



Horsmonden Primary School

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Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

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Dear Parents,

I have to begin by letting you all know what a wonderful class **Year 6** are! Through 25 years of teaching, you don't get that many times when you have a group of 33 children across 5 days and 4 nights and you don't have to tell anybody off. Just as importantly, the children's co-operative, engaged and inquisitive attitude to all the elements of our visit meant that we were all simply able to enjoy the learning as well as the social experience. If you haven't already done so, please take a look on the school website to see what the children got up to – it will give you a good idea about the experience your children will enjoy. My thanks also go to Mr Brown, the long-suffering Mrs Bennett, Mrs Hacker, Mr Leslie and this year's staff newbie Mrs Thomas for their hard work throughout the week and their determination to ensure the children had the best possible experience. All of us on the trip have the greatest respect for Year 6, who ensured that York trip number 18 will be remembered as very special.

Well done also to **Year 5** who undertook prefect responsibilities during the week. I had a message through the VLE from a younger child who thought they'd done a great job, so I'm confident in looking forward to them taking on their roles full time in the autumn. Year 5 will also be looking forward to the return of **Miss Dunn** who will resume her role in school for three days each week in Year 5 at the end of this month alongside Mrs Bassett who will continue teaching Year 5 for two days each week.

And so back to earth with a bump! The challenge that is otherwise known as **secondary school admissions** has been uppermost across Kent and even managed to make its way into the scripts of Eastenders. We are very proud of the 17 children who passed their 11+ test and have all done their bit to earn a place at grammar school; we now hope that those who hold the power to make decisions reward the efforts of all the children appropriately.

This week we have welcomed on board **Mr Tony Carter** in Year 3 and **Miss Megan Howells** in Year 4, who will be working alongside Mrs Hickman and Miss Hudson respectively. Mr Carter and Miss Howells are both in the final part of initial teacher training and we've seen some real benefits in increasing the number of teachers supporting the children. Both teachers will be with us for the majority of time until June, enabling us to provide a better focus for small groups and individuals in their second part of the academic year.

We have some available places in **Streetdance** on Wednesday afternoons. If your child fancies following in the footsteps of Britain's Got Talent winners Diversity, then streetdance club is a great place to start! Please see Margaret Wood for further details and an enrolment form.

At the time of writing, no fewer that 104 mums are in classes working alongside children and having a great time at our **Mothers' Day Special**. What a fantastic response – we'd like to say a very big thank you to all the mums that were able to join us for the morning and help make the day a very special one for all children, regardless of whether or not their mum was there.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm E. Hayes
Headmaster

