

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



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HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

20th July 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

Well we made it, and escaped the 'Heat Wave' relatively unscathed. Only in this country could you have concerns about heat in the morning and then be reaching for your umbrella by the afternoon!

Fortunately, neither weather condition affected our Sports Mornings, which offered our children the opportunity to be actively involved in team pursuits for their Houses and you, the opportunity to come and watch them doing so. It was a pleasure to both welcome and see you all on both mornings, and thank you for your support.

These mornings were closely followed by the Year 6 Leavers Show, which was a marvellous spectacle of music and dance. It was wonderful to see the confidence and enthusiasm of all the children and I'm confident that the Year 6 staff are proud to know that they played their part in helping them become the self-assured young people that they are. We wish them all the very best when they join their new schools in September. Just one question, "What's wrong with cheesy Dad dancing?!"

To end, almost, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Evans - our THRIVE Base Lead teacher - all the very best, as she peruses her career in a Dorchester school and therefore leaves us at the end of term. Her work inside and outside of the Base has supported both children and staff, who will undoubtedly miss her. Mrs Stavrinous will also be leaving us, to support children with additional needs in a local school, and I know they will be as excited to welcome her as we are reluctant to let her go. I would also like to thank Miss Moriarty for her commitment to Elm class, as her Maternity cover comes to an end with the closing of the term. No doubt we will see her again but until then, our thanks for her support of the children and the school.

Finally, our congratulations to Mrs Humphries who gave birth to her daughter - Lola Rose, on the 9th July 2022. She weighed in at a healthy 9lbs 8oz and both mum and daughter are doing very well. I know you'll join me in extending our very best wishes to them both.

As always, thank you for all your continued support and a personal thank you to those parents and carers who have been able to offer their time, in accompanying our children on the many, various, school trips and walks back and forth, to Weymouth Swimming Pool over the past year.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER



Message from The Chair of Governors - Mrs Dorothy Woods

Well, here we are at the end of another school year, at least our children were able to be in school this time.

We are pleased to say that all our governors' meetings have been in person this year which was a relief after so much time reliant on Zoom. The governors already have plans in place for their termly meetings next year and will hold elections for the Chair and Vice chair at their first meeting in the Autumn term.

Two new parent governors joined the board in the Autumn term and are proving to be very valuable members of the board. Sadly, our previous vice chair had to resign for personal reasons but our finance governor stepped in and has been extremely active within the role and supportive of me as chair.

We have all attended training courses to update our knowledge during the year, not least of which was our statutory Safeguarding training. We have also had an external review of governance undertaken by a National Leader of Governance. This has helped us improve some of the ways we operate and improve our questioning of the senior staff as we try to be the very best governors we can for the children and staff at Conifers.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, we will miss those of you who are leaving and wish you well in your new post.

Thank you for the support you give the school and we hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday. We wish the children leaving us every success in their future and look forward to seeing everyone else again in the Autumn term for another successful year.

Dorothy Woods on behalf of the Full Governing Body

Parent Governors - Elizabeth Williamson and Brad Turner

As recently appointed parent governors, we wanted to write to you to let you know how impressed we were on a recent visit to Conifers School, covering pupil behaviour and attitudes. Education Challenge Leads from Dorset Council led the visit.

The children we spoke to were well behaved, enthusiastic and positive about being a pupil at Conifers School. The children said they felt safe at school and that the adults supported and helped them. They talked enthusiastically about the various subjects they studied and were very proud of their work, which we were shown. They also understood how to improve their work. They were excited to tell us about the trips on offer, such as Dartmoor, Hooke Court and WOEC, and they talked positively about their futures.

When observing lessons, it was clear that the children focused on their learning, and it felt a safe and calm place. The staff and children had put a great deal of effort into the displays, and it was lovely to see that each classroom had a unique and very cosy reading corner for children to use.

Finally, this quote from the visit report sums up the visit :

"Thank you for such a positive visit. We would like to recommend the school as a place for other schools to visit to see how you have instilled an exemplary culture of high expectations for children's behaviour and attitudes. The school should be very proud of this aspect of their provision for all children."



Year 2 - Beach Trip

Year 2 had a great day at Weymouth Beach. We paddled in the sea, built sandcastles, dug holes, went for a very exciting and bumpy ride on the Land Train and ate some delicious sausages and chips. Although it was super hot, the children did not complain once about the heat when walking to and from. They were excellently behaved and a credit to our school-their behaviour was even complimented upon by many members of the public.

