



# September Newsletter

## Number 34

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome Back! Unbelievably this is the third time I have welcomed you at the start of a new academic year - doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself!

Straight to business...

### Welcome & Congratulations



We welcome two new members of staff this term, Mrs Swaffer who is teaching the Unicorn Class and Mrs Parry who will be sharing the teaching of Dragon Class with Mrs Regan. They are both very pleased to be joining us and have lots of exciting ideas to make learning fun and engaging (just like the rest of us I hasten to add!)

You may also hear mention of another new name - Mrs Mannion. During the summer break Mrs Mellor was married to her partner Tom and has now decided to use his surname. Many congratulations to Mrs Mannion (yes it will take some time to get used to the idea) - thankfully it's only her name that has changed, she remains the same enthusiastic and effective teacher that she has always been.



### Attendance



If you have asked for an absence request form recently you will note that it has changed format considerably. With the exception of sickness absence, all requests for absence need to be made using the new format.

The Government "expectation" for a Primary aged child is that they aim to achieve at least 95% across the year. Out of 190 days this means attending at least 180.

Very few of our pupils achieved this level of attendance last year so I would encourage everyone to do their very best to reach or beat the target. We will be introducing a "reward" for those children that hit the target this year, with a special bonus for anyone who manages 100%.

### Unauthorised Absence Fixed Penalty Notices



From the beginning of this term the West Sussex County Council Education Welfare will be issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for unauthorised absences. Please read the enclosed letter and information about the new arrangements which I am circulating in accordance with the county's request.

### Parent Volunteers

Thank you to those of you who have already offered to help in class this term. If there are any other parents who are willing to offer help on a regular or occasional basis please speak to your child's class teacher who, I am sure, will be pleased to hear from you.



### Garden Thanks



I must say a huge thank you to James and Sam Masters and all the other wonderful folk who gave up a considerable amount of time during the holiday to help with various gardening projects around the school. The William Robinson bed at the front of the school looks fantastic and things are generally looking well ordered. Look out for further details on the school website news section later in the week.

## Open Visits for Prospective Parents



This year we are offering two planned "Open" Sessions for prospective parents and other interested parties to visit the school. These will take place on

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September** from **9.15am** to **11.30am** and on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September** from **1.30pm** to **3.00pm**. If your child is due to start school in September 2010 or you know of others who would be interested please note and pass on these dates. These open sessions are for all interested parents not just those of reception age children.

## Harvest Festival Service

We will be holding our annual Harvest Celebration on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** at **9.15am** in St Margaret's Church. As usual we would invite all the children to bring gifts of fresh produce, tinned or dried food to present at the service. These gifts will then be distributed to those in particular need. This will be followed by **Coffee & Cake** in the school hall (all welcome). This year we will be collecting donations in support of the work of a local hospice.



## Parent Governor



We are in need of another parent governor to complete our numbers on the governing body. We will be circulating the necessary information later this week. If you would be interested as serving as a parent governor and would like to know more information about the role please speak to me or Helen Schofield, Chair of Governors.

## French Trip - Autumn 2010

Following the success of our last visit to Chateau Beaumont in September 2008, we have made some provisional plans for a return trip in October 2010. The trip will be a subtly enhanced based on our previous experiences and will include many of the features we enjoyed last time.



We hope to again visit the school in Le Mans although with a less demanding and lengthy timetable. Other highlights will include the Chocolate factory and Animal Refuge Zoo with its wide variety of rescued animals including big cats, apes and other rare creatures. The trip will be

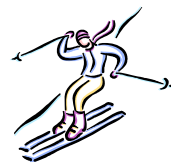
open, as before, to all children in Years 4, 5 & 6 (as of 2010 i.e. the current Years 3, 4 & 5).

We also hope to arrange for the children from the school in Le Mans to visit us at West Hoathly prior to our visit so they can get to know our children and form some links. We will let you know more about this when arrangements are in place. (Our French friends are very keen!)

We are holding a launch meeting to which all parents are invited on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** at **7.00pm** in the school hall. The evening will include a celebration of the last visit and detailed information about plans for the next. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the adults who took part last time. There will be wine and other French delicacies to help us get into the whole Francophile spirit.



