they beat Radipole, St George's and Southill in the group games before beating Bincombe Valley in the final. Congratulations to all the boys who thoroughly deserved a trophy before they leave Confers.

The Year 3/4 Football team had a successful afternoon at the St George's Cup, they won 5 out of 6 games in their group, beating Radipole, Bincombe and Beechcroft. They faced Atlantic Academy in the semi-final but lost narrowly. Miss Frampton and Mrs Wilson were extremely proud of all the boys as they represented the school well.

A group of Year 4 children attended a Kwik Cricket skills morning at Redlands, they enjoyed taking part in different skills activities which involved bowling, batting and fielding. They were all extremely well behaved and are looking forward to playing some competitive Cricket soon!

Thank you to all the parents who have supported PE events this term!

Miss Frampton



Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful day at the Tri-Golf Festival at Colfox. All children were able to take part in a carousel of Tri-golf activities and compete against other schools. Conifers won the Weymouth and Portland area competition, beating Southill, Holy Trinity, St John's and Beechcroft to the title. The children all enjoyed their first taste of Level Two school games competition.

Miss Frampton and Mrs Dalby

Year 1

Larch Class had a fantastic time at WOEC (Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre) on the 15th May. They enjoyed an indoor obstacle course, bug hunting, making a den for a teddy, rock climbing and going in the tunnels. The weather was glorious and the children worked in teams and used lots of different skills. Well done Larch class

Miss Anthony.



Year 6 Fun Day



Year 6 enjoying a well-deserved treat after their hard work and dedication during SAT's week.



Smiles all around celebrating with a sports afternoon and picnic.
Well done Year 6!!



The 'Friends'

Thank you to everyone that attended the disco last week, we raised £839.70 and had so much fun. All money raised will be going towards the development of the nature area which we are so excited to be a part of and will benefit the whole school. We have Bag2school booked in for the 15th June, please ask any friends or family for any unwanted clothing. The more we collect the more we raise. The Summer Fair is Friday 29th June; please put this date in your diary. Thank you again for your support this term and we hope you all have a fab half term.

Rebecca Fuller
Chair of the Friends

THRIVING at Conifers

This year, we have been focusing on embedding the THRIVE approach and ethos in our school, to enable all members of our school to feel valued and noticed and enabled to THRIVE.

Some key focus areas include:

- **Good behaviour to get the attention** - As a school we use the Class Dojo reward system to reward the children who behave well, make great choices and show excellent behaviour for learning. Our Reception children use a slightly different system, with the Class Dojo being introduced later this year. The Class Dojo includes individual rewards, whole class reward time and half termly **ClassDojo Green Card** reward afternoons. This approach takes the 'fame' out of poor behaviour and focusses less learning time on this in the classrooms. Poor behaviour is managed quietly and without a fuss to lessen the attention it gets.
- **Positive meet and greets** - all adults engaging with all children when they see them around the school to ensure that children feel valued and noticed.
- **THRIVE activity time in the class timetable** - children across the school have regular THRIVE time as part of the school curriculum.

Peer MEDIATION

This half term, the year 5 Peer Mediators started their duties at lunchtime and they have been very busy helping different aged children resolve problems on the playground. The Peer Mediators have taken their new roles very seriously and have been working hard to help the children solve their problems.

Well Done Year 5



Our peer mediators reduce pupil



conflicts at playtime!

School Council

This term, the School Council have given feedback about the whole school focus on 'Learning Outside of The Classroom'. The children shared their thoughts about learning outside and whether it makes a difference to how they learn. Here are some of their thoughts.

'It's more practical and it gives you fresh air'

'It makes me want to learn and join in'

'It makes learning different'

'Gives us space and freedom'

'Fun'

'New experiences and able to touch realistic things'

The School Council would like their teachers' to continue planning 'Lessons Outside of The Classroom'.

Eeeek! There's something exciting coming soon...

The School Council are currently working on a project which they will share with you next half term.

Don't forget, school finishes on Thursday 24th May for half term and children return on Monday 4th June.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Children are not born with an understanding of the rules of acceptable behaviour - they have to learn them, and need adults help to do this"