

Dear Parents & Carers,

I've just finished planning my diary for the rest of the term and have completed the attached dates list. There is plenty to keep us occupied. **Please take time to read this newsletter** and make sure you get all the important dates into your diary so you don't miss anything. So to business...

### HOME LEARNING GRIDS



As mentioned briefly in the last newsletter, in keeping with the opinions expressed by a significant number of parents in their response to the Parent Questionnaire, we have now introduced "Home Learning Grids". These have been met with various degrees of enthusiasm (mainly positive) although we will be working to refine them and ensure they are appropriately matched to the needs of the different age groups.

So far we have seen some very interesting and high quality responses from the children in the older classes and some of the younger children who have not found the whole idea too daunting. I would like to take the opportunity to clarify a few things about the grids and the way in which they are intended to work.

- The credit score is a guide to size and nature of the task. Children will be awarded additional credits according to the amount of effort invested in the tasks.
- The credit system is not intended to be competitive, to see who can score the most but as a guide to the amount of tasks to complete. All children who complete home learning tasks will be acknowledged.

- Evidence of completion of a task may be provided in any appropriate form. This is especially true for the tasks outlined for the younger children which may not require any recording or physical outcome. A photograph or acknowledgement from mum or dad is sufficient.

Home-learning tasks are intended to support learning, especially the development of independent learning skills, and should not become a battle-ground between parents and children. If your child is struggling to complete any task then please let us know.

Having discussed the new grids with a number of the Unicorn parents I am aware that we may have been over ambitious with the first grid. We will be working with you to decide how to proceed in future. We will of course be taking into account the need to undertake regular reading, learning of letter sounds and number facts etc. If, in the mean time, you do not think your child will manage the full 20 points worth of tasks please select just one or two of them, perhaps something creative or practical.

### EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Although the dates for all the activities are given in the list at the end of the newsletter I would like to highlight a few things.

- **Walk To School Week - 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010**

It's that time again when we are all encouraged (as far as humanly possible) to leave the car at home and take to our feet. We will be conducting a daily survey to find out how the children travelled to school. This is part of the county and national scheme.



- **INSET Day - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

A reminder that, for most of the children, there will be no school on the Monday immediately after the half term break as we have a staff training day. A small number of Year 6 children will be taking part in a performance at The Chequer Mead Theatre as part of an East Grinstead Schools project.



On the training day the teachers will be visiting other local schools to gather ideas and inspiration. In the afternoon the staff will be undertaking refresher training in Child Protection procedures.

- **Creativity Week - 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June**

During this week our learning will have a particular focus on being creative with Art, Music, Dance or Drama. With funding from the School Association (as part of the Arts Project) we are looking forward to a visit from the chainsaw wood carvers from the local "Woodland Centre" and a percussion day with "Shake, Rattle and Roll". We also hope to welcome back Deborah Thompsett our ceramic artist friend.



- **Children's Ball & The Enchanted Ball**

I hope you are all looking forward to the School Association's "Enchanted Ball" on 26<sup>th</sup> June, as much as I am. I now have my tickets and the menu looks delicious.



On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June the School Association will be hosting a "Wonderland Ball" for the children. More news about that shortly.

- **Junior Production - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> July**

Our annual production, a fun sing-a-long performance with music and scenes from WW2, entitled "Blighty!" will involve all the children from Pegasus and Phoenix Classes. The performances will begin at 7.00pm each evening. We will let you know about seat allocation arrangements after half-term.



- **Open Day & WW2 Event - 8<sup>th</sup> July**

All are welcome to join us for our open morning on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July. We begin at 8.45am with the opportunity to visit each of the classes to see the various outcomes of the children's work and perhaps join in with their activities. Join us for a celebration assembly at 10.30am and then, for the rest of day (if you wish) indulge in a range of activities led by the children of the Pegasus and Phoenix Classes on a WW2 theme. More about this after half term but please put the date in your diary.



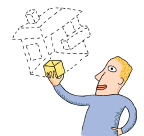
- **Festival of Sport - 12<sup>th</sup> July - 9.15am**

Our annual Festival of Sport will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July (or Friday 16<sup>th</sup> if the weather is unkind to us on the Monday). All are welcome to come and cheer the children along. We will conclude the morning with our annual "Long Race" for the Junior girls and boys.



