



# February Newsletter 2012

## Issue Number 47

Dear Parents & Carers,

It's that time again - time to write the newsletter to keep you all up to speed with the latest information, forthcoming events and dates. Please take a few moments to read through the letter and note any key points for your diary.

## NEWS ROUNDUP

### MRS TRICKETT MATERNITY COVER



As you will know Mrs Trickett is expecting to start her maternity leave some time in April. Due dates are of course not an exact science and Mrs Trickett wants to work for as long as possible before the birth of her little bundle of joy.

We are please to announce that, following the successful recruitment process we have appointed Mrs Clare Holmes to provide cover during Mrs Trickett's maternity leave. Mrs Holmes met the children of Pegasus Class on the interview day when she led them in a short lesson focussing one of her many hobbies - archaeology. She will be visiting us several more times before she takes up the reins.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT & CIRCUS SKILLS



A big thank you to the School Association who, having paid for a special Christmas treat for the children in the form of a show entitled "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas", paid for a return visit by the fabulous Nick Huckleberry Beak of Circus Takeaway to present his "Healthy Eating/Living Show" for the whole school followed by a circus skills workshop for the older children.

Again Nick made us laugh, kept us on the ball all the way and challenged us to think and to do new things.

### SCHOOL DISCO



There's nothing quite like a disco! Another event organised by the School Association, with a magnificent snack bar, groovy tunes and prizes galore. The children had an entertaining time and the event raised a brilliant £181.00 towards the SA funds, in support of the school.

### ANNUAL BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION



Whether Haggis and Whisky are your cup of tea or not, the Annual Burns Night Celebration, organised by Rachel Whitlam, was a fun filled, successful and enjoyable event. The food (paté with oat cakes, sausages, with neeps, tatties and onion chutney followed by a huge selection of delicious puds) was magnificent, the Scottish accents (real or affected) were pleasing, the music lively and engaging and the dancing - well what can I say?

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the event including Rachel and all her team. The event, this year in support of the School Association, raised a magnificent £680. Mr Burns would be proud of you!

### WELCOMES & FAREWELL



This term we have welcomed four new pupils to our school, Mimi, Helen & Natasha have joined Phoenix Class and Kai has joined the Dragon Class. We are delighted to welcome them to our school family and hope they will continue to be very happy here. They have all settled really quickly.



Also this term we have had to bid a fond farewell to Nikita from the Phoenix Class who, with her family, has moved to Angola. She has emailed us and told us about her new life, school and experiences. We wish Nikita and her family well!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### INSET DAY & HALF TERM



A reminder that the school will be closed for and **INSET day** on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February**. The teachers will be focussing on the curriculum including writing and updating the curriculum framework to match writing genre and particular books to particular topics.

**Half Term Week** is **13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February** and we restart at the usual time of 8.45am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE LUNCH



On Shrove Tuesday (21<sup>st</sup> February), as is our custom, Mrs Staples will be serving a special Pancake Party Lunch. The main course will be Hot Dogs with Onion Rings, Chipped Potatoes and a Pic 'n' mix salad. Dessert will, of course, be Pancakes with Lemon and Sugar and Fruit Juice will be provided to drink.

Children who normally have a school lunch will automatically be included for the meal. However, if your child **does not normally** have a school lunch on a Tuesday but would like to join in on this occasion then please complete and return the reply slip, with payment, that was circulated on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

### EASTER VACATION & THEME WEEK



We break up for the Easter holidays on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March** (conveniently the day before my birthday!) and return on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**. The school is closed on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April** for an INSET Day.

The week leading up to the Easter Break - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March will be a Curriculum Theme Week focussing on Easter games, traditions and stories. Something fun to

look forward to there! Expect egg decorating, bonnets and a range of competitions and creative activities. If you have any ideas or would like to contribute then please email me.

## REMINDERS

I don't wish to nag but there are one or two things I would like to refresh in the memories of some folk:

### WATER BOTTLES



Please make sure that your child has a freshly filled water bottle with them in school each day. It is very important that the children drink plenty during the day and we will soon be having a "drive" to encourage them to do so more and more.

