

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

30th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carers,

What a difference the weather is making - I was beginning to think that it was never going to stop raining!

With the more clement weather, comes more opportunities for Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTG) and children have been enjoying the chance to contextualise their learning, making it both more engaging and easier to commit to long term memory, through a variety of activities. Alongside these, Year Groups have also had their Impact Days, which have covered a range of topics from Farming to the Spanish Conquistadors (there may be a test on that later!) We also had our Dress to Impress Day, our Diversity Day and of course, no school year would be complete without it, Red Nose Day. All of these days provide fantastic platforms, from which many new learning opportunities can be initiated and which all the children have thoroughly enjoyed. World Book Day was also a roaring success and the many costumes and characters brought the school alive with a variety of colourful genres. Topping this off was our latest sporting success, which was a runaway in respect of the trophies we bagged - but I'll let Mr Lyon fill you in on the details of this!

We were hoping for the scaffolding to be long gone by now - and exits for the children reinstated, thus easing congestion. However, despite the solar panels having been installed some time ago, the scaffolding remains in situ, as certain parties were unaware of the scale of gull activity on the school roof. The birds in themselves do not present an immediate problem, but their waste bi-product does. Currently, each panel would only be working at a quarter of its capacity, due to the amount of waste the birds are producing. Consequently, the scaffolding remains, as various options are considered as to how this problem can be greatly reduced. Hopefully one of these can be quickly agreed upon and normal business resumed. Your patience and understanding around this is much appreciated.

Looking ahead towards the end of next month, we have our Parent's Evening Consultations which are to be held on Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th April. Following feedback from our previous meetings, which we were forced to hold virtually due to the COVID restrictions, many of you voiced your preference to telephone conversations, as it allowed a greater degree of flexibility in respect of 'working' around your already busy life's. In light of that, we have decided to continue



with 'virtual' meetings, but complete these through video calls, in order to allow some visual engagement. Each consultation will last for 10 minutes, and you will be able to book these directly online, using the already school established, SCOPAY App. I'm sure many of you will have already had experience of these video calls, as many of our Secondary Schools are already using them. As with all systems, there are Pro's and Con's - as previously explained, hopefully it will allow you a greater degree of flexibility around attending, without having to leave your home or work place, or your tea on the stove, as well as focussing the conversation within a 10-minute time slot. A possible down-side, is that when the 10 minutes is up, you are automatically and instantly cut-off, possibly leaving you with unanswered questions. If you do feel that this has happened, please feel free to contact the member of staff, via the school office, and they will be happy to call you, to carry on the conversation, at a mutually convenient time.

I will end by sending our collective congratulations to Mrs Tozer on the birth of her baby daughter, Evelyn, on the 25th February. Both are fit and healthy and we look forward to meeting Evelyn for the first time when she visits the school.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

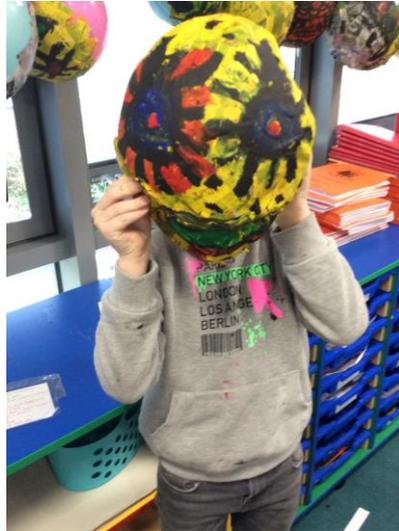
School breaks up for the Easter Holidays on Friday 8th April at the normal time.

Yours sincerely

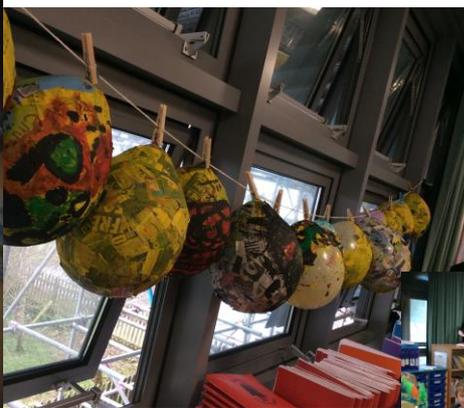
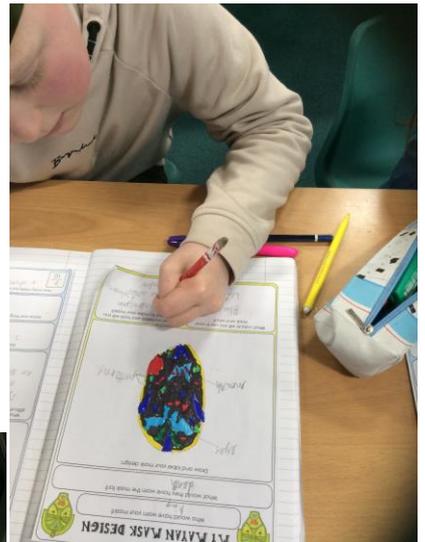
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MAYAN IMPACT DAY



Year 3 had their impact day on Tuesday 15th February for their Topic 'The Mayans'. We designed, made and evaluated a Mayan mask. We were able to take these lovely masks home and looked at the Mayan number system. To finish off the day we had some Hot Chocolate with marshmallows and cream. It was very tasty!



Year 1 had their Impact Day to introduce our new topic 'On the Farm'. Our classrooms were taken over by cows, sheep, chickens and farmers galore! We made milkshakes using ingredients produced on a farm - the children thought these were delicious! Each class also made their own scarecrow which required lots of teamwork to stuff the clothes full of newspaper and straw. We played a 'Guess the Farm Animal' quiz, did a farmer and animal parade to Old MacDonal Had a Farm, listened to some lovely farm based stories and discussed which farm animals produce different kinds of food that we eat.



Year 2 had their Impact day on the 8th March-Women's International Day where we learnt about the importance of having equal opportunities and some significant females who have impacted our country today (Rosa Parks, Florence Nightingale and Emmeline Pankhurst). We also had our own peaceful protest at school and made our own sashes.

World Book Day was a great success. Children had the opportunity to come into school dressed as book characters and the costumes were very impressive-even the staff's! During the day, the children took part in book related activities with smiles on their faces. Fun was had by all. We are already looking forward to next year!



Lost Property

We also have a plea from Mrs Taylor, the lady in charge of lost property at Conifers. Although a lot of you are naming your 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. To this end we are hold our first 'Lost Property' and 'New to you Uniform Sale', this will be held in the playground outside the ELSA Room after school on Monday 4th April. Please come along and have a look. You could find something that your child has lost, thank you.

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.





WEST DORSET CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

CONIFERS OVERALL RESULTS:

- YEAR 5/6 BOYS - A TEAM RUNNERS UP
- YEAR 5/6 BOYS - B TEAM WINNERS
- YEAR 5/6 GIRLS - A TEAM WINNERS
- YEAR 5/6 GIRLS - B TEAM WINNERS
- YEAR 3/4 BOYS - A TEAM RUNNERS UP
- YEAR 3/4 BOYS - B TEAM WINNERS
- YEAR 3/4 GIRLS - A TEAM WINNERS
- YEAR 3/4 GIRLS - B TEAM WINNERS

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

- Lucas L (2nd place $\frac{1}{4}$ boys)
- Leylah B (3rd place $\frac{1}{4}$ girls)
- Phoebe R (2nd place $\frac{1}{4}$ girls)
- Amber A (1st place $\frac{1}{4}$ girls)