- **Curriculum Planning Meetings**

All parents, whose children will be with us in the Autumn, are welcome to join us to help plan the learning journeys for the Autumn on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00pm.



## CLASS ARRANGEMENTS - September 2010



Each year, at about this time, we have to review the class groupings and structure for the following year. This is due to the varying numbers in each year group.

In September our classes will be organised as follows:

Unicorn Class  
(Mrs Swaffer & Mrs Handley)  
*Reception Year Group Only*

Dragon Class  
(Mrs Parry, Mrs Regan & Mrs Skinner)  
*Years 1 & 2*

Pegasus Class  
(Miss Scarratt & Miss Molloy)  
*Years 3 & 4*

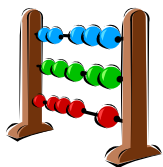
Phoenix Class  
(Mrs Smith & Mrs Brand)  
Years 5 & 6

As part of our preparations towards the introduction of the renewed National Curriculum we will be reviewing our Curriculum Framework to focus on half term (not termly) learning themes. The Pegasus and Phoenix Classes will be working on the same topics in each half term with opportunities to plan and work together. The Unicorn and Dragon Classes (all infants) will also plan around the same half-termly themes and will be working closely together.

The Unicorn and Dragon Classes will be making use of the two classrooms currently used only by the Unicorn Class. This will free up what is currently the Dragon Class as a technology, cooking, music and drama studio (amongst other things). We will be developing the infant outdoor facilities and cloakroom area and freeing up space to create a library and reading "room" in what is currently the Dragon Class cloakroom.

We will also be carrying out some improvement work to the junior facilities including upgrades to the boys toilets (which were not included in the last upgrade of toilet facilities) and the current Phoenix Classroom.

## NUMERACY INFORMATION EVENINGS



The way in which mathematics and arithmetic are taught in schools today is very different to the way in which many of us were taught. Several parents have asked for the opportunity to find out more about today's approaches. In response, in the Autumn Term, I will be holding several evening events designed to help parents understand more about the teaching sequence, skills and strategies introduced by the National Numeracy Strategy and how these develop numeracy skills. In particular I will be demonstrating and explaining the important principles behind the methods used to introduce and develop understanding of calculations.

Many of us were taught a specific method without first fully understanding the important mathematical principles and concepts which underpinned them. As a result it was much harder to identify when things went wrong. The NS approach seeks to establish the key skills

surrounding number, sequencing, place value and the effects of calculations before introducing compact written methods. Come along and find out more. If you are interested in being part of these sessions please email the school office to add your name to the list.

## PARENTS TO LUNCH



Each Wednesday we offer the opportunity to join your child for a school lunch. We ask for a contribution of £3.90 to cover the cost of the food and preparation.

Why not come along and try out the new menu, recently introduced. Please speak to Mrs Lyford to book a place in either the 12.00pm (Infant) or 12.30pm (Junior) sitting. The new menu is available to be viewed on our school website (see below), also on the notice board in the playground. I am delighted to see the inclusion of some interesting new recipes including Eve's Pudding (a delicious sponge and apple pudding served with custard), banana loaf and chicken stroganoff.

We have also recently purchased a salad bar trolley which we will be gradually introducing over the next few weeks, giving the children a choice of salad items. This will be linked to the gardening projects supported by the children and leaders of the gardening club. The trolley made its first appearance to serve dessert last Friday with a selection of fresh fruits as part of the regular "Fruity Friday" scheme.

## SCHOOL WEBSITE



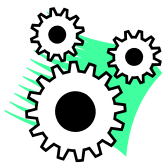
Shirley Hickey and Helen Schofield have been working hard populating the new school website (following the failure of our previous site when the hosts dropped us from their list).

New and updated information is being added every week. Although it is not yet complete we feel there is now sufficient to go public. Please visit our new site at [www.westhoathlyschool.org.uk](http://www.westhoathlyschool.org.uk) and see how we are getting on.

We have altered the structure somewhat from the original site, hopefully making things easier to locate. Please bookmark the site and visit it regularly to find out what is new. Let us know

what you think, we are always open to suggestions for further enhancements.

## HOATHLY HUB



On the subject of new websites, you are invited to take a look at (and sign-up to) the new local information website - The Hoathly Hub. The web address is [www.hoathlyhub.info](http://www.hoathlyhub.info) and is well worth a look.

