

23rd October 2009

Dear Parents

Please find enclosed your child's half-term assessments (Year 3-Year 11) and a copy of the latest Westbournian (2008/09). Also enclosed, for our Year 5 –Year 11 parents, is a copy of the ICT policy and contract for you and your child to sign and return by Wednesday 4th November.

As always we urge you to contact your child's form tutor if you have any concerns regarding these assessments or indeed any other issues.

Please note that this letter will be emailed to you and also put on our website. If you do not receive this email please contact the school with your up-to-date email address. Our new web site is a valuable means of communication, please use it often; any feedback is most welcome.

Activities

We encourage all our children to participate in after school activities; please see the schedules on our web site for our current activities on offer. Please make sure children are picked up punctually after activities. This is essential on late returns and your co-operation is much appreciated in this.

Open day

Our open morning was a great success; we had more new parents attend than ever before. 'Word of mouth' and referrals from our current parents is key to our success. Many thanks to all those who contributed and made positive comments. My thanks also to all the staff, parent helpers, Governors, FoW and especially to our children for their contributions.

Congratulations to the following individuals:

- Old Westbournian Ellie Faulkner for representing GB with her swimming and for taking Gold in the European Junior Open Water Championships in Croatia this year.
- Russell Danzey, Year 11 for his Go Karting success and his charity work.
- Will Glover, Year 11 for sailing for GB and being named National Junior 29er Champion in August. The 29er is the youth boat to the Olympic Class 49er, and is a very high performance skiff boat requiring high levels of fitness and skill to be able to sail it.
- Henry Board, Year 10 for an outstanding presentation on his 'Duke of Edinburgh Award experiences' in a recent SS assembly.

Congratulations to the following teams:

- **'Johnson'** for winning the inaugural Senior (Year 9 - Year 11) house hockey tournament. Players of the day were Steven Bradbury, Joe Rawling, Charlotte Marshall-Johnson, Alex Smith and Tessa Milicevic.
- **Boys Rugby:** The U13 and U11 boys were both runners up in the recent Westbourne rugby 7s tournament.
- **Girls Hockey:** This was the first year we hosted an U13 hockey tournament and Westbourne won it. A total of 6 other schools attended the tournament. The U11 girls hockey team were runners up.
- **Well done to all staff** for pulling together during this last week and providing our children with a brilliant alternative curriculum. The Arts Week in Junior School, led by Mrs Dee Harris, was a great success and in Senior School; Forensic Science, Architecture Workshop, cycling excursions and paintballing (a physics quantum theory exercise!!!!) have also featured.

Important Dates for your diary

Year 6 scholarship examinations for entry into Senior School in Year 7 will take place on Wednesday 27th January 2010 at 9.00am. Please note all our Year 6 will receive a letter from Mr Heald after half term.

Senior School parents' meetings after half-term are at 5.00pm.
Year 7 = 12th November, Year 10 = 23rd November,

The next **Headmaster's Surgery** will be held on Tuesday 24th November 2009 at 3.30pm – 4.15pm in Ashdell Grove Hall. This is an opportunity for parents to air general concerns or discuss topical issues.

The FoW **Christmas Fayre** will be on Saturday 21st November 2009 between 11.00am and 1.00pm.

Christmas concerts – **all** pupils are expected to attend. Arrangements should be made to take home all Junior School pupils from Year 3 - Year 6 after the St Mark's Carol Service on Monday 7th December. The service starts at 4pm and should conclude at approx 5pm. There will be **no** prep on that evening. Please note the Senior School carol concert is Tuesday 8th December at 7.00pm in St John's Church, Ranmoor.

Prizes for SS reward system

We have implemented a new and exciting system in our Senior School which follows on from the reward system of 'stars' in Junior School. Pupils may be awarded 'credits' for good work/conduct/citizenship etc. Not only do the credits go towards the house competition but individuals scoring well may receive postcards, letters of commendation and special end of term outings. They also transfer their credits into an end of term 'raffle'. The more credits they earn the better the chance of winning top prizes in the raffle. To this end I am interested in gaining sponsorship for prizes. If you feel you can contribute in any way to enrich this system then please let me know.

125th anniversary

We will celebrate our 125th anniversary on Friday 21st May 2010 at the Cathedral with a whole school service. All pupils will be expected to attend and the service starts at 7pm. The FOW summer ball will be on the following night.

Considerate and safe parking

In order to ensure minimal risk of injury please note for the last 12 months the Junior School car park has been out of bounds for all our pupils. Please could all parents dropping off and picking up pupils also observe this and ensure your children use the paths instead; this is especially important with dark nights setting in.

I have received several complaints from local residents about dangerous parking and subsequent rude behaviour when asked to move. This is a cause for concern as not only is it unfair that the secretaries and I have to spend time placating angry neighbours, it is also damaging the school reputation. Most importantly, it puts our own pupils at risk. It is imperative we keep on good terms with our neighbours, therefore I would ask those in the minority group, who persistently park on double yellow lines or driveways or footpaths, to please refrain. We all have a responsibility to park considerately and safely and set our children a good example so that they may also learn to show thought to others. The vast majority of the Westbourne community work hard to establish a respectful link but unfortunately this can be undone easily by a few selfish acts which then tarnish our reputation.

Re: feedback from the staff & parent surveys

Details can be found on our web site. Please go to: www.westbourneschool.co.uk and see the section on Inspection Reports.

Mobile phone policy

Please may I remind all parents that pupils should not bring phones to school unless they actually need them to make travel arrangements and, if this is necessary, they can only be used in the school office. The school takes no responsibility for them but invariably we have to invest time and energy sorting out issues when they go missing. Please note that if a phone is used inappropriately it will be confiscated and only returned to parents after 24hrs. The full policy can be found in the information booklets or on our web site (www.westbourneschool.co.uk and see the section on School Policies).

Finally, good luck to all those teachers and pupils who are now in **Malta** on our sports tour. We look forward to seeing you all after the half-term break.

Yours sincerely

