

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



27th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

I feel as if I'm becoming obsessed with the weather - as in, when will it stop raining? When I look back to my Newsletter for this time last year, I was moaning about the same thing!

I'd like to start by saying THANK YOU to all who have undoubtedly 'nagged' their children into wearing the correct school uniform. As previously stated, we believe the Conifers School Uniform promotes a sense of pride and belonging to the community of the school, whilst helping promote equality and inclusivity and additionally promoting and sustaining a positive ethos and culture.

I would also like to say THANK YOU to our PTA, who staged their first fund raising event in the school hall last Friday evening, by arranging a Bingo extravaganza. It was very well attended - and I had no idea that Bingo could be such a nail biting event - even though I got nowhere near either a line or a full house! Others did though - and my congratulations to them.

It's been a busy time at school - as it always is; with Year 4 visiting the Dorchester Museum (I'll let those members of staff do the talking), the School's own Living Museum (it's always a pleasure to welcome you into the school), our Inter-House Netball/Basketball competition - and various other school Sporting events, World Book Day, Red Nose Day and Talent Competition, a Dance Competition, our Easter Bonnet Parade (big thanks to Miss Anthony for organising this) and Yr 1 spending a day at Farmer Palmers! Much more can be read about these events further down.

Already looking ahead after the Easter break - we have our Parent's Evening Consultations. Once again, and following feedback from our previous meetings, we have arranged the format to mix the 'virtual' with 'face to face' meetings, in order to satisfy, as well as we can, parental wishes for those who wish to meet 'in the flesh' and offer a degree of flexibility to those parent/carers who prefer the ease of an online discussion, whilst juggling a busy home and work life. Please remember that we do have an 'open door' policy, so if you have anything you wish to share with us, feel free to contact the school.

In closing, I have some staffing news that I would like to share with you. Having made you aware that Mrs Prior left to start her Maternity Leave, I'm privileged to inform you that baby Martha launched herself into the world at the beginning of March weighing in at a respectable 7lbs 1oz (both mum and baby are flourishing). Miss Treweek, who left us for her Maternity leave, some time ago now, returned at the beginning of the week

and will be working alongside Mrs Humphries in Larch - it's wonderful to welcome her back into the fold. We also see some changes in the school office, where we welcome Mrs Taylor, who also started at the beginning of this week and who will take up her official position as our 'front of house' after the Easter break.

Which leads me to this, and if I knew how to represent a drum-roll in type, that's what you'd be reading, or hearing, or both. I hope you're sitting down - as Mrs Crane, Office Manager extraordinaire, is retiring! I know, many of you are thinking, 'Who's Mrs Crane?' NOT, as generations of you will undoubtedly know her, as she has supported you and your children for no less than 33 Years. That's right, I'll say it again, 33 Years! Mrs Crane has been working at Conifers Primary (or Westhaven Infant School) for longer than many of us have been alive - wrap your head around that! There's absolutely no way that I could express mine, the staff's or your own thanks, for the dedication and commitment that Mrs Crane has demonstrated towards all of us during that time. She has been a foundation of the 'Conifers Family'. As a valued member of our Office and School Team, Mrs Crane will be deeply missed for her valued contribution and I know you will join me in sincerely wishing her nothing but the very best, as she steps into a new chapter of her life and embarks upon many new adventures. WE WISH HER WELL!

Thank you as always for your continued support and I hope you have a wonderful Easter.

Don't forget school breaks up tomorrow, normal time, and children return back to school on Monday 15th April.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER



Year Four visit to Dorchester Museum, Pine Class

Year 4 enjoyed a trip to a local museum in Dorchester to learn about Roman settlements in Dorset. They used their detective skills to infer from a burial if the occupant was rich or poor and had interesting conversations regarding the purpose of certain artefacts. They got to explore the museum's gallery that holds significant finds from Dorchester including real life skeletons and weapons! Finally, they got to explore a Roman villa, one of the most intact in the country.

Overall, the children enjoyed their time exploring local history and delving into past events and creations. They were extremely well behaved and did Conifers very proud.



Year Four visit to Dorchester Museum, Ash Class

I had the privilege of attending a school trip with Ash class during my very first week at Conifers. This was a special treat indeed! We were welcomed by knowledgeable and experienced tutors who led some fantastic workshops. Firstly, my group were taken on a tour of the museum's exhibitions, examining real Roman artefacts first hand, learning about what Dorchester looked like during the Roman times and standing on an actual Roman road. After this, we were granted permission to dig through a couple of Roman graves (thankfully not real ones!) We found many different real artefacts and then used our knowledge to identify which grave was that of a rich person and which was an ordinary citizen.

Our morning workshop sessions finished with a fashion parade of clothes from the Roman era, each denoting your status and rank. We also heard all about how to make a tasty fish paste preservative...yum!

Appropriately, after this we had lunch in the Victorian Hall. Following which, we were taken through Dorchester to the original Roman Town House and given a tour. The mosaic floors were a real sight to behold. The whole day was a wonderful opportunity for the class to share their new found Roman knowledge and build upon it through the activities on offer. It was a superb trip and every member of the class were a credit to Conifers School. Well done Ash Class!



PTA



The PTA would like to thank everyone who came to the Easter Family Bingo. It was great to see so many parents, friends and children of Conifers come together to raise money for our school!

The Easter Raffle was a huge success thanks to the donations of various businesses and individuals. All funds raised will go back into providing for the Conifers community.

Look out for information soon regarding the Summer Fair, Saturday 29th June 2024, on the website and newsletter!

Miss Jones and the PTA

Easter Bonnet Winners



Red Nose Day Talent Show - Written By Charlie - School Council

We did a TALENT show for comic relief to raise money for charity! First we had an audition in our classes. Then we voted for the funniest and the person, group or whole class / year group. Whoever had the most votes, got into a final in a whole school assembly to show their act. Then the teachers voted for their favourite act and announced 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. In 4th place, we had Class Dismissed (Year 6 act), in 3rd place it was a Red Nose Rap (Year 3 act) and in 2nd place was a year 5 child singing and dancing to the Michael Jackson song - Beat It. 1st place was won by a Year One child who confidently told the whole school some funny jokes.



Food Bank Vouchers

A member of the safeguarding team can issue vouchers for the local food bank. If you are in need of a voucher to feed your family, please contact the school office or email the safeguarding team directly safeguarding@conifers.dorset.sch.uk

You do not need to be in receipt of benefits to claim the food bank voucher.

Supporting Children's Mental Health

For information and support about your child's mental health, please refer to the link on the school website under the Parent & Carers tab at the top of the page <https://www.conifers.dorset.sch.uk/supporting-children-s-mental-health>
Here you will find lots of useful links to support you and your child.

This useful link can also be used if you have any other concerns or questions around supporting your family. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/get-help-for-your-family>