



Horsmonden Primary School

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Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

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Dear Parents,

Some of you walking in this morning must have wondered what on earth was happening in the hall – but earth was a long way off as Year 3 and Year 6 children ventured into space in the **Astrodome** experience. Our guide is somewhere between Patrick Moore and David Bellamy, which provides an entertaining experience and some mesmerising imagery bringing the marvels of space right into our school building.

Next week will seem a little quieter for the first three days as Year 5 head off for **Gaveston Hall** on their residential visit. They will be pond-dipping, shelter-building, orienteering, stream walking and, of course, sleeping peacefully throughout the night in their dormitories! These are the experiences that bring learning to life for the children and still be one of the highlights they will talk about for a long time after they have left the school.

In stark contrast, next week is national **SATs** week for Year 6 children across the country. If you are entering or departing from the building during the mornings the week, please remember that the children will need to concentrate so try to avoid unnecessary noise. As with every year, we've tried to strike a balance between ensuring the children are prepared for the testing process and maintaining a broad, balanced and meaningful learning experience during this term.

On Wednesday morning, **Year 4** will be holding their class assembly followed by their learning evaluation morning. These mornings are an essential part of keeping you informed about your child's progress as well as developing their understanding of their own progress during the term.

The **end of the day** and children on the premises has caused a small stirring among a few of you, so I thought it would be worth clarifying how things should work having listened to what you've been saying. The problem has been around Extra Hours Club using outdoors, for which we need to ensure we are properly supervising children and be able to see clearly the children in our care. Children should really leave the premises anyway at 3.20, BUT I've always rather liked the sociability of the end of the day and there is some great equipment that encourages social and physical development. So, in order to ensure our supervision needs are balanced with the general desirability of wider usage of the school grounds, children who are supervised by parents may use the play equipment up until 3.50 each afternoon, after which Extra Hours Club has priority use when other children will need to depart so that we can see clearly all the children in our care. The art of the great British compromise is not lost!

Next Friday, Penny Ironmonger and Tricia Sparks will be running a **cake stall** at the Farmers' Market in aid of the school. They will need plenty of cakes to sell, so please make something and pass it to them on Thursday or bring it in to school on Friday. If you can't do either of those, feel free to go and purchase a cake and a cuppa at the market during the morning.

And finally... don't forget that you have just one more week to be your annual survey forms back in, so if you haven't yet done it, time is running out.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm E. Hayes
Headmaster

