



Horsmonden Primary School

Back Lane, Horsmonden, Kent TN12 8NJ

Tel: 01892 722529 Fax: 01892 724134

Email: headteacher@horsmonden.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.horsmonden.kent.sch.uk

Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

28th November 2008

Dear Parents,

Firstly, a very big thank you to **Alex Tyler** for organising last Saturday evening's Gig in the school hall that featured local acts as well as Mark Villarosa & Bamboojuice. The event itself raised £190, which was an excellent result at a busy time of year, and this will be split between the school and The Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Secondly, I'm still searching for a very large **Christmas tree** for the school hall. Do you know of where I can get one? Can you assist? Does your neighbour have one and want it removed? I'm open to all suggestions and would be very grateful to hear from you.

The school's Christmas season officially begins on Monday. I love Christmas in school and want to ensure that this year's festivities enrich the season for all of us, so I thought it might be helpful for all our new families in particular to have some guidance about what happens at Christmas in school. Putting all my creative juices into actions, I am calling this part of the newsletter:

What Happens At Christmas in School

The Christmas Post. As if by magic, a postbox will appear in the entrance hall on Monday, placed by my noticeboard, into which your children can put Christmas cards for anyone in the school community. Year 6 children become 'postal delivery operatives' (a gender neutral way of saying postmen!) and each afternoon they take the collected cards round to children and staff. It's a bit of fun, it's free and by spreading it across the remaining three weeks of term we can avoid the element of competition that comes with single deliveries.

The Infant Production. There are two performances of the production, one being on the afternoon of 11th December starting at 13:30 and the other on the Friday evening starting at 19:00. For the afternoon production it would be good to run a crèche in the room that will soon become the new children's library. This saves the pre-school children disrupting the show which, with the best will in the world, can all too easily happen. Could you volunteer to assist with the crèche? Full body armour can be provided if required – please let me know. Tickets are just £3 and are allocated on a first come, first served basis as from Thursday 5th December available at the school office. Please form an orderly queue and avoid 'roughing-up' the office staff in your enthusiasm to get your hands on the tickets. You should have received a costume request, but if you haven't or if you have any other queries about the production, please see Mrs Steadman, Miss Hardwell or Mrs Price.

The Infant Christmas Party will take place on the afternoon of Monday 15th December. Children may bring party clothes to dress in after lunch. Please send a **small** donation of party food:

- Reception class soft drinks
- year 1 savoury snack
- year 2 cakes/biscuits

The Junior Christmas Party will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 16th December. As with Infants, children may bring their own party clothes for the afternoon and a separate note for each class will be sent home with regard to requests for party food.

Please brace yourselves for your children on both afternoons as they are guaranteed to be as high as kites after their parties!

Carols by Candlelight takes place on the evening of 18th December and is held in St Margaret's Church. All children attend the service and you are warmly invited to join with us all on the evening. It starts at 7.00 p.m. and children need to be in place by 6.50 p.m. There's standing room only, so try not to be grumpy if you don't get a seat. Parking is challenging and one of the local farmers often drives his tractor along the lanes just to be awkward. There's little lighting and it's often freezing cold! If you can be philosophical about all that then you're in for a very special evening at which you cannot fail to feel some Christmas tingles and your positive feelings about being part of this school community will only be enhanced.

Junior children only have a full rehearsal on the Tuesday morning in the church for which parents provide transport. I'll give you further instructions the week before and introduce many of you to the delights of the one-way system that I ask you to use in keeping the narrow lanes as safe as possible for the rehearsal morning.

Christmas Dinner takes place on the last day of term. For the past few years we've cooked this in-house, but with the refurbishment of the cookery area in full flow, Eden Catering Services will be running the show. We'll need volunteers from among you to help set up, serve meals and help clear away to keep the occasion stress-free. It's actually a really good atmosphere and we've put in a request to Santa for a visitation so keep your fingers crossed!

And so, almost for the last time this year, the Ghost of Christmas Present (Fayre) is making a visitation to the newsletter. Yes, I know, Dickens had little success in mustering up an image quite as scary as Paula Veysey-Smith in full flight, so it's worth reading every instruction very carefully indeed for fear of what could happen if she becomes the Ghost of Christmas yet to come!

"Well, what can I say but a huge thank you to all those who have got their gifts in! We have had some fantastic presents and what has struck me the most this year is the thought that has not only gone into the gifts but also into their presentation. We do still need over 450 presents which feels a bit huge but I also know many of you are still to get those gifts into the box. We are all responsible for making this event possible; if you don't give then you need to really consider whether your child should take part as it simply isn't fair on those I know give so much more than they are asked.

"Please check your children's school bags tonight as the instructions and shopping lists for the day have been given out. As ever, please contact me if you have any questions. I would also invite any of you to come up on the Thursday afternoon - it is a fantastic event that the children really love and it is always great to share it with parents. Many thanks, Paula."

And many thanks to Paula. A number of you have commented how Paula looks like she needs a good night's sleep and you can understand why as she tries to get everything together for the Fayre in the face of the gratuitous humour of the Headmaster!

Ah! The glorious month of December! Over the next week the whole place will become more festive in its appearance and I trust that a felicitous yuletide demeanour will embrace you all during the festive season.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm E. Hayes
Headmaster



Advertising Feature
Come along to Charlie and Jonnie's Book Sale and the end of
the day on Wednesday 3rd December on the playground

