



# Horsmonden Primary School

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Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

17<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Parents,

What a buzz on **Monday afternoon** with nearly 60 children engaged either in Infant Gymnastics or Junior Running Club as well as those for Extra Hours Club. We've had a broad range of after school clubs for many years, but a delightful problem for this term has been fitting them all in. We often hear children criticised for becoming couch potatoes, so it's great to see such a good take-up for our active after-school opportunities.

Well done to the 20 **Year 6** children who sat their **11+** tests this week. For many of them, the summer holiday was inevitably partly focused on practice papers and the visiting headteacher who invigilated was highly complimentary about their attitude, manners and behaviour. This week we've also received the initial data regarding **last year's Year 6 SATs**, giving us the opportunity to pore over endless data. One significant element of data is the Contextual Value Added (CVA) figure, which shows what we've done with them whilst they are here and compares it across schools. Without obliterating the rest of the curriculum to focus on SATS, without coaching children to attain a level that is, in reality, higher than their actual ability and by maintaining a broad, balanced curriculum that we believe prepares children better for their next steps our CVA figure places us in the **top 25% of schools** nationally. Well done to last year's Year 6 in gaining this recognition of their achievements.

We have some **TV stars** in our midst. Many of you may remember a CBBC production crew visiting us at the conception stage of a new children's programme, **Planet Ajay**. The series starts on 21<sup>st</sup> September at 17:15 and three of our Year 6 children will be appearing in different episodes. Georgie and Annabel are in TX6 - Three Moons, which will be on Monday 26th Oct and Zak appears on 30th November. The production crew were bowled over by our children and it's great to see our three TV stars finally appearing on the small screen this autumn – please form an orderly queue for autographs.

Next Thursday evening, please **Give Us One Hour of Your Time** from 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. We'd like to share our school and class aims and aspirations for this academic year. We'd also like to give you all an opportunity to see the building developments that have taken place during the spring and summer as many of you with older children may not have had the chance. We will aim to run tightly to time, so please be as prompt as you can for the beginning in the school hall before we move to classrooms.

And finally, in this refreshingly short newsletter, to liven it up I thought I'd put in a **competition** slot. Children write the most wonderful things in their books and I thought you might like to see if you can guess who this was written about earlier this week: "My mum hand me when she was 20 (well, that what she says)". To the anonymous mum, your secret is not entirely safe! As in all competitions, family members cannot take part, so I'm afraid that the Rigbys can't enter, but for everybody else, see if you can guess who the Year 4 child was writing about.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm E. Hayes  
Headmaster

