



Horsmonden Primary School

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Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

11th September 2009

Dear Parents,

It's only 7 working days into the new term, but I've been amazed at how well our youngest children have settled in to school life. The oldest children started their full time days this week, which they all seemed to relish, and it's surprised us all how easily they have come together as one cohesive class from several different pre-school settings.

Now that term has properly started, it gives me the opportunity to latch on to my favourite themes. For those of you new to the school, you will soon get used to the issue of **parking and driving** being raised in newsletters! Please observe the voluntary one-way system – I know that some of you aren't fully clear on the road names and I'll be happy to clarify that for you. Please also avoid parking on corners and crossing areas as it prevents children from having a clear, safe view of the road. Please avoid parking across the driveways of neighbours – it's worth remembering that if you park across their driveways you antagonise them and if you antagonise them they antagonise me, and if they antagonise me...! And Finally, remember that we like the **Walk On Wednesday** campaign, giving you one day in the week to try and change travel habits, protect the environment and keep ourselves fit and healthy. If at all possible, park a reasonable walking distance away from school and walk the children in a bit – even one nameless member of the leadership team has discovered the delights of walking all 500 yards to school this week instead of using her car! If you're not clear on any of these and accidentally do the wrong thing, do not panic; I will helpfully send your number plate to 207 mobile phones to alert you to your naughty parking!

Some of your children have now made that big step from infants to juniors, which changes what they're able to do at **the end of the day**. Junior children can leave classrooms without a parent upon departure, which makes life easier for those of you with offspring in both infants and juniors. I'm afraid they aren't allowed to hang around the school premises to be picked up at a later time, though. Juniors who are not staying to an after school club should leave the premises by 3:30 or you will need to book them into Extra Hours Club.

The building is continuing to undergo its **development and refurbishment**. Please take care walking along the front pathway; the borders will soon be re-filled with fresh topsoil and planted up by Years 3, 4 and 5 to create a more attractive environment and the small triangle outside the playground entrance will be hosting an Inukshuk! Reception children will soon be making full use of the courtyard via their new door, with its new larger covered walkway and enlarged space for activity and new sandpit. All children will benefit from the new PE store which is to be built where the corner planting area is and we all benefit from not seeing the old shed as we walk through the hall. A little later in the term, we will begin a programme of refurbishing the infant toilets, which will make life more comfortable and pleasant for all who use them.

As ever, we're grateful for the support of the Friends Association who have made a sizeable contribution to this work, to Sue Taylor and Eric Coleman who are putting in a lot of work on the grounds and to Mr Malcolm and Alex Bates who are undertaking the building and refurbishment work. In the course of one calendar year, there's hardly a part of the school that hasn't been upgraded in seeking to give your children the best possible facilities.

School dinners are now £2 per day and need to be paid for in advance. You can pay by cash in the school office, by debit card on the school meal payment line (01634) 290389. Please don't allow debts to build up as the school is held liable after a few weeks.

A number of school clubs started this week and some are starting next. **Fun Football** for Years 1 – 6 starts in the next couple of weeks, once the Sports Club has carried out some urgent maintenance to the Ground. Volunteers are always welcomed and if you're able to help please let Neil or Kate Rigby know. **Friday Football** starts next Friday for upper juniors and we'll be able to increase the number of attendees **if** we can have some help. Can you volunteer? If so, please contact Margaret Wood, our Extended Services Manager, who is now available every afternoon to answer your queries regarding extra-curricular opportunities. We have already got some additional clubs and alterations to the clubs timetable and if you want to view the up to date version, please check the clubs noticeboard in the playground entrance or the school website.

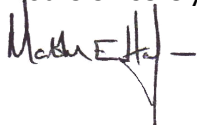
Advertising Feature

Messy Church will once again take place in the Church Hall, Goudhurst Road, on Sunday 20th September. Lots of fun and mess as we paint, glue and even cook. We are looking at The Transfiguration and so we'll maybe even change our appearances. What would YOU like to be...?"

Millie Ironmonger and Georgia Ridge are having a sale of second hand children's toys, books and clothing outside Heath Stores, Horsmonden from 8.30am this Saturday morning (12th Sept). All the money raised will be going to the RSPCA.

And finally... I would just like to highlight the evening of 24th September, 'Give Us One Hour of Your Time'. It's an evening where we get to share with you our whole school aims and aspirations for the coming year as well as those for each class. Last year, a higher number of parents than ever before said they had an understanding of the school's priorities and we'd like to build on this. We aim to run the evening very tightly to time so you can be confident of making good use of babysitters if you've booked them for the whole evening with time to head off for a social drink afterwards.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm E. Hayes
Headmaster