

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a busy few weeks since my last Newsletter, but let's start with our Year 4 children, who packed their bags for a residential trip to New Barn, which takes LOTC – (Learning Outside the Classroom), to another level, with children making clay mosaics, medicinal potions and building wonderful woodland shelters. All this and plenty more, on very little sleep, continuous fresh air, a spot or two of rain and a great deal of mud! Unsurprisingly, all of this led to some weary and grubby children returning to school. I won't attempt to describe what the accompanying staff looked like! I took the opportunity to visit for the day - any excuse to get out of the office - and the Instructor/Owner of the Centre could not have been more positive about the behaviour and engagement of our children. Fair play to them all and well done! Mrs Maggs has provided some 'on-seen' photographs attached to the bottom of this newsletter.

I had the privilege, alongside two Year 6 pupils (Amelia Riglar and Sam Howell) to represent Conifers Primary School as part of the Chesil Collaboration, at the Remembrance Parade held on Weymouth Seafront. It was an honour to walk in the company of many others, remembering the sacrifices so many made to defend our freedom and way of life. We hope to join this service on an annual basis, with the six other Primary Schools in the Chesil Collaboration, to openly demonstrate our support for those brave men and women who gave so much.



It was a pleasure to see many of you at our first Parent Evenings of the academic year, which were a mix of face-to-face and online appointments, which hopefully, by continuing to provide a mix of the two, satisfied as many of you as possible, through allowing as great a degree of flexibility as possible.



Thank you to those who were able to spare the additional time to complete the short questionnaire; designed and circulated by our colleagues at MHST (Mental Health Support Team). The questions were based around school activities and opportunities, to make you feel welcome, who you could speak to if you needed support for your child and how you could access information about what is happening at school. Once the answers have been collated and shared with us, we will reflect on anything we may need to do – to ensure each question can be answered with confidence!

On a completely different note - I need to say a massive 'Thank You' for your generous donations towards our Cereal Dominoe challenge – organised to raise money for Children in Need. Not only did you collectively provide enough packets of cereal to run the length of the school – from our Reception classroom to the exit at the very end and rear of the school – you provided us the opportunity to donate these back to our community for those who need it most. The generosity of this community never ceases to amaze me – and I'll leave it to Mrs Prior and the School Council to thank you again and give you a run-down of the event.

To end – we extend our best wishes to Mrs Chapman who leaves shortly to commence her Maternity leave. I usually have some quip or another about parenthood and the joys that come with it – but as this new addition will be the third, to this particular household – I will keep my own counsel and simply say, congratulations!

I am, as is customary at this time of year, reliably informed that there are only 26 sleeps 'til Christmas. I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy it with your family and loved ones – and as ever, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr Andrew Johnson
Headteacher



Year 5 News

In our geography lesson, the children used crackers and jam to model how tectonic plates move. The jam acted as the mantle, while the crackers represented the plates. By pushing them together, pulling them apart, and sliding them past each other, the class learned about convergent, divergent, and transform boundaries. The simple, hands-on activity made the concept clear—and the pupils enjoyed the messy fun! Great job year 5, Miss Anthony.



In our Year 5 science lesson, we explored the phases of the Moon using Oreo cookies to create a fun and tasty model. After carefully twisting the cookies apart, the children used the cream to represent different lunar phases, including the waxing and waning stages. As we discussed how the Moon appears to change shape over the month, the class shaped their cookies to match each phase, gaining a clearer understanding through this hands-on activity. The pupils were highly engaged throughout the lesson—and, of course, they were especially delighted when they got to eat their Oreo “moons” at the end! Great learning Year 5, well done, Miss Anthony.



Year 5 took part in an exciting music workshop today, Monday 17th November, where they explored rhythm, timing, and the use of space while learning the importance of listening to one another. Working together as a team, they experimented with a variety of drums to create their own musical patterns. The room was filled with energy as the children collaborated, smiled, and clearly enjoyed the experience.



THANK YOU.....to all those parents who park their cars considerately.

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE you not parking on either the Double Yellow Lines or Zig Zags and therefore ensuring the safety of all our children

Can we also please remind everyone that Conifers is a **NUT FREE school**. Please do not send your child/children into school with anything that may contain NUTS. With the festive season soon upon us please be vigilant.

Year 4 New Barn.



**Year 4 – enjoying their time
at New Barn, October 2025.**



Year 4 New Barn.



CHILDREN IN NEED -DOMINOE CEREAL CHALLENGE

To celebrate Children in Need this year, our School Council came up with a fun and meaningful way to give back to our local community. With your generous support, we collected an astonishing 244 cereal boxes and created our very own **Cereal Box Dominoe Challenge**.

The whole school gathered to watch and cheer as the cereal boxes toppled from Reception class all the way down the corridor to our Thrive base—it was an amazing sight!

Following the event, all the cereal boxes were donated to **Weymouth Foodbank** on the Granby. We hope these contributions will help support the incredible work they do for local families.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this project such a success.



