

Grovelands News

December 2011



Christmas Festivities

The children in Years 1 /2 performed their show magnificently last week and this week is the turn of children in Years 4/5. In the final week before we break up for the holiday, Christmas school lunch takes place on Wednesday and party day is Friday, following a whole school Christmas assembly.

Our school choir performed beautifully in 'The Big Sing' at the Eastbourne Congress Theatre last Wednesday along with other schools and they have also sung carols at Tesco's in Hailsham.

Thank you once again for supporting your children at this hectic time!

TALKING HEAD

Many thanks to FrOG for the lively disco enjoyed by so many children on Friday. There was also a special appearance of Santa!

I have been very pleased with just how many children are now wearing the new school uniform. Many people have commented on how smart the children are looking.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Julie Claxton

COATS

May I please remind parents that it is essential to send your child to school with a coat, now that it is the winter season. We still have some children coming to school without coats, especially if they have arrived by car and forget to wear one!

Home/School Agreements

Thank you to those of you who have returned your Home/ School agreements signed. There are still a few outstanding and I would ask you to sign and return these by the last day of term.

Staff News

Mrs Lynette Price-Smith will be retiring at the end of this term after more than 11 years at our school. We are very grateful for her hard work and commitment over the years and will be wishing her a very happy retirement. Mrs Steph Ridler will be taking over from Mrs Price-Smith. She is already known to the children and we look forward to having her with us in school.

Mrs Karen Liddell is expecting a baby next year and plans to remain working in school until the end of March.



Thank you to those of you who visited and bought books at the book fair. The total sales were £835, which means that the school was able to purchase books to the same value!



Thank you once again to all those of you who park with care on the school site. A further plea to all who bring cars onto the site to drive slowly and park with consideration for the safety of everyone.

Can I please ask that parents/carers parking their cars outside the school site do not block resident's drives as we have received several complaints regarding this.

TRUST NEWS

The Trust partnership of schools (Grovelands, HCC, Marshlands and Whitehouse) has been busy preparing ahead for its second year in operation. The second year strategy will support all our vulnerable families and children. It will also be looking to improve Literacy across the town, parental engagement and attendance which are issues affecting all schools in the Trust.

Fund Raising

Thank you to everybody who has helped the children in our fund-raising events this term.

We raised £305.91 for our Harvest charity, the Lunchbowl Project which provides meals for starving orphans in the Kibera Slum, Africa.

We also raised £607.97 for Children in Need, through the children's mufti-day and cake sales.

And finally we have raised £1952.21 for the Sports4All sponsored event. Almost £1200 of this money is going towards the fund to build a climbing frame in the playground for all our children.

This is an absolutely phenomenal amount of money!

Thank you again.



I have been asked to mention, that some parents are waiting by the school gates, smoking and using inappropriate language. Although smoking is only banned inside the school gates I would ask that you are very careful where you smoke as children are coming in and out of school and also please take care not to use language which could offend others.



Medical Matters



Just to confirm our policy on the administration of medicines at school, which is written on advice from County:

"If a child is on a course of antibiotics, these should be administered as far as possible at home. We are advised that if the child has to have medicine 3 times daily this can be done before and after school and at bed time and there is no need to involve the school. If a GP specifically requests a lunch-time dose i.e. A child taking medicine 4 times a day we could comply." A permission form would need to be completed by the parent/carer.

MORE MEDICAL MATTERS

The school nurse, Chris Fifield, has asked us to let you know that there are occasional outbreaks of threadworms in school. These are small, white, thread-like worms a few millimetres long, that live in the human gut. It is more common in children but can sometimes affect whole families. It generally passes from person-to-person because of poor personal hygiene. Although there is no way to completely prevent threadworm infection, high standards of personal hygiene can reduce the risk. Children should be taught to wash their hands with soap and water regularly, particularly after going to the toilet and before eating. If you suspect an outbreak of this in your family there are a variety of treatments available from your local pharmacy. A full information leaflet is available from the school office.

Chris Fifield can be contacted at