



Horsmonden Primary School

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Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

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Dear Parents,

Well, in spite of the best efforts of the dreaded lurgy, we struggled through to the mid-term holiday. It's difficult to know precisely what everybody has, as children have suffered similar symptoms each year for the last 17 at the precise time we turn the heating on. However, thank you for your common sense in your approach and we hope that the mid-term holiday provides that all important opportunity for the children to recuperate.

In spite of the very high level of absentees this week, two teams have triumphed in competitions. A group of juniors represented the school at the **Outdoor and Adventurous Activities** tournament, bringing back into school a shiny new trophy which is now on display. Yesterday, our **Netball B Team** took on the mighty Sherwood Park School, twice our size in numbers and height, and delivered a resounding 10 – 0 victory. Huge congratulations to both teams, who not only demonstrated skill in their wins, but showed a positive, competitive and aspirational attitude throughout.

We'd also like to congratulate the 17 children in Year 6 who passed their **11+ tests** this term. The 34 children in Year 6 have a large number of very positive attributes and all of them are an essential part of what is a wonderful class to teach, but it's also important to recognise the achievements of those children who've worked hard towards the test. Secondary school choices will soon be made and we're confident that the children will be well prepared personally and academically for the next step in their school careers.

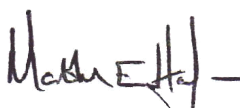
If your child has drawn a lovely picture, either at home or in school, and you would like it to be made into **notelets**, don't forget that the deadline is Friday 6th November. If your child needs something to do over the mid-term holiday, why not keep them occupied by creating something special.

At times, I find my own naivety in builder's deadlines rather sweet. I still believe in sentences such as, "Yes, it'll be all done and dusted by Friday!" or, "Yep, I'll have that done by the morning." Alas, reality and deadlines rarely seem to collide, so the courtyard isn't yet finished and the flooring contractors' inability to get here next week means that the full refurbishment of the infant loos will now have to take place in the Christmas holiday ("Which Christmas?" I hear you ask). Whilst finding myself getting ever closer to becoming Basil Fawlty, I don't know it will all be worth it in the end.

And finally, I can end this newsletter with another competition slot courtesy of Tommy in Reception, who looked at a male teacher (whose anonymity I must protect) and asked in a matter of fact way without any offence intended, "Why is your nose so big?" Bless! Won't Tom have fun when he finally gets to Year 6!

Have a relaxing and healthy mid-term break,

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm E. Hayes
Headmaster