You can register, free, to be part of the hub giving you full access to the information and resources and providing you with regular updates and local news. Make the most of this excellent new resource. The school site has a link to the hub and we will be making links to the hub as part of the locality section on our school site.

## COATS, HATS & SUN SAFETY



With the highly unpredictable weather which we have been experiencing recently I would like to ask you to ensure that your child comes to school with appropriate clothing etc. according to the weather on the day. A number of children have arrived on freezing mornings without coats.

Also, if we get any sunny days, it is important that children wear a sun hat and sun block of an appropriately high factor as necessary. This is particularly important on days when they may be working outside.

## NAMES ON CLOTHES



Please double check that all your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their names. Also double check that they are wearing their own clothes when they arrive home a number of items of clothing (which were named) have gone missing and in some cases found on other children!

The thing that always puzzles me is how we always seem to end up with pairs of trousers and items of underwear in the lost property box. I always wonder how the owners failed to notice that they didn't have them when they left school.

## INTERNET SAFETY & FACEBOOK



We are currently reviewing our school internet safety policy and guidelines. As part of this some of our parent governors are keen to draw together some guidance and information about safe use of the internet at home.

I would however like to highlight one point. A number of pupils, having discovered that I have a Facebook account, for some obscure reason, have invited me to become their "friend". For obvious reasons, and in accordance with West Sussex guidance I am not able and will not accept requests from current pupils or former pupils under sixteen years old. If they do ask I will refuse. Also, in accordance with Facebook policy, children under thirteen should not hold accounts. Please make sure you know exactly what your child is doing online (if you do not already do so)!

## Medication



A reminder that, in accordance with WSCC guidelines, we are unable to administer any medication other than that prescribed by your GP and only then if essential due to dose instructions and timings, and on completion of the required form available from reception. We cannot administer over the counter medicines such as Calpol or throat lozenges and children should not carry these themselves. Our first aid and medication policy will shortly be available on the school website for further information.

## Easy Fund Raising



Our bursar, Mrs Allen, has arranged for our school to be represented on the **Easy Fund Raising** website. If you shop online then, by registering with the site and accessing your favourite sites through this site, every penny you spend online will help to raise money for the school with no additional cost to you.

The web address is

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/westhoathlysch](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/westhoathlysch).

Once there, simply register as directed and then continue (via the built in search tool) to the sites from which you usually shop and the school will benefit. Things such as insurance renewals can raise as much as £40 for the school which will, in turn, be spent directly on resources for the benefit of the children.

So far 4 people have registered and we have raised £43.65. If you shop regularly with Amazon or E-bay then you could be raising money for our school.

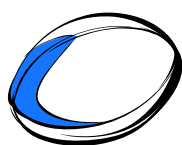
### Chess Success



Congratulations to the four members of our Chess Club, who made it to the area Mega-final, which took place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May, and played well against some stiff opposition. Our four "Chess Masters" were Rory Duncanson, Ryan O'Leary, Tommy Parffrey and Matthew Robotham. Special congratulations to Matthew who, having scored four points, has made it through to the Gigafinal to be held in Berkshire on 4<sup>th</sup> July. We would like to wish him all the very best. Matthew is only the second child from WHS to make it to this level.

Our Chess Club, which is organised by Kate Champain, is run during the Spring term with a variety of children from different age groups taking part. Every game the children play adds to their total score. Those who score sufficient points in the school club make it through to the megafinal. Thank you to Kate for all her hard work and enthusiasm.

### RUGBY TEAM



Our Tag Rugby Team, coached and organised by Pete Robinson and Mike Champain, took part in the local "Sunshine Sevens" Primary Tag Rugby Tournament on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Clad in their magnificent kit (purchased by the School Association last year) they played magnificently.

The number of teams taking part had increased significantly this year with 12 schools taking part. Although our team did not repeat their win of last year they did manage to finish in fourth place overall which is a tremendous achievement. Congratulations to team members Matthew Robotham, Eliza Wilson, Patrick O'Brien, Josh

Webb, Tommy Parffrey, Jeremy Parffrey, Alex Higham, Chloe Higham, Louis Young, Rory Duncanson, Oliver Coomber, Jake Radcliffe, Ryan O'Leary and Will Gould.