Year 3 'Discovering Dorset' School Trip

On Monday 11th July Willow and Beech class went on their 'Discovering Dorset' trip around Weymouth following the route along the River Wey to the sea. We went along the harbour, stone pier up to Nothe fort where we ate our lunch and then strolled down to Newtons Cove where we did some sketching and looked at some of the animals in their habitat by the sea. We then walked along the harbour and the esplanade for a well and truly deserved ice cream at Rossi's which was delicious and it cooled us down for the walk back to school. A huge amount of fun was had by all.



SPORTS DAY 2022

HOT! HOT! HOT!

KEY STAGE 1 - Monday 18th July

Having made sensible last minute alterations to the Sports Day plans to accommodate the heat wave, it was first the turn of Reception and Key Stage 1 to take on six coordination, balance and agility challenges in a carousel of activities.

It was amazing to see all the children joining in with such effort and enthusiasm representing their houses with such pride and determination - Well done to everybody who took part.

It was also fantastic to see our year 5 sports leaders modelling the activities and helping key stage 1 to be the best versions of themselves - awesome leadership skills were shown by all.

After an hour and half of enthralling carousel action, the results were as follows:

		YEAR R	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	TOTAL
1ST	DRAGON	138 + 136 = 274	138 + 130 = 268	136 + 140 = 276	818
2ND	GRYPHON	138 + 128 = 266	130 + 120 = 250	138 + 140 = 278	794
3RD	PEGASUS	138 + 128 = 266	126 + 126 = 252	136 + 136 = 272	790
4TH	PHOENIX	138 + 124 = 262	134 + 122 = 256	136 + 132 = 268	786

A massive congratulations to Dragon House and to every house on these very impressive scores. With only 32 points between 1st and 4th place, you can see how close it was.

A beautiful new shield is on its way to the engravers to be adorned with '2022 - Dragon'.

I already can't wait to see which house will get to have their name carved into the trophy next year.



KEY STAGE 2 - Tuesday 19th July

The following morning, having made further adaptations to the programme to deal with the heat as the conditions were even more sweltering, it was the turn of our key stage two students to carousel through a series of coordination balance and agility challenges.

All the children once again showed awesome enthusiasm, determination and considerable skill in all the obstacle course relay, sprint drill station, netball pass and shoot, bean bag target throw, pitch and putt golf, tennis ball throw, egg and spoon races and ball pass teamwork games.

After an hour and half of ferocious sporting action the results were as follows:

	HOUSE	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	TOTAL
1ST	GRYPHON	176 + 162 = 338	168 + 184 = 352	191 + 168 = 359	180 + 176 = 356	1,405
2ND	PHOENIX	168 + 168 = 336	162 + 178 = 340	187 + 170 = 357	174 + 166 = 340	1,373
3RD	PEGASUS	164 + 170 = 334	170 + 180 = 350	188 + 170 = 358	168 + 158 = 326	1,368
4TH	DRAGON	170 + 168 = 338	160 + 172 = 332	186 + 168 = 354	170 + 170 = 340	1,364

Congratulations to Gryphon and all the houses on this very impressive scoring. With only 41 points separating 1st and 4th once again you can see how close it was. A Key stage 2 sports day shield is on its way to the engravers to be marked up appropriately as you are reading this. I wonder who will win the key stage two competition next year.



OVERALL RESULTS

Having added together and combined the scores from two days of intense competition the results were as follows:

	HOUSE	KS1	KS2	TOTAL
1ST	GRYPHON	794	1,405	2,199
2ND	DRAGON	818	1,364	2,182
3RD	PHOENIX	786	1,373	2,159
4TH	PEGASUS	790	1,368	2,158

Once again, another big silver trophy is off to the engravers to be adorned with 'Gryphon 2022' and once again I am already full of excitement for what the next year's Sports Day will bring. Will Gryphon be able to retain their overall title or will another house be able to steal their crown? Only time will tell...

A Thankyou to Parents/carers

Thank you very much for organising your children into their house colours and making sure they were wearing suncream, well hydrated and excited ready for the day.

It was also particularly pleasing to welcome parents back on site. The fantastic support you all provided over the two mornings of competition created a wonderful atmosphere for all involved. Hopefully, in slightly cooler weather, next year we will be able to reinstate such exciting events as the parents race.

Have a lovely Summer holiday and I look forward to hopefully welcoming you to many more sporting events next year

Ian Lyon
PE Coordinator

**Have a lovely Summer break everyone, be happy and stay safe.
Children return back to school on Monday 5th September**

