

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Radipole Lane
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 0QF
Tel: 01305 771289
Email: office@conifers.dorset.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

31st January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

With 2022 having started in earnest, I'm proud to say that the children have settled down to the 'nitty-gritty' reasonably well, particularly when you factor in the obvious and ever present disruption caused by the virus. Despite this - we continue to operate as 'normally' as we possibly can, and ensure that the children's learning and curriculum offer is not effected.

A quick reminder that if you would like to 'keep a track' of what your child is learning, all Year Groups have posted their 'Topic Planning' and 'Knowledge Organisers' on our website, which can be accessed by following the following links; from the Home Page, click on the coloured pencils which denote your child's Year Group, and then on the Topic Planning Cloud icon, or, using the drop-down box from the top of our Home Page, click on, Our School, then Curriculum. Choose your child's Year Group from the menu on the right-hand side of the page, and then, again, simply click on the Topic Planning Cloud icon. I am hoping that your child has already shared their learning experiences with you however, if they remain tight-lipped about this, the clouds will help you both support and question them on their daily activities.

As parents and as a school, you will be fully aware that with reading at the heart of the curriculum we are doing everything that we can to promote both the joy and importance of it. At Conifers, we appreciate that some children may need some encouragement to read more frequently, and we therefore recently launched our whole school reading competition, the 'Reading Warriors'. Miss Treweek, our English Lead, explained the finer details of this competition in her letter to you just before Christmas and I can safely say that it has been very well received. Your continued support in reading with your child at home is very much appreciated, particularly as this reigns in the points!

A continued focus of the school is Learning Outside the Classroom (LOT) and although this can be a little 'nippy' at this time of year - staff continue with their endeavours of offering the opportunities and children, despite the odd grumble about the cold, are wrapping up and getting stuck in! Please remember to insist your child brings their coat to school during these chilly months, as regardless of the fact that some may not consider it 'cool' to wear one, it is extremely necessary for their comfort and well-being.

To end, Mrs Tozer commenced her maternity leave at the very beginning of this month and although there is no news yet - we will of course keep you informed of any developments.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER



Year 2 have been thoroughly enjoying their weekly swimming lessons this term. They are making good progress and are gaining more confidence in the water each week. Although they are a little tired after the lesson, and somewhat slower walking back to school, they have been as good as gold. Maybe the biscuit upon return helps! The children have been an absolute credit to our school.

Year 4 have been enjoying Samba drum lessons delivered by a music teacher from Dorset Music Hub. The children have enjoyed getting to know different musical instruments and the sounds they make. They have developed their understanding of musical skills like duration and rhythm, and have enjoyed learning Samba songs to accompany their percussion. These sessions will continue over into the new term with the hope of performing to parents either in person or via video uploaded to Google Classroom.



Year 5 had an explosive two-day Impact day. The children had a blast building volcanoes from junk modelling and using papier-mâché. The children then painted their models and had the best time making them explode using bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, washing up liquid and red food colouring.



Relationship Education (PSHE) at Conifers by Mrs Newport

Our Relationships Education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships and this is taught in 6 half termly themes: Families, Respectful Relationships, Online safety, Being safe, Friendships and Changing Bodies

During the school focus on **Respectful Relationships in November**, all the children completed a whole school art project linked to the book 'Only One You' and participated in Anti-Bullying Week. The children completed some fantastic art work, had lots of discussions about being kind and explored the definition of 'bullying'.



The rearranged date to display the 'Only One You' banners outside, will now be on
Monday 7th February 2022.
The banners will be displayed along the fence

The theme for this half term is **Online Safety** which coincides with Safer Internet Day 2022. The whole school will be completing work linked to Internet Safety on Tuesday 8th February 2022. The theme for day is 'Respect and Relationships Online' which will include thinking about how we all behave online.



We're delighted to be hosting a **Dress To Express Day** during Children's Mental Health Week. The day will be on

Friday 11th February 2022 for a £1 donation.

Your child's **Dress to Express outfit** can be as simple or elaborate as they like! Dress To Express is an opportunity for self-expression and celebrating a diverse range of emotions. The outfit can include wearing favourite colours, an elaborate accessory or simply something they feel comfortable in and makes them feel good. The day also provides a great opportunity to be open about mental health and start conversations within our school community.



Lost Property

We also have a plea from Mrs Taylor, the lady in charge of lost property at Conifers. Although some people are naming their children's clothes there are still a lot of parents that do not. When children lose things it makes Mrs Taylor's job so much easier when items are named, as she knows who to give the lost property back to at her earliest opportunity. Especially coats, as children wear them out to play and then take them off in the playground and forget to bring them in. Many of these are unlabelled.

Courtesy Reminder

Could we please remind parents and carers of the following:

- Do not park directly in front of the school gates. Adults and children now frequently pass through this area and obstructing it, not only represents a danger to them, it also causes difficulty for cars entering and leaving the car park.
- Do not park on the double yellow lines or the zig-zag lines either side of the pedestrian crossing - for obvious safety reasons.
- New signage has been placed in the car park demarking **Disabled bays - these drivers have priority and other motorists must keep them clear.**
- Be mindful of your verbal communications whilst on school grounds and within ear-shot of children. They should not be subjected to offensive or vulgar language.

