



Horsmonden Primary School

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Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

20th November 2009

Dear Parents,

I'd like to begin a jam-packed newsletter with a HUGE thank you to the Friends Association (FoHPS) and the team of wonderful mums who helped for yesterday's **Children's Quiz Night**. There was no shortage of enthusiasm and excitement as teams from across the juniors pitted their wits against each other in a variety of sections giving the children a great evening's entertainment in the process.

Next Thursday evening, FoHPS are back in action again with the Fashion Show. With light speed through the information superhighway, I bring you an interweb message from Beth Barritt:

*"The **Catwalk Connections fashion show/sale** is fast approaching and there are still some tickets left! For any sceptics still out there I thought I would clarify what the evening is all about. Upon arrival you enjoy a drink and sneak peek at what is on offer. A 45 minute fashion show follows - we have Mums and Teachers modelling! After the show there is absolutely NO obligation to buy. FoHPS makes it's money from the ticket sales and raffle on the night. I do realise that it is not the ideal time of year for many people to buy clothes for themselves, however there are many other things available to purchase as gifts (jewellery, bags, scarves). If you haven't already done so, please get yourself a ticket and support this new fundraising idea! Tickets are available at the school office or you can give me a call on 07786 334211. Hope to see you there!"*

Beth tells me that she's not modelling on the night because she'll be standing by the bar to ensure the efficient distribution of drinks... yeah, right! Anyway, it's great to see parents who are new to the school community bringing in fresh ideas to support opportunities for children, so many thanks to all those committed to the evening.

And so we move from the information superhighway to a one-winged pigeon limping into my office with a note attached to its good leg. Ah, yes! I bring you a message from PVS regarding that highlight of the children's year, the Christmas Present Fayre:

*"All I can say is . . . get those presents in!! The first count has taken place and the number of gifts still needed is **1000**, with less than two weeks to go. You guys are turning late into an art form and starting to cause me sleepless nights. There are a lot of presents to come in and all I can say is, please get them in next week so we are not frantic in the days leading up to the fayre. All gifts can be popped into the box at the display in the entrance hall. In all seriousness, if we don't get enough gifts we will have to limit the amount the kids can buy on the day which would be a great shame for an event that the children love so much.*

"If you're still stuck for ideas how about some old fashioned sweets wrapped in a cellophane bag tied up with a bit of festive flair ribbon. Great for Dads – mint imperials, vanilla fudge, choco éclairs are all good. For Mums', how about cookie cutters wrapped in cellophane and tied with ribbon – simple and cheap gifts that are what this event is all about. We also need pet gifts, dog chews or cat treats nicely wrapped are always popular and any ideas for guinea pigs and hamsters are welcome!

"I also understand that some stores are doing specific days of cheap items for charity so you can buy nice new bits for as little as 1p and then donate to charity. This is great for our fayre and if any of you know of a store doing such a sale please let me know so I can pass the good news on.

"So, let's make next week a bumper week for gifts. As ever, please contact me on 07816 687616 if you have any questions or are new to our event. Your support now will make a big difference to our children on the day they love so much."

Thanks, Paula. The afternoon will be magical, and your support will make the event as successful as it deserves to be.

And now, wedged under my door on a piece of crumpled fish and chip wrapping paper, I bring you a message from Mr Brown on a subject that should be on all of our personal agendas where our children have access to the internet at home:

*"With ICT becoming a more and more central part of life at home and in school we have a responsibility to ensure the safety of our children whilst on line. The children in years 4,5 and 6 will be having a talk from KCC's **e-safety** advisor on the afternoon of the 30th November. To compliment this we will be holding **a session** in the evening **for parents**. The session will begin at 6.15 and will last for around an hour. This session is open to any parents who want to find out more regardless of the year group their child/children are in. The nature of the session is different to the one for children so we must insist that children do not attend in the evening."*

I've been asked to publicise a session being held by the **Kent Benefits Partnership**, who are holding a surgery at the Farmers Market on 27th November in the Village Hall. At the surgery, parishioners can find out if they are claiming their full entitlement to benefits.

Don't forget the **Two Feet Shoe Shop** on Tuesday afternoon; they will be holding an open session for you to view the shoes they sell and ask any questions you may have.

If your child is at school but not attending a **club** that they've signed up for, can you please let Margaret Wood know. As a few of you already know, we've tightened up our procedures and we're following up absence at after-school clubs, so please help us in knowing exactly where your child is.

Headlice! Aaaaaargh! Yes, the little blighters are having a go at making their homes in several heads across the school, so please can you check your child's hair on Sunday afternoon. I'll send out a text message as our new weapon against them in creating that combined effort that is the only way to keep the little brutes under control. Happy hunting, everybody!! (Apologies for making you all itch)

Next week, we **welcome back Mrs Davey** from her maternity leave. She will be teaching alongside Mrs Steadman and Mrs Thompson in Year 1 for one day each week. What a wonderful, quiet and relaxing part of the term to return to work.

Special requests - special requests - special requests

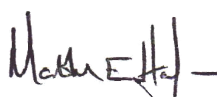
Do you have any spare **Christmas wrapping paper**? Can you buy a few extra sheets when you get some? If you are able to, please let us have some so that we can make them into huge paper chains to decorate the hall for Christmas.

Do you know where we can get a **Christmas tree** that's 18 feet tall? We need on for the hall and we'd like to erect it on Monday 1st December. Please let me know.

Do you have any **barely used junior fiction** that your child no longer wants? We'd like to enhance the reading stock in our children's library and we'd like to do it without spending unnecessarily, so if you have that box of once-read titles that your child no longer wants, please send it in.

And finally... Many thanks to the FoHPS Committee, who this week agreed to fund a number of resources to enhance the school: £1200 of new reading books to enrich the infant reading stock along with new bookcases for Years 1 and 2; additional cabinets for the cookery area; new games for after-school club; two outdoor giant posters for history and geography. If you ever wondered why it's worth getting involved in events run by FoHPS, you don't have to look far to see the benefits for children across the school.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm E. Hayes
Headmaster