## Bowles Trip - November 2009



We are very much looking forward to the school Journey to the Bowles Activity Centre in Crowborough later this term. I will be leading the trip, assisted by Mrs Smith and Miss Molloy. If there are any parents who would be interested to support us please let me know as I need one extra adult for the night period to ensure we have sufficient adults during that period.

I will be in touch soon with full details of the activities and arrangements and will organise a "briefing" meeting before half-term.

## Football Plea

As Miss Underwood is no longer with us we are desperately in need of someone to take on our football coaching and team. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping us with this then please contact me as soon as possible.



## Clubs & Activities



We are hoping to be able to offer a range of clubs as in previous terms. These will be announced in assembly when finalised and information will be published on the website and displayed on the clubs' notice board in the corridor outside the hall. We hope, initially, to be able to offer Spanish, Choir, ICT, Netball, Football,

Gardening (as part of Golden Time), Home Learning Support and Drama.

## School Lunches



Thank you to everyone who has already paid for their child's school lunches for this half term. If you have not yet done so, please hand your payment in to Mrs Lyford as soon as possible. The current price is £65.00 for the half term. Cheques should be made payable to "West Hoathly School Fund".

## Office Arrangements



The start of the school day can be a very "intense" time for the office staff with numerous enquiries taking place. To help smooth the way we are asking you to help us as follows:

- The answer-phone will be left on until at least 9.00am - if you are phoning to report an absence due to sickness or other reason please **leave a message** stating your child's name, class and the specific reason for absence. We need to know the type of illness e.g. upset stomach but would prefer not to have all the gruesome details!
- If you are returning reply slips from letters please send them via your child's **book bag** and encourage them to hand them to their teacher.
- Cheque payments may be handed in in an envelope, labelled with the details of the payment, to save time.
- If the matter is not urgent please call in later in the day, telephone or email the school.
- Please read the **Newsletters** and other communications carefully to ensure you are fully up to date with arrangements and information. Copies of all such information are also available on the school website.

## Email List



To reduce paper and production costs we would very much like to know if you would prefer to receive school letters and communications via email rather than "hard copy". If you would be willing to support us in this manner please complete the attached form (even if you

have done so before) so we can ensure we have an up to date list.

If you do not return the form we will assume that you wish to continue to receive paper copies.

That's all for now!

Yours Sincerely,

Adam J. Earle  
Headteacher

## EMAIL COMMUNICATION REPLY

I would be happy to receive school newsletters and other information via email rather than paper copies.

Signed:

Your Name (Please Print):

Child(ren)'s Name(s) (Please Print):

Class(es):

Email Address:

Please complete and return (to the school office via your child) by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Many Thanks.



# Dates for 2009-10

## September Update

### SEPTEMBER

15 9.15 - 11.30 Open Morning  
for prospective parents

24 13.30 - 15.00 Open Afternoon  
for prospective parents

### OCTOBER

1 14.15 - 15.15 Parent Forum

2 9.15 Harvest Celebration  
St Margaret's Church

19-23 Curriculum Theme Week

26-30 Half Term Break (School Closed)

### NOVEMBER

10 15.30 - 17.00 Parent Consultations

12 15.30 - 19.00 Parent Consultations

16-20 School Journey to Bowles

### DECEMBER

3 14.15 - 15.15 Parent Forum

11 9.30 Nativity Performance  
(Unicorn & Dragon Class)

16 11.45 School Christmas Lunch

17 14.00 Carol Service  
(St Margaret's Church)

End of Term

18 School Closed - INSET Day

### JANUARY

4 8.45 Spring Term Begins

### FEBRUARY

11 End of Half Term

12 School Closed - INSET Day

15-19 Half Term Break

22-26 Curriculum Theme Week

### APRIL

1 End of Term

2-16 Easter Break

19 8.45 Summer Term Begins

### MAY

3 Bank Holiday - School Closed

31-4 Half Term Break

### JUNE

7 School Closed - INSET Day

### JULY

23 End of Summer Term