

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a busy few weeks since my last Newsletter, and I'm fairly confident when I say, both staff and pupils are glad of the investment the school made in respect of the canopies, erected last year, at the rear of the school. Without these and considering the amount of rain we've had (I was going to say recently, but I'm sure it's been months now) the children would have been trapped inside the school, all day, every day - none of which is healthy for them or the staff!

So let's start with our Year 4 children, who packed their bags for a residential trip to Hooke Court, which takes LOTC - (Learning Outside the Classroom), to another level, with children preparing and cooking on an open fire, making various breads and preparing hearty vegetable stews. All this and plenty more, on very little sleep, continuous fresh air, and a great deal of mud! Unsurprisingly, all of which led to some pretty weary and grubby children returning before the half-term break. I won't even attempt to describe what the accompanying staff looked like! I took the opportunity to visit for an afternoon - any excuse to get out of the office - and the senior instructor could not have been more positive about the behaviour and engagement of our children. Fair play to them all and well done! More on this from Miss Jones later.....

We have also started our Learning Outside the Classroom at the Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre - where children have the opportunity to test their climbing and 'tunnelling' abilities, whilst demonstrating their communication, team work and leaderships skills. Conifers has long understood the value of these opportunities and will continue to offer them to enhance learning for all our children.

I need to say a massive 'Thank You' for your generous donations towards our cake sale - organised to raise money for Children in Need. Not only did you collectively provide enough cakes to fill an average sized SUV, you then donated an incredible amount of money to buy them all back! The generosity of this community never ceases to amaze me - and the day was a roaring success in both the smiles it put on the faces of the children in the school and the smiles it will inevitably put on the faces of children we will never meet! I'll leave Miss Samuel and the School Council to share the final figures, in respect of money raised - but it was an incredible accomplishment!

Can I ask please, that you check your emails today, as we are sending out information regarding our pupil numbers. Thank you.

To end - I must say a very fond farewell to Mrs Lesley Barnsley - who has, as part of an amazing team, been keeping the school clean and tidy for over 20 years! She has, after all that time, decided to hang up her dust cloth, pack away her Hoover and retire gracefully - if you've ever had the pleasure of meeting her, you'll know how unlikely that is! We'll certainly miss her and wish her nothing but the very best and hope she pops back now and then to tell us how retirement is working out for her.

I am, as is customary at this time of year, reliably informed that there are only 24 sleeps 'til Christmas. I sincerely 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.....



Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER

Christmas Events 2023

Wednesday 6th December	Reception Christmas performance to the Reception Parents
Thursday 7th December	Mrs Tharme to take the choir to Westhaven Hospital at 11:00am
Friday 8th December	Mrs Tharme to take the choir to Buxton House at 10:30am Xmas discos 3:30-6pm Reception, Year 1 and 2 - 3.30-4.30 Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 - 5-6pm All payments to made on SCOPAY
Monday 11th December	Year 2-6 Cinema trip 'Wonka' for Year 3,4,5 & 6 and 'Wish' for year 2. The cost of this trip, which includes the cinema ticket and a Munch Box is £4. Payment to be made on SCOPAY, thank you Year R & 1 will watch films at school with popcorn Choir club after school performance to parents and staff in school hall
Tuesday 12th December	Reception & KS1 Christingle - 10.30am Parents can arrive at 10am for a hot drink and a mince pie
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Dinner - Weyco
Friday 15th December	Santa dash for all children in the morning

Children in Need was a HUGE success this year raising a grand total of **£1008.84!**

I would like to take the time and say a massive heartfelt thank you to the parents of Conifers for making this day such a triumph. I have never seen so many cakes! School Council took great pride in selling the cakes to the children and there were full tummies all round.



Additionally, the children showed great determination when taking part in the 'bearpee' challenge and overall the children and staff of Conifers completed 23,243 'bearpees'. There were definitely sore muscles the next day for staff.



Days like Children in Need wouldn't be able to happen without the support from parents, so a big thank you again. There were smiley faces to finish off the week.

Miss Samuel

Year 4

At the end of last term, a group of Year 4 students embarked on their first residential trip!

They spent 3 days and 2 nights in Beaminster at Hooke Court, a country manor built around the time of the English Civil War. The children had 3 fun packed days based on team work, communication and Ancient Greek studies.

They learnt all about Greek armies and how they strategies during war. We also re-enacted a battle between Athens and Sparta. To accompany this, the children were told stories of Ancient Greek myths and learnt the Greek alphabet.



Bushcraft day is always the best! The children really enjoyed getting to prepare and cook foraged foods from the grounds and build shelters out in the woods. They created tribes and performed chants to protect their shelters.



On the final day, the children worked as a team to build a zipline across a moat and deliver supplies to the other side. The children enjoyed building their structures and testing them out before delivering the supplies.



Year 6 recently participated in Dorset Coding Week organised by Dorset Council alongside Barclay's Digital Eagles. We had a visit from Sally Rudd who works in computing who talked to us about her job role and answered their questions about careers in computing. She then supported each Year 6 class with their coding challenge which involved creating a game on Scratch. The coding was tricky but everyone did an amazing job to complete their games. Coding included variables to make the character react in different ways when particular buttons were pressed or when they reached points on the screen. It was well enjoyed by all.

