

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



25th May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

With the days growing warmer, albeit still peppered with our old British favourite, the rain, we look forward to a busy, final half term, in which the focus will steadfastly remain of learning, both inside and outside the classroom, but ensuring a liberal helping of enjoyment is also on offer. However, before we wish our time away, some news from the last month or so.

To start, let's talk SATs. I know many will wince at merely reading the word and all of us have personal thoughts and opinions on the 'benefit' of testing and submitting children to such levels of pressure, at such a young age. However, as long as the Government decree they are compulsory, every school and Year 6 child in the country will suffer that necessary evil. That said, I have to say that our Year 6 cohort did themselves proud. They all studied so hard, remained focussed throughout the week and even managed the odd smile along the way! I genuinely applaud them all, and irrespective of individual results, I know that none of them could have worked any harder! My thanks to the Year 6 staff and many others for starting the day early in order to provide breakfast each morning and supporting the children throughout the test week.

Parent Evenings, were again different this year, with a mix of face-to-face and online appointments. The jury appears to remain 'out' in respect of parental preference, as many clearly prefer one format over the other. Hopefully, by providing a mix of the two, we have managed to satisfy as many of you as possible, whilst allowing you as great a degree of flexibility as possible.

You will, by now, know how committed we are to Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTIC), and the children have had many opportunities to enjoy these experiences over the past few weeks, with day trips out and an entire week, solely dedicated to LOTIC. We will of course continue with these opportunities throughout the next half term and I sincerely hope that the children come home talking excitedly about the experiences they have had.

I'm sure you don't need reminding, but I will take this opportunity to give you advance warning of our two Residential Trips that take place next Autumn during the beginning of the new academic year. Our Year 6 children will be offered the opportunity to spend a week on Dartmoor at the River Dart Country Park, in September, and our Year 4 children will be offered three days at Hooke Court, which is near Beaminster. We obviously recognise the financial constraints everyone is currently facing, which is why

the school has fixed the price for both trips and subsidised any shortfalls, as we firmly believe in the lifelong benefits these experiences offer.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to express an interest in either one of these trips, places are still available and can be secured by calling the school office. We also have payment plans which can help ease any financial burden.

As always - thank you all for your continued support and I hope you enjoy the Spring Bank Holiday. We return on **Monday, 5th June 2023**.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Johnson
Headteacher**

Reception

Reception had a fantastic outdoor learning day! We visited the nature area for a spot of pond dipping and minibeast hunting. We also had lots of fun moving bark and planting flowers in our garden area. We would like to say a very big thank you to all of the parents who kindly donated flowers, herbs and soil, we couldn't have done it without you!



Sports News 19th May 2023

A Young Conifers Team Mightily Impress at the Indoor Athletics - County Finals.

On Friday 28th April a team of Year 4 and 5 Conifers students got to go over to Wareham to represent the district at the Indoor Athletics County Finals having previously been victorious at the district event. We took an amazing team of athletes who did not look out of place against the other teams who were all represented by year 6 participants. With a year's training under our belts, this could be a County Final we have the potential of winning...

A massive congratulation to everybody pictured below:



Windsurfing

Over the last six weeks, Jade A, Rhianna T, Jayden P, Selena T, Lucas S and Alex B have been honing their windsurfing skills down at the OTC on Portland and have been having a most excellent time indeed. Their windsurfing ability has progressed really quickly and next half term they will get to try their hand at sailing too.



St George's Cup - Year 3 and 4

Great work from our year 3/4 boys football team saw them progress through to the semi-finals of the St George's Cup where they were narrowly defeated by the eventual winners of the tournament - Well done to Oliver G-A, Caleb P, Robbie G, Jack D, Jake D, Jesse-B G, Ajay L, Warren C, Ewan Bradley

Handball Competition - 18th May



Congratulations to our Year 6 Handball team who have qualified for the County Finals following their second place finish at the Handball competition at Budmouth. Having never played the sport before, this was a truly remarkable achievement - awesome effort, Chase B, Luke R, Luke W, Tia B, Anew G and Lexi Smith

Forest School

Year 4 have enjoyed their recent Forest School sessions. Themes such as Art and survival brought out the creative side of the children. Face paints went down a treat! They have developed skills such as First Aid and fire lighting. The range of snacks has taught them how to cook on a campfire and they learnt the importance of looking after nature.



LOTG

To promote Learning Outside the Classroom, the whole school took part in a whole day of outside learning. It was lovely to see so many children smiling 😁 and



enjoying the variety of activities that had been planned such as; making clay ladybirds and crowns, decorating pebbles, pond dipping, bug hunting, locating photographs of King Charles over time and making woodland crowns to celebrate the King's coronation. What a wonderful day!

Well done everyone, super learning!

Miss Anthony 🐞👑🐸☀️

