



# Horsmonden Primary School

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Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

4<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Parents,

## Happy New Year

Welcome back to school on after the term that never ended! It's a great shame when a term ends so abruptly, but it does allow us to milk the festive season right through to twelfth night!

What a week the final week was! There's something about being in amongst 211 excited children that makes the routines of Christmas as fresh as the first time. The sense of anticipation was palpable and rather than limping on to the end of a term it was full steam ahead to the finishing line.

The Carols by Candlelight service was delightful, and the constant 'will-it-or-won't-it' with the snow brought a particularly seasonal feel to the proceedings. For those of you who enjoyed the Fawley Towers saga of the van key, I'm delighted to inform you that it turned up safely later that evening!

The children brought some very welcome festive cheer to different locations during the final week. As well as the Carols by Candlelight Service, Year 6 also had additional singing at the Over 60s Christmas Dinner and at the Weald of Kent Hospice. Our Christmas Card distribution was a first time event, which we hear was extremely well received in the local community.

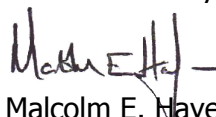
Whilst the school may have been closed for children, it's been active throughout the Christmas holiday with the refurbishment of Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and children's entrance toilets! It's far from exciting, but after 27 years service they were all in need of updating. The project has included new flooring and it's enabling us to start the term with a pleasant aroma in all the loos! I'm sure the children will let you know what they think of the changes with great excitement!

And so on to this week. At the time of writing, Christmas Dinner has yet to be served, but we're confident that we'll make it happen. We will need volunteers to assist from 11.15 a.m. onwards, so if you're available, please let Sarah in the school office know on Tuesday.

There is a moderate risk of snow this week according to the Met Office forecast. As with the final Friday, we'll get a text to you as early as possible to enable you to make arrangements for childcare where necessary. It's the first time we've had to use the text message service for a school closure, but it proved its value and I know from emails received that many of you appreciated the ease with which you were able to find out about the closure.

And so, all that remains for me to do is to thank you all for your support throughout last term and also to thank the staff for their hard work; you can tell a lot about an organisation by its staff attendance record and we didn't need to cover one single day of absence due to illness since September (in spite of Mr Brown's man-flu!). Many thanks, I hope you had a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow morning.

Yours sincerely

  
Malcolm E. Hayes  
Headmaster

