



Horsmonden Primary School

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Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

10th July 2009

Dear Parents,

Far from a sense of winding down before the holidays, there's a real sense of urgency to accomplish every task and hit every deadline. Last Friday's **Performance from Scratch Day** was a great first effort and I would once again like to offer a huge thank you to Mr Jonathan Chapter, our cello teacher, for his extra work in pulling together the whole day. In addition to group performances, we had some wonderful individual offerings vocally and on the piano from those children taught by Mrs Brown on a Friday. There will be a further showcase opportunity for junior children next Wednesday in an afternoon of 'Horsmonden's Got Musical Talent', where brass, woodwind and guitars will abound.

This week has also been about a combination of group and individual efforts with Year 6's production of **The Sabre in the Stone**, a unique play written and produced by the children with assistance from Mr Brown and Mrs Bennett. The final days of preparation have produced their own challenges with cycling proficiency, performance from scratch and Mascalls taster day all impacting on the available time. You'll hear more about the end result in next week's final newsletter and there will be photos on display in the entrance hall on the Special Mentions computer.

This weekend offers no rest and recovery time as it's **School Campout** weekend! The forecasts do suggest showers overnight, but we've got the field and the toilets booked, so we're going ahead regardless. If you don't fancy stopping overnight, join us during the day and evening as it will still be a great social event. If you have any burning questions surrounding the campout, please contact the FoHPS Chairman, Simon Hookway, on 07964 006724.

Next week offers no rest either! On Tuesday it will be **Junior Sports Day** regardless of the weather. At the moment the forecast is on our side, but in the event of a downpour we'll simply move some of the events indoors and the swimming, of course, will remain unaffected. Those of you who are transporting your children to Tonbridge can drop your infants off early on Tuesday. Staff will be in by 08:15 and infants arriving early should go to the computer suite. At the end of the day, infant teachers will round-up all leftover infants and take them up to the computer suite, with the exception of those booked in for Extra Hours Club. For those of you transporting your children to Tonbridge, head up the High Street and bear left at the top traffic lights. **Go past** the main Tonbridge School turning and the Tonbridge School Centre is clearly signposted on the left just opposite Dry Hill Park Road. There are large car parks on the right hand side with plenty of space. Please remember that your child will need:

- A packed lunch
- Swimming kit
- P.E. Kit with a shirt in their house colour
- Plimsolls (this is essential for wall climbers in upper juniors)
- Trainers
- Suncream
- A suitable hat

As we've not tried this format before, there may well be some challenging moments during the day, so we do ask for your understanding and cooperation. However, I do believe that your children will get something very special from the day and I hope that the sense of aspiration and opportunity is what stays with the children long after the event. If you have any questions about the day, please don't hesitate to ask. Please also give us your feedback on the day once it's over as we'll be looking to establish it as the regular format in future years with suitable tweaks where required.

You may have noticed the cascade of clothing flowing freely from the **lost property** box as you enter the school. It's somewhat inevitable at this stage in the term, as is the knowledge that it will disappear into the vast chasm of the bins by 4 p.m. next Friday if it's unclaimed. Please check carefully if your child has bits missing (!) and we'll display the full contents of the box on tables in the hall on Wednesday afternoon.

There will be **no After School Club** next Friday afternoon. It's the last day of term and as the school disco starts at 6 p.m. we'll be making sure the building is ready to rock and roll!

And now, a commercial break...

I have received the following message from Deborah Hancock, mother of ex-pupils Emily and George:

*"You may remember me visiting the school last September laden with chocolate fudge cake asking for sponsorship for a Half Marathon Power Walk Emily and I were completing in aid of **Breast Cancer Research**. You may also remember that whilst many of you generously sponsored me (and received chocolate cake as reward) I never collected the sponsorship money! This was because the event in Newcastle was cancelled with 12 hours notice due to flash flooding!!!*

*"The good (or bad) news is that we have automatically been entered for this year's event which is on Sunday 19th July. I will therefore be doing a repeat performance and visiting the school next **Wednesday 15th July** complete with the infamous cake! I have kept my forms from last year so please come and see me to donate whatever you can and for those who kindly sponsored me last year, please see me if you are happy to be kept on the list .*

- 1. It is an excellent cause*
- 2. Emily and I have had to train TWICE*
- 3. Think of the Cake!*

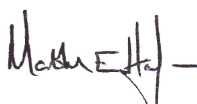
Look forward to seeing you next week, Love Deborah x"

School uniform orders will not be received until after the end of the summer term. Anyone, waiting for uniform will receive it by arrangement with Zoe Ferguson during the holidays; panic not - you will get it before the start of school in September.

And so we head to the final week of the academic year. Friday will be a combination of laughter and tears as we prepare to bid farewell to our oldest children. There's no doubt that they're ready for secondary school and that's as it should be, but the following Monday after they have officially left, they will be heading off as a class for one last time as they take part in the Leavers' Special. During the day they will be swimming, picnicking, tenpin bowling, watching a film and invading Frankie and Benny's in a final celebration of their primary years. Year 6 parents will have the opportunity for an emotional farewell at the Leavers' Assembly on Friday morning, starting at 9 a.m., where the children will recall some of the highlights of their time and where books will be presented to mark their departure.

The end of the year will be marked in true celebratory fashion with the **End of Year Disco**. Disco Dave, who kept the atmosphere of our fete so good throughout the afternoon, will be providing the music, games and entertainment, so we know it's going to be a great night. All children are welcome between 6 and 8 p.m. after which there's an hour just for Year 6. **BUT** we don't yet have enough parents assisting to make the event happen, so please urgently let us know if you can help.

Have a great final week,



Malcolm E. Hayes
Headmaster

