



## Horsmonden Primary School

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Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

7<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Dear Parents,

On a cold, blustery Monday morning it was great to see children's faces light up at the sight of a shiny **new computer suite**. It's looking and feeling very spacious in there and I would like to thank Mr Brown for the many hours of work he put in to the whole process, much of it revolving around technical detail in quotations. To achieve a working time of 5 days is also a great tribute to the contractors, who maintained a very good dialogue with us throughout in ensuring we got what we wanted.

We'd like to give your children the opportunity to use the **computer suite** to support their home learning as part of our **Extra Hours Club**. Starting on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, you can book your child in to our extended services where they will be able to use the computer suite for supervised research and homework between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. for the standard Extra Hours Club fee of £3.50. If you would like to book your child in for this facility, please do so through emailing Margaret Wood or popping a note in to the school office. This can be a good way of supporting homework tasks and providing your child with a quiet, focused environment in which to get it out of the way in order to enjoy the weekend. This will be of particular relevance to those of you used to starting homework tasks in a frantic panic at 06:00 on a Monday morning! Extra hours club had a great start this week and we are able to offer additional spaces by increasing the staffing level, so don't feel that you've missed the boat.

I'd like to badger you once again about signing up for the **E-letter**. It's a very good way of keeping in touch and I can send out reminders and extra messages without the need for a paper letter. E-letter subscribers were lucky enough (?) to receive 5 extra mailings during the mid-term break keeping them in touch with the computer suite development as well as providing a feedback opportunity. For those of you on the E-letter list, if you haven't received yours by 3 p.m., please email the newsletter address and I'll forward it on to you.

**Poppies** for Remembrance Day are on sale in school at the moment and will be on Monday. We suggest that 20p is an appropriate amount for children to bring in, but as adults you are also more than welcome to purchase your poppy from the main entrance hall.

Attached for juniors is an unusual opportunity for your children to take part in a **Junior Strictly Come Dancing**. We're always up for something new and this is no exception. There's a tight timescale, so don't delay.

Also new is the **Craft Club** being run for junior children by Mrs Hickman on Thursday after school until 4.20 p.m. To cover the cost of materials there will be a small charge of £5 per child payable on the first session, which will give them six sessions in which they will have the chance to make a range of Christmas Craft projects in the run up to the festive season. These will include photo frames, wooden sleighs and baubles to ameliorate your homes. Places are limited and it's on a first come, first served basis and you need to contact Mrs Hickman either by note or in person or via email, [elaine.hickman@horsmonden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:elaine.hickman@horsmonden.kent.sch.uk), or to secure your child's place.

Next Friday is **Children in Need**. Year 6 will be 'doing something different' this year and in encouraging their entrepreneurial spirit they have each been given £1. Their challenge is to use it in making as much profit as they can within two weeks and bring that back on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November. It's up to the children what they do, but naturally we have spoken to them about avoiding anything of a door-to-door nature where they are asking those unknown to them for money. Children also have the option to simply bring back the £1 at the end of the challenge if you don't want them to participate.

In the spirit of doing something different, last year I gave **Mr Brown a haircut** on the day. Whilst I was complimented on my technical skill, there was a sense of disappointment that I lacked the creativity and flair seen by top hair artistes in London Salons. Fair comment! So, to make up for it this year, you and your children have the opportunity to vote for one of three designs by placing money in the pot. Design 1 is the reverse Mohican, which we will refer to as 'The Motorway', involving a sweeping action where the clippers go straight through the middle. Design 2 is the double Mohican, a technical challenge involving a fair bit of shaving, some powerful gel and interesting colours. Design 3 is the Iggle Piggle, a design familiar to those of you who, like me, frequent the world of the Night Garden. How do you vote? It's quite simple, pop coins into the pot with the hairstyle you want to see indelibly etched on Mr Brown next Friday and I'll have the trimmers ready for assembly!

Christmas is a-coming and Miss Dunn would like quality **Christmas wrapping paper** from which a range of decorations will be made. If you've got any that you discover and will not need it, or if you can buy an extra roll and donate one, please send it in to Year 5.

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Whilst driving along a country lane a couple of weeks back I passed Paula Veysey-Smith on a bicycle. My inability to hit a moving target means that she's able to bring you the following message:

"The Christmas Present Fayre on the Thursday 4th December is now fast approaching!! It's time to start bringing those gifts in and filling Santa's box that is now in the entrance hall. We've got a new box this year with a lovely bow (thanks Annabel) and by the end of the week the display will be complete with the lists available for signing up. We're also going to be giving out ideas for gifts on the newsletters; next week will be Dad's and Lad's as we can be a little short on these gifts and I'm left knitting socks like mad!! That's it from the rocking chair this week but as always, if you do have any questions or suggestions please do give me a shout."

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**And finally...** I'm always encouraging questions, but I began to have second thought earlier this week. Alice asked me why my beard has so much more grey hair than my beard. Mmmm. I guess it's a fair question, but I may be more choosy about where I sit at lunchtime.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm E. Hayes  
Headmaster