



Horsmonden Primary School

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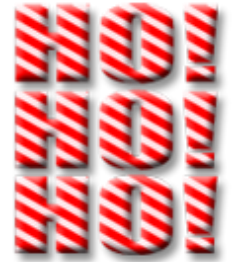
Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

19th December 2008

Dear Parents,

It's really quite easy to understand why **Carols by Candlelight** remains my favourite school event of the year. 415 people in the school community gathered together in St Margaret's Church putting everything else in life to one side as we celebrated Christmas together. The moment the children began to sing their first Christmas song, the sense of pride from all adults present was clear. Thank you for joining us last night and for your generosity in giving £205.72 for the Hospice in the Weald in the retiring collection.



We have a very positive ongoing relationship with the Hospice and I wish it had been possible for you all to see children from Years 5 and 6 **carol singing** yesterday morning. They were, as we would all expect, beautifully behaved and sang superbly, but it was the confidence with which they engaged in conversations with staff and residents that impressed me so much. To our delight, one gentleman now confined to making conversation through a machine, turned out to be a former primary school headmaster. Apparently many adults find the machine conversation too daunting to try, but Tom was surrounded by confident children engaging happily. Another group were on their knees listening to a story being told to them and others were just chatting. Perhaps we still have much to learn from children rather than it just being the other way round.

Years 4 and 5 were also in fine voice at the **Over 60's Christmas Dinner** where the quality of their singing and cello playing brought something very special to a number of our venerable residents. There something very special about a room where ex-pupils now well into their pensionable years are able to keep a contact through the current pupils.

And so to today! Well, it could have started better! As many of you may have heard, I had a bet with Mrs Hacker that Miss O'Donoghue would have a baby boy. Whilst congratulating Miss O'Donoghue on the safe arrival Amelia Amy, weighing in at 7lb 5oz early last Saturday morning, the fact it was a girl meant I had to shine Mrs Hacker's shoes in assembly. All was soon forgotten with the preparations for Christmas dinner and all that remains in the final afternoon is Sing-a-long-a-Sir and tonight's disco.

Your children have been magnificent this term; your support and positivity has been inspiring. Thank you for all the extras you have undertaken in supporting your children and the school and may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Keep your children and yourselves safe and I look forward to seeing you all again on 6th January.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm E. Hayes
Headmaster

