



# Horsmonden Primary School

## Back Lane, Horsmonden, Kent TN12 8NJ

Tel: 01892 722529 Fax: 01892 724134

Email: [headteacher@horsmonden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@horsmonden.kent.sch.uk)

Website: [www.horsmonden.kent.sch.uk](http://www.horsmonden.kent.sch.uk)

Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

1<sup>st</sup> May 2009

Dear Parents,

I must begin by thanking all 107 grandparents who came in to school on Wednesday afternoon for their enthusiasm and participation in a very special event during **Grandparents' Day**. The children drew so much from the positive encouragement, praise and support that the grandparents gave them, regardless of whether it was their grandchild or not, in an atmosphere that was purposeful but relaxed. My thanks also to all the staff who ensured that the grandparents experience was a worthwhile one.

This morning we had another special occasion with the whole school out on the village green at the Farmers' Market along with the **Weald of Kent Morris Men** to celebrate May 1<sup>st</sup>. Such an occasion brings great value to the children in understanding more about our local economy and the variety of produce that's available on our doorstep as well as an opportunity to relish the essence of a village community. Many thanks to those of you who joined us helping to supervise the children and well done to the children for their exemplary behaviour.

---

**\* \* \* DATE CHANGES - NEW EVENTS! \* \* \***

**Junior Sports Day** will now be taking place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July and will be an all day event held at the Tonbridge School Centre. Whilst the junior sports has always been a highly enjoyable and positively competitive event, the facilities at the Tonbridge Centre offer us something very different with a distinct focus on aspiration. We will be using the indoor hall (complete with climbing wall for upper juniors), the track and athletics facility and the swimming pool with children choosing 4 sports from a choice of 6 on offer. They will then have an hour split between coaching and competition for each of their four chosen sports before the presentations at the end of the day. We've not tried anything this ambitious before, but what we want to do is offer the children something different and give them the opportunity to try out sports that are both familiar and new in increasing their levels of motivation and challenge. There's some time to go yet, but if you are interested in assisting during the day in any way, please let me know. Many thanks to the Friends Association for agreeing to sponsor the event.

**Infant Sports Day** will now stand as a separate event in its own right and will take place on the afternoon of 11<sup>th</sup> June rather than in the morning.

**Performance From Scratch** will be a new event taking place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. With so many children now engaged in learning musical instruments, it seems an ideal opportunity to make a special event in a day where we will start rehearsing at 9:30 a.m. and perform at 2.15 p.m. To add something extra, we'd like to invite parents and grandparents who play instruments to join us throughout the day. There's no need to be classically trained up to Grade 8 level as the music we will be using will be suitable for novice level upwards and it will be available on-line for you to download in advance of the day. Children who don't play an instrument will form a choir allowing us to blend a variety of performances from small group through to a joint piece to include all instruments and choir. If you are interested in taking part or assisting in any way, please let me know.

---

With events such as the above and other external sporting events, official photos are often taken. If you have any objections to official photographs of your child being taken during school and external events, please let me know. Unless I hear otherwise, I will assume you are happy.

The second page has a decidedly different feel to it! Marion Zehnter has a large supply of **guinea pigs** (don't ask!); if you would care to become the proud owner of one or more of these, can you please ring her on 723371. There are too many jokes and not enough space, so I'll leave it at that!

I've also been informed of a healthy supply of **headlice** on a couple of heads this week, but rather than offering these out to other families we'd like to take them on in battle! We've been very fortunate for a while, but could you please check your child(ren)'s hair on Saturday and Sunday evenings to give us a fighting chance of a nit-free start to the week. If you're not fully up to date with methods of control or gratuitous extermination of the little blighters, we now have a DVD which offers you and your friends an opportunity not to be missed; gather together, organise refreshments and share the moment. It's available in the school office so just ask Sarah.

**Scooby Doo Live** takes place at the Assembly Hall between May 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and simply by coming to this school you can take your children at the special rate of just £5 by ringing the Assembly Hall box office and quoting "code: SC005". Yes, really! The offer applies to particular performances only, but the box office staff will be able to let you know which ones they are.

There's a lot of paranoia among politicians about swine flu, but statistically your children are in far more danger on their **walk to school**. Now that the good weather is here, it's a great opportunity to look at how we, as a school community, commute each day. Many of you may well have walked straight past the **Walk On Wednesday** poster on the front fence and never given it a moment's thought or realised what it's about. I accept the fact that trying to create a healthy walk to school five days each week is a big challenge, so the idea is that on one morning we make an extra effort by parking further away and taking slightly longer to walk the children in; it doesn't change the world's climate or guarantee your child's sustained interest in the natural world, but when so much of life is about rushing from one place to another whilst failing to notice what we really have around us, let's slow down and take some time to appreciate it.

---

### ***From the Friends Association...***

Calling all potential publicans!

The Friends of Horsmonden Primary School are looking for dads (or mums, grandparents, etc.) to help run the beer tent at the annual school fete. The fete is on the 20<sup>th</sup> June, 12-4 pm. Bartenders are needed preferably in hour-long slots but any time you can give would be greatly appreciated.

If you can spare some time, please add your name to the list in the school office.

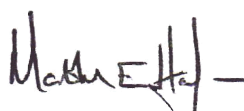
Many Thanks,

FOHPS

---

And finally... thank you for the responses from the **Annual Survey** that have come in so far. If you haven't already completed yours, please make sure it arrives with us by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Yours sincerely,

  
Malcolm E. Hayes  
Headmaster

