



# Horsmonden Primary School

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Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

13<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Dear Parents,

There's nothing like returning from a residential trip for a relaxing week in which to catch up on the paperwork... and this week was nothing like that! Many of you will have either logged on to the website or read the diary of Year 6's **York trip** in the entrance hall, so you will have some idea of the experiences of the children on the big trip. They were an excellent group to take away and their behaviour and attitude meant that we all had a great time as well as earning some extra opportunities.

We were delighted to welcome a delegation from the **University of Athens** on Tuesday. Yale University had recommended us as an excellent school in which to see the development of Successful Intelligence. They were so impressed with what they saw that they have requested collaboration on a more permanent basis to enable us to share how we make "a very special place". We now have formal links established with Yale, Northern Illinois and Athens University, which adds a depth and breadth of view to the staffroom in endeavouring to provide your children with the most purposeful experience we can offer and, of course, keeping that all important philosophy at the bottom of this page. Quote of the week went to a child who ran to the playground and said, "Mr Coleman, you must come in. The geeks are singing!"

It must be said that Wednesday's **royal visit** to the **Kindergarten** topped Tuesday. A number of you have expressed how emotional you felt looking at the children in their Union Jack hats, waving their flags and cheering; there's no doubt that the children brought something special to Kindergarten's day in celebrating an astonishing achievement. Some of you with longer memories will remember how supportive the village was towards our own extension for Years 5 and 6, often from those with nothing to gain from their efforts. On this occasion in some small way, we were able to demonstrate our support for a facility from which most of our children will come in the future.

Into our own organisation and on the subject of **Extended Services**, we've had several comments in recent days on how some of you are surprised how inexpensive this childcare opportunity is. If you are unaware of what's on offer, do take a look in the main entrance hall on the School and Community noticeboard.

**Mothers' Day Special** is on Friday morning, starting at 09:00 in the school hall with an assembly. Please join us if you can; there will be a timetable of class activities on display on my noticeboard in the entrance hall to help you plan your morning. Do remember to sign up for the mums' lunch at the Highwayman by giving your name to Sarah, Velsha or Maggie in the office. It's a great opportunity for you to spend some time in your child's class as well as socialise with other mums as well as a chance for the children to acknowledge just how much you do for them.

That's all this week as there are three leaflets accompanying this newsletter: a "Playground" leaflet regarding activities in the locality; a Hop Farm leaflet publicising activities in the coming months; a Kids Direct booklet with an opportunity to spend some money!

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm E. Hayes  
Headmaster

