



# January Newsletter

## Number 37

Dear Parents & Carers,

After a difficult start to the term, we appear to be back in business (provided the meteorological doom casters are not to be believed!) Hopefully now the heating will continue to function reliably and we will not be left to shovel snow on a daily basis.

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### Snow Thanks!



An enormous thank you to everyone who helped us out on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January to clear snow from the school site. It proved a mammoth task but with the help of several parents, children and other willing volunteers we managed to clear paths and part of the playground to allow us to access the school and provide a space for staff to park on the playground.

We would also like to thank local farmer Tom Buckley for the loan of his tractor and scoop, and

Jason Willie, ably assisted by Mark Macbain-Williams, who drove the tractor and cleared a large part of the playground to allow for parking. All their assistance was very much appreciated.

### Cheerio Mrs Mannion



I am sure the message has spread that, following a successful matching panel meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> January, Mrs Mannion and her husband are to become adopting parents. We are delighted to hear this good news and want to congratulate her as well as wish her all the very best as she embarks on the challenge and adventure of parenting.

Mrs Mannion is now on adoption leave and, like maternity leave, she is entitled to up to fifty-two weeks so she will not be with us now for the remainder of this academic year and, at least, the first term of next. We wished her a fond farewell during Friday's (15<sup>th</sup> January) Golden Assembly and presented her with flowers, a card and an extra large merit certificate.

### Welcome



We are pleased to welcome Miss Kerry Scarratt who joins us to teach the Pegasus Class during Mrs Mannion's period of leave. She has made a very positive start and the children have been telling me lots of good things.

In the office we welcome our new part-time bursar Mrs Tina Allen and our new part-time receptionist/secretary Mrs Francesca Stone. Mrs Allen will normally be working on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and alternate Mondays. Mrs Stone will be working all day on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Lyford will continue in her role but now on three full days in each week, Monday to Wednesday.

## Clubs & Activities



This term we are offering the following clubs and activities. Sign-up lists have been placed on the clubs board in the hall corridor (unless names have already been collected as in the case of Chess Club):

<b>Monday</b>	8.00am 3.15pm	Tri Golf (R - 6) Drama (R - 6) Bridge (3 - 6)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Lunch 3.15pm	Chess (Fixed) Netball (4 - 6)
<b>Wednesday</b>	3.15pm	Spanish (3 - 6) (From 27-01)
<b>Thursday</b>	3.15	Football (3 - 6)

There is a charge for Tri Golf, Drama and Bridge Clubs - if you are interested in your child joining any of these activities please speak to Mrs Lyford. The age groups for each activity are shown after the title of the club.

I will also be offering a lunch time **Choir** and **ICT** club although the days for these will vary according to my availability. I will collect names for involvement in these directly.

## The School Day



I would like to take the opportunity to remind folk of the school day timing. The morning session begins at **8.45am** and we finish at **3.15pm**. If your child arrives after 8.45am they are recorded as late and if after 9.00am it is recorded as an unauthorised absence for the session in accordance with county regulations.

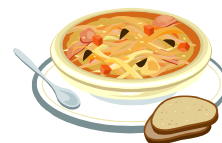
I am aware that very occasionally parents have difficulty which prevents them from arriving on time with their children in the morning or causes them to be late in collecting their children at the end of the day. This is of course entirely understandable and one or two late arrivals recorded in the register will not be a problem. However if a regular pattern develops it will almost certainly be noticed by the Educational Welfare Officer who will want to follow up the issue and take any necessary action.

If for some reason you are delayed in collecting your child at the end of the day, please ensure that you contact us. We are always happy to hold on to children for a short time in these circumstances but long periods can cause trouble as we staff may need to be at meetings and are not available to supervise children.

Thank you for your support in this matter and to those who work hard to ensure that children arrive at school and are collected from school promptly. We do, of course, appreciate this!

## School Lunch Scheme

As you will no doubt be aware, due to the continued rise in the price of food etc. that the half-termly cost for the meals scheme has now risen to



£67.50. With the closures earlier in the term we have reduced this by the price of the food for the closure days to £63.00 for this half term. If you have not already paid please send or hand your payments to Mrs Lyford as soon as possible.

Each **Wednesday** we have a "Parents to Lunch" opportunity. There are a limited number of spaces each week for parents to join their children for a school meal. We ask for a donation of £3.90 towards the catering scheme. This is open to all parents of our pupils. If you would like to come along and share a delicious hot meal then please contact Mrs Lyford (or Mrs Stone) who will reserve a place for you.

## School Nurse



Our School Nurse - Mrs Jacqui McClennan visits our school several times each term to provide "drop-in" sessions for parents. There is no need to make an appointment, just arrive and she will see you when she is available. Her next visit will be on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 8.45am**.

Jacqui is a very approachable person and is willing and able to offer support and advice with a range of issues related to the health and wellbeing of your child. Her understanding and remit is not limited to medical matters. If you have any concerns about your child she is always willing to listen and will do her best to help out.

## Website



As many of you will have noticed we do not currently have a school website. The contract and hosting arrangements lapsed and the company that were acting as host have decided not to support sites outside the field of medical services. We have therefore been left without a website and have to address concerns regarding the copyright of formats etc. from the old site.

Helen Schofield, Shirley Hickey and I will be meeting later this week to make some important decisions regarding a replacement site and we hope to have something up and running in the near future. Please bear with us in the short term and we will let you know when we are back on-line!

## Rainbows



I have been asked by Brenda Farley to pass on the following information:

*West Hoathly Rainbow Guides currently have places for girls aged between 5 and 7 years old. We are part of Girlguiding UK and meet at West Hoathly Village Hall, between 5 and 6pm on Tuesdays in term time. Do come and find out more about the fun we have to offer. Contact Brenda on 01342 811020 for more details.*

## Dates



A revised version of the dates list is attached to this letter. Please keep hold of this and update your diaries so you don't miss out on anything important.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam J. Earle".

Adam J. Earle  
Headteacher



# Dates for 2009-10

## January Update

### JANUARY

- 21 11.30 School Council Meeting
- 22 School Association - Disco

### FEBRUARY

- 8 2.45 School Council Meeting
- 10 School Improvement Partner Visit
- 11 7.00 Governors' Meeting
- 12 INSET DAY - School Closed
- 15-19 HALF TERM Holiday

### MARCH

- 3 High 5 Netball Tournament
- 8 - 12 Curriculum Theme Week
- 9 **3.30 - 7.00 Parent Consultations**
- 11 2.45 School Council Meeting  
**3.30 - 5.00 Parent Consultations**
- 25 Dragon Class Outing  
7.00 Governors' Meeting

### APRIL

- 1 End of Term
- 2-16 EASTER Holiday
- 19 8.45 Summer Term Begins

### MAY

- 3 Bank Holiday - School Closed
- 31-4 Half Term Break

### JUNE

- 7 School Closed - INSET Day
- 14-18 Cycling Proficiency Week (9.00 - 10.30)
- 16 1.30 Worth Abbey Diocesan Service (Yr 6)

### JULY

- 23 End of Summer Term