Hope you are not now suffering from information overload!

Yours Sincerely,

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

Adam J. Earle  
Headteacher

## DATES LIST - Summer 2010

### May

14	8.45	School Council Meeting
	13.30	Rehearsal @ Turner's Hill (Year 6 Reps Only)
17-21		"Walk To School" Week
17	12.45	OMLETS Meeting (Year 6 Reps Only)
	13.30	Dental Checks Yr 1 & 4
19	8.45	Mrs Smith Out Mr Earle in Phoenix (am)
	13.30	Governor Monitoring Visit
20	8.45	Nurse Drop-In
21		Kwik Cricket Tournament
25	1.15	Mrs Regan Out Mr Earle in Phoenix
26	9.30	School Improvement Partner Visit
	14.30	Unicorn Picnic
27		Mrs Swaffer Out (All Day) Mr Earle in Unicorn
28	9.00	Unicorn Planning Meeting
31-4		HALF TERM

### June

7		INSET Day - School Closed
		EGGS Event @ Chequer Mead (Year 6 Representatives)
8-11		Creativity Week
8		Yr 5&6 "Growing Up" DVD
9		am - Woodcarving Demonstration
10		Yr 5&6 Talk (School Nurse)
	14.30	School Council

11		"Shake, Rattle & Roll" Percussion workshops
	11.00	Induction Teacher from Imberhorne for Yr 6 transition.
	1.15	Mrs Parry Out Mr Earle in Dragon
14-18		Cycling Proficiency Week
15	1.10	Mrs Smith Out Mr Earle in Phoenix
16	13.30	Year 6 - Worth Abbey Service
	2.15	New Intake "Story Time" Visit
21		Pegasus & Phoenix Classes Newhaven Fort Visit
22		New Intake Home Visits
	10.15	Guitar Performance Assembly
23		New Intake Home Visits
	14.00	Pegasus to Horncastle House WW2 Singing for residents
24		Tempest Photography Classes & Teams
	1.10	Mrs Smith Out Mr Earle in Phoenix
25		Children's Ball - Wonderland Theme
26		"The Enchanted Ball" School Association
29	8.45	Miss Scarratt Out Mr Earle in Pegasus
30	8.45	School Council
	1.15	Yr 2 / 3 Multi-skills Event
<b>July</b>		
1	1.30	New Intake Visit Parents with AE
	19.00	Governors' Meeting
2		Mrs Swaffer Out Mr Earle in Unicorn (All Day)
6	1.10	Mrs Regan Out Mr Earle in Dragon

- 7 14.15 New Intake Visit  
19.00 Junior Production - "Blighty!"
- 8 8.45 School Open Morning  
WW2 Open Event (All Day)  
19.00 Junior Production - "Blighty!"
- 9 Yr 6 - Induction @ Imberhorne  
Reports Distributed  
1.10 Mrs Parry Out  
Mr Earle in Dragon
- 12 9.15 Festival of Sport (Rec)
- 13 8.45 Mrs Smith Out (am)  
Mr Earle in Phoenix  
14.30 Year 5 - Gravetye Dancing
- 14 13.00 Area Sports @ Sackville
- 15 Phoenix Class Outing - Ardingly
- 16 (9.15 Reserve Sports)
- 19 14.00 Parent/Pupil  
Curriculum Planning Meetings
- 23 9.15 Yr 6 Leaver's Service

END OF TERM

## AUTUMN TERM

### September

- 1 INSET Day - School Closed
- 2 8.45 Term Begins for Children  
9.00 New Intake Children Begin

### October

- 12 8.45 "Six Weeks In" Meeting  
(Reception Parents)
- 22 INSET Day - School Closed
- 25-29 Half Term Vacation

### December

- 17 End of Autumn Term

## SPRING TERM

### January

- 4 INSET Day - School Closed
- 5 Spring Term Begins

### February

- 18 INSET Day - School Closed
- 21-25 Half Term Vacation

### April

- 9 End of Spring Term
- 11-21 Easter Vacation
- 22 Good Friday - School Closed
- 25 Easter Monday - School Closed

## SUMMER TERM

- 26 Summer Term Begins

### May

- 27 INSET Day - School Closed
- 30-3 Half Term Vacation

### June

- 4 INSET Day - School Closed

### July

- 22 End of Summer Term