The brain functions better when properly hydrated and the recommendation is that a child needs between 1.5 and 2 litres each, about half of which should be drunk whilst in school.

### COATS



Whilst the cold weather remains with us please make sure your child also has a coat in school. We do remind children to put these on.

Green, fleece lined, coats with the school logo are available to order from the school office if you wish. If ordered before half term these will be available at the current price of £15.00. We have been informed by our supplier that there will be a slight increase in price after 20<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

### PE KIT



PE is a regular and important part of the curriculum and although we do have set slots for PE additional activities may be included from time to time. Whilst the majority of children have their PE kit in school every day, some do not. Please would you check that your child has all they need. Again shorts, T-shirts and draw-string bags (in a variety of colours) are available from the school office.

## LOST PROPERTY & NAMES



There is a large pile of unclaimed clothing in the lost property box in the entrance area including some non-uniform items. Please would you ensure that any items are claimed before half-term and that all items of clothing are clearly **named** so that we can reunite them with their owners if misplaced and check if children have picked up the wrong jumper or other items of clothing as happens from time to time.

## START OF SCHOOL DAY



The school teaching day starts at 8.45am it is important that children are in class and settled as soon as possible. We would encourage parents to let their children come in unaccompanied from the playground and to take responsibility for sorting bags, coats and (if necessary) lunch boxes.

If there are a lot of additional people in and around the school it can make it hard for some pupils to settle and for staff, for safeguarding reasons, to work out who should or should not be in the building.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

I have been asked to include the following notices in the newsletter:

### WEST HOATHLY RAINBOW GUIDES



We Look, Learn, Laugh and Love. Rainbows are the youngest members of the Guiding Movement and we have a unit here in West Hoathly that meet in West Hoathly Village Hall in term time for FUN and FRIENDSHIP.

This year is an exciting time for us as its West Hoathly Rainbows' 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday and Nationally our 25th Birthday. Along with the Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee there is much fun to be had.

We currently have spaces for girls aged 5 to 7 years and have a pre-registration list for girls aged 3years+

For more information please contact Brenda Farley (Unit Guider) on 01342 811020.

## TREE PLANTING



Emma Goodwin is offering the following exciting opportunity:

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2012**  
**10.00am – 2.00pm**

at **THE CROSSING**

Come to the crossing of The Forest Way Cycle Path and Brambletye Lane, Forest Row, RH18

for a Valentine "Love the Trees" session and help plant 250 trees, gifted by a London based Carbon-Offsetting Company.

Volunteers will be served  
Hot Soup & Cheesy-Beet Love Muffins!

RSVP: Emma Goodwin 07976 296 364



### PANCAKE SUPPER & COMPETITION

For the pancake fans there is an additional opportunity to indulge:

**Pancake Supper and Competition**  
**Shrove Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012**

**6.30pm at Sharpthorne Hall**  
Station Road, Sharpthorne

Come along and bring the whole family to enjoy home-made pancakes.

Why not also enter for the pancake competition? There will be categories: Adults & Children.

Entrance forms will be circulate via the school book bags.

That's about it for now. Don't forget to check the website for updates.

Yours Sincerely,



Adam J. Earle  
Headteacher



# Dates List

Update January 2012

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/12

### February

- 10 INSET Day - School Closed
- 13-17 Half Term Holiday
- 22 6.30pm Maths Information Evening – Subtraction

### March

- 12-15 Scholastic Book Fair

### April

- 2-13 Easter Holiday
- 16 INSET Day - School Closed
- 17 Summer Term Begins

### May

- 14-18 Year 6 SATs testing

### June

- 1 INSET Day – School closed
- 4-8 Half Term Holiday
- 22 Childrens' Ball
- 23 SA Summer Ball

### July

- 5 Worth Abbey Leavers' Service – Year 6
- 9 9.15am Olympic Festival of Sport
- 9 -13 Cycling Proficiency – Year 6
- 12 9.15am (Reserve) Festival of Sport
- 16 Chequer Mead Production – Whole School
- 20 9.00pm Year 6 Leavers' Service
- End of Summer Term