

# CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



**HEADTEACHER**  
**Mr A Johnson**

30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We've certainly packed a lot in since my last Newsletter, of which, the first event that springs to mind, was our Career Day last month. What a roaring success that was, with children enthusiastically listening to our guest speakers, the majority of whom were our parents, talking about their various job roles in the community. We were lucky to have professionals from a wide variety of career paths, allowing the children greater insight into their future possibilities and that, with the right application and determination, anything is possible. Following these visits, the school discussed prejudice and stereotypes, both in and out of the workplace, that stirred both considerable thought and discussion across all Year groups. It was an extremely valuable day, that would not have been possible without the time and effort given by those parents, who were able to spare the time to share their experiences. My sincere thanks to them and I genuinely hope we will be able to replicate this day again, in the very near future.

Our Year 4 children packed their bags for a residential trip to Hooke Court, which takes LOTC (Learning Outside the Classroom) to another level, with children gutting and cooking fresh trout on an open fire, making various breads and preparing hearty vegetable stews. All this and plenty more, on very little sleep and continuous fresh air, which led to some pretty weary children returning before the half-term break. 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. In fact, and this is a direct quote, on a particularly inclement night walk, he proclaimed, "I've never experienced rain like it, neither have I seen such a positive group of children cracking on, with no moaning, simply enjoying the moment". Fair play to them - it was a particularly fierce night and they did indeed, despite the driving rain, enjoy the moment. Not sure the staff felt the same way, but hey, skin's waterproof and everything dries out in the end!

Staying with the outdoors and our commitment to ensuring opportunities to learn outside the classroom, children have also been continuing with our programme of activities at the Weymouth Outdoor Activity Centre, squeezing themselves through the simulated cave system, practicing their balance and strength techniques on the climbing wall, paddle boarding and sailing. It's always a pleasure to see and hear the excitement in their eyes and voices whilst they wait for the mini-bus pick-up outside my office. Perhaps I'll sneak out and join them one day - Sshh....don't tell anyone.



You may remember in my last communication, 12<sup>th</sup> November, I referenced the extension of measures in schools to reduce increasing rates and cross-infection of COVID-19. I also explained that, in light of these measures, the likelihood of us hosting our usual Christmas activities would be slim. We have now been informed by Public Health Dorset, that holding any indoor events, where people are either in close proximity, eating, singing and/or playing wind instruments is considered as 'high risk' and will remain so, until at least the end of the term. The Department for Education has made one small proviso, that made me chuckle, this being if younger children sang quietly and softly, perhaps a small audience could attend a performance. I couldn't help but wonder how many Nativity Plays these people had attended, where the very essence of the production is based on how loudly and forcibly, Reception and/or Year 1 children can collectively project a salvo of Little Donkey!

We did, unfortunately, foresee this happening, so have arranged to do things a little differently. Our Reception children will be producing their own version of the Nativity, as only they can, which will be recorded and uploaded to Tapestry, so parents and carers can share in the enjoyment of that seasonal spectacle. Our Year 1 and Year 2 children will still have their own Christingle, which again, will be recorded and uploaded to Google classroom, and all children in the school will be taking part in a Carol Competition, in a bid to find the most harmonious class in the Conifers community. This too will be recorded and uploaded to Google Classroom, enabling you to share in the joy of song - at least that's the fervent hope, as long as staff don't get carried away, join in and ruin the whole thing! We have also negotiated with the Weymouth Pavilion to have their Christmas Pantomime streamed live into the school, at greatly reduced cost, so that children can experience that particular extravaganza. You will have already received information regarding this.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December** is 'Christmas Jumper Day'. The last day of term, (**17<sup>th</sup> December**) will be a non-uniform day - wear something 'Christmassy' - the mind boggles, and I'm sure that, between now and then, many an impromptu Christmas Party will spring up across the school. Class teachers will inform you of these, as and when they are organised.

Just before I end - we will be saying good luck as Mrs Tozer prepares for the sleepless nights of early parenthood, as she will be leaving us within days of the Spring Term to enter that elite group of motherhood. We wish her the very best and look forward to meeting 'Tozer Jnr' in the New Year. In her absence, Miss Moriarty will teach Elm class Monday to Thursday and Mrs Tourgout on a Friday.

I am, as is customary at this time of year, reliably informed that there are only 25 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 sincerely

Mr A Johnson  
HEADTEACHER



## Maths

Maths is a part of our everyday lives, and here at Conifers we are passionate about sharing this message with the children. Preparing the children with life-long skills and the confidence to use them is a key component to our teaching and learning ethos.

With this in mind, we wanted to challenge parents/carers and children to find, and show, any way that they use Maths outside of school. For example:

- Weighing out ingredients whilst following a recipe
- Using a bus timetable to plan a journey
- Making/noticing patterns
- Recognising shapes in the environment
- Noticing numbers in words and digits

We ask that you take a photograph of your child using Maths in some way and a short sentence explaining what is happening, to bring into school before deadline of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. There will be a prize awarded to one child from:

- Reception to Year 2
- Years 3 and 4
- Years 5 and 6

Happy Maths Hunting.

Mrs J Prior  
Mathematics Lead

## Hooke Court

Before half term, Year 4 embraced all weathers on a 3-day residential. From den building to night walks and cooking to fire starting every child challenged themselves. Across the few days, the children worked as a team to achieve success and thoroughly enjoyed their experiences. When welly walks turned into swimming lessons, children (and staff) embraced their wet socks and truly felt at one with nature!

The Year 4 staff wanted to thank every single child for giving it their all and making our school so proud!



## Career Day

On the 16th October we celebrated our 'Career Day' at Conifers. We were really lucky to have lots of volunteers come to school from all sorts of different backgrounds, like the RNLI, a veterinary nurse, a fitness instructor, submarine engineers, theatre nurse and parents from the navy. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and it is safe to say that it really did broaden their horizons in terms of the careers they could follow when they get older. We hope to have another career day next term, so if you would like to be involved please do send an email to the school office.

Thank you to everyone that made the day such a success!

