



## Horsmonden Primary School

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Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

12<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Dear Parents,

It's only been 8 working days since term began, but the school is already a hive of activity and expectation. A really good number turned out on Monday afternoon for **Sama Karate**, proving the value of these specialist opportunities. Some of you may be unaware that martial arts are also well established on Friday evenings with **Judo Club**, which has been running for around 14 years. Between 6:15 and 7:15 Year 2 and 3 children can join and between 7:15 and 8:15 it's open to all juniors. It starts this evening, and I know that Sarah Burkett will be more than happy to see new faces. Both clubs offer the opportunity to develop children's self-discipline and personal safety, so your ongoing support in keeping both successful is greatly appreciated.

And now on to subject matter that is guaranteed to excite you, leave you with a sense of eager anticipation and help you to realise that in spite of attempting to be at the raw cutting edge of educational innovation, what really matters in school are the issues of **headlice** and **parking**!!

**Headlice** first, and for those of you new to primary school, it's part of school life that can be embarrassing and unwelcome but I'm afraid it is unlikely to ever be fully eradicated. Whilst there are many 'guaranteed' solutions commercially available, headlice just keep getting tougher and develop ways of surviving. To help keep things under control, children with long hair should have it tied back in some way. Also, Sunday night is nit night; this means if we all check our children's hair each Sunday, it's possible to start on a Monday nit-free. Finally, Sarah in the office has a range of reading material offering advice that may help if your child seems to be particularly attractive to headlice.

**Parking** is another issue that regularly causes stress to various sections of the community. In a nutshell, if you can all park a reasonable walking distance away to enable a walk for your child giving that all important daily exercise, avoid parking in front of anyone's house, blocking traffic or blocking safe crossing views for children, use the one-way system in the morning, drive a Smart, are never rush in a rush for work and make sure that as the rain always starts at 3 p.m. precisely you park close enough to avoid getting wet on the school pick-up it should all run smoothly each day. In the unlikely event that all of the above criteria are not met, please use wisdom on parking locations.

Thank you for bringing to my notice from time to time the holes in the **perimeter fence** and particularly for the very helpful supply of Heras fence that has now been used to seal up all the gaps. Whilst Heras fencing lacks something aesthetically, it's proved to be a very reliable plug for the perimeter and you can remain assured that your children are safe and secure within the school site.

We're continuing to develop a range of partnerships that benefit our children and in a couple of weeks' time all Infant children will be given new opportunities to develop dance and drama through a new link with the **Performing Arts** department at West Kent College. Wednesday afternoons will be performing arts afternoons this term, focusing on skills before the October break and on the Christmas production in the second half of the term. We hope that this new link will add real value to the whole experience for our infants. In order to ensure that our youngest children don't miss out, part-time children in Reception class will be welcome to stay all day each Wednesday as from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

The weather forecast for this month doesn't seem to suggest an Indian summer is likely, which means that your children will be heading out into the playground on days when there is light rain. Even if you drop them off within three millimetres of the nearest available door, can you please make sure they have a **raincoat**...and that it's got their name in.

Thank you to those of you who have supplied us with email addresses for the **electronic newsletter**. In a couple of weeks' time, we'll be reducing the number of paper copies we send out, saving us production costs on materials and time. If you would still like to add your name to the list, please email us on [newsletter@horsmonden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:newsletter@horsmonden.kent.sch.uk) and we'll make sure you're on it. Likewise, where a change in domestic circumstance means that one parent doesn't get newsletters, please supply us with contact details so that we can organise this on their behalf.

We are currently looking at how we will provide the opportunity for **junior football club** during this year. To help our investigation, could you let me know of your potential availability to support football activities, either regularly through a club or on specific occasions for matches.

On the subject of football, a message from Neil Rigby: "**Fun Footy resumes on 20th September. Due to this Saturday's Kindergarten Ball at the Sports Ground, we will resume Fun Footy a week later than planned. Look forward to seeing you all then.**"

During the last 12 months we've increased the range and opportunity for **sport for all children**. Two lunchtimes each week, children can join in with multisport activities free of charge provided by accredited sports coaches. You also have new opportunities for **after school and breakfast** sports activities this term provided by the same sports coaches in Premier Sports. We want to know how successful the breakfast club will be and whether or not we can increase provision on the basis of this trial, so please let me know if it's working for you and your child or, if you will not be using it but would like some alternative, what that alternative would look like if you could choose.

One sporting opportunity that has unfortunately hit an iceberg this week is the **Dragon Boat Race**, where we were hoping to have put in a team at Bewl Water this Sunday. Unfortunately we haven't been able to get a whole team together for the event and the brave efforts of 'the few' have sunk without trace. Thanks to those who tried to keep it afloat.

We're delighted that the school has been awarded a Silver Award for the teaching of **French**. Most of you will be aware that all junior children learn French formally as part of their curriculum. In the early part of the summer our provision was inspected and we were delighted to receive a silver award with some good advice on future developments. Many thanks to Mrs Nadia Bouakaz, our French Assistante who teaches French to Years 5 and 6 and to Mrs Rosalind Price who teaches French to Years 3 and 4.

I hope that it will soon be possible to restart publication of our own advertiser, **Classified**, in which you are able to advertise goods and services within the school community. Whilst I wouldn't normally use my newsletter for such purposes, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September there's a Garage Sale (and much more I'm told) at No 2, The Manwarings – a free advert for one lucky person!! I'm all heart.

For those of you who are new to the school, **how is it going?** It's easy for those of us who have been here for many years just to assume you're doing all right and that you understand routines around the school, but you may well have some questions and not knowing can cause you unnecessary anxiety. Remember, there's no such thing as a stupid question and you can email or telephone the office staff or me to ask if you're not sure, or use the invaluable resource of the parents who seem to know.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm E. Hayes  
Headmaster

