



Horsmonden Primary School

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Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

17th July 2009

Dear Parents,

I would like to start by congratulating Year 6 on their production last week, **The Sabre in the Stone**. Their humour, their characters, confidence and ability to make things happen all shone through in what was an excellent production. We have to stand back and draw breath when reminding ourselves that such a production didn't come from a team of professionals, but from a group of 11 year-olds. It's a cracking tribute to them as a class and an abiding memory of their contribution to the life of the school over the past seven years. They leave us with our love, prayers and very best wishes.

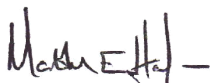
Since last week, we've also had the **School Campout**. Many thanks to the Friends Association for organising the event, where the only real requirement was freedom. There was an impressive array of barbecue equipment and the whole thing has certainly become more sophisticated than the early days, but what mattered most was the positive sense of school community in a relaxed environment that all goes towards making your child feel good about being part of this school.

Junior Sports Day proved to be a great first attempt at the new-style event and there's no doubt that the children got something special from the day. There were many instances of children striving to achieve more than they thought they could, which was what it was all about. We've already booked the day for next year, when we'll have a real idea of what we're doing, and I hope we'll build on this year's success in continuing to develop the aspirations of the children. We would like to say a big thank you to **Sara Foster** for her 'above-and-beyond' efforts in organising the swimming, along with **Richard Greenwood** who assisted throughout the day and successfully completed his induction into the world of the competitive parent! We'd also like to give a huge thank you to **Clive and Jodi Gilby** who coached and ran the high and long jump activities. Finally, we'd like to thank all of you who turned up on the day to support and who assisted with marshalling of children and judging of races.

Today we have said a fond farewell to **Maggie Mountier** in the school office. Maggie's association with the school began 27 years ago as a parent, followed by a few years as the County Librarian, 7 years as a teaching assistant and finally one of the office staff. We will still be seeing Maggie from time to time, but we would all like to wish Maggie and Graham the very best as well as saying a huge thank you to her for her commitment over so many years in such a variety of ways.

And so it's time to reflect a little on this academic year. Looking round the building, there are parts that are unrecognisable. From outside with the re-covered swimming pool and re-roofed changing room to the sail shades and new fascia board we head inside to the refurbished activity area in Reception/Year 1, junior toilets and cookery area along with the newly developed computer suite, children's library and the cosy 'snug'. We've already got used to being open until 6 p.m. and seen children engaging in a number of new after school activities in addition to those new activities during the school day. We've had two new teachers join the school and make an excellent contribution to the school community in addition to their high quality teaching in the classroom. We've seen the Friends of Horsmonden Primary School enjoy outstanding success this year in the activities they've run, the money they've raised and the impact across the school that they've had, all supported by a group of parents who are just making the best of every opportunity for their family. Perhaps most importantly, we've seen excellent behaviour and an extraordinarily consistent, positive attitude from the children; there hasn't been a single occasion this year when a class has gone out of the building without attracting positive comments about them. Yes, it's been a good one! All that remains for me to do is to wish you all the very best for your summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you on September 3rd.

Yours sincerely,


Malcolm E. Hayes
Headmaster

