

# CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



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HEADTEACHER  
Mr A Johnson

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the academic year - and welcome to our new parents, who are warmly greeted to the Conifers community.

It has been a pleasure to once again greet the children as they return to school and of course, to meet our new Reception children, who have all had their 'mini tours' of the school and been introduced to various members of staff - many of whom, I'm sure they have promptly forgotten!

It was wonderful to have our first whole school assembly at the beginning of term - and it's a genuine pleasure to see all the children together, in one space, celebrating our Star Readers, Writers and Mathematicians and children who have followed our LEARN charter. These certificates are awarded each week, to children across all the Year groups, who have worked exceptionally hard in their Writing, Reading and Maths. They are also recognised by receiving a small gift and having their names and pieces of work displayed on a special board, in the main corridor of the school. Our whole school assembly, which is held every Monday and led by myself, and other members of the school Leadership team, also recognises and celebrates children who have been following our LEARN charter: (L) listen, (E) engage, (A) ask questions (R) respond (N) never give up and the class with the best attendance. So if your child comes home brandishing a certificate on a Monday, after school, you'll know where it's come from.

As a school, our focus has long been on Learning Outside the Classroom (LOT) and this will obviously continue over this term, weather permitting, benefiting not only the academic and social skills of the children but also providing learning opportunities in an engaging and exciting way. Those parents who have been with the school for some time now, will undoubtedly have seen our new canopies at the rear of the school, which serve two main purposes. The first being that children will always have the opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise, irrespective of the weather. 'Wet Breaks' used to involve children having to stay in their classes, sometimes all day, which was not conducive to positive engagement or levels of enthusiasm, having been cooped up in one room all day - but no more. Even if it's hammering down, children will get the chance to stretch their legs and get out of the classroom. The second purpose for the canopies is that Learning Outside the Classroom can also continue despite inclement weather. At Conifers we believe that teaching outdoors not only helps contextualise learning but also develops childrens' personal, social and emotional development.



Healthy School



In keeping with this learning style, our Year 6 recently returned from their residential trip to Dartmoor, which was a roaring success, and provided opportunities to develop leadership skills, team work skills, communication and a Growth Mind-set. It also provided a great deal of challenge and laughter, and an opportunity for me and the other supporting staff to cement positive relationships with our children who are embarking on their last year with the school.

Drawing to a close, and primarily for our new parents and carers, if you have any concerns regarding your child, please do feel free to approach their class teacher or send an email, via the office, for their attention. If you have any concerns of a more personal nature, you can always talk to Mrs Fry - our Emotional Health/Family liaison lead and/or one of our Assistant Headteachers; Ms Roper or Mrs Newport. If you have a concern of a more serious nature, again, please feel free to contact either Ms Roper or Mrs Newport or, if you're passing, approach me directly, I am on the front gate each morning and I will be happy to assist in any way I can. Our Office Ladies are also very happy to help with any general enquires that you may have.

All the staff at Conifers are looking forward to a positive and productive academic year, and as always - we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson  
HEADTEACHER



## Parking

At the beginning and end of the school day, certain cars are parking over Zig-Zag markings and on the Double Yellow Lines outside of the School which causes issues with other road users. Cars are also parking in Restricted Areas and over neighbouring resident's driveways. There are clear signs requesting 'No' or 'Restricted Parking' in these areas. We would be grateful if you could adhere to these signs, park with consideration for our immediate neighbours and all school users and, in doing so, keep our children safe, thank you.

## Dartmoor - Year 6 children

Year 6 children enjoyed their residential to River Dart Country Park. They enjoyed varied activities including High ropes, canoeing and much more. All the children were exceptionally well behaved and yet again made this another memorable experience, thank you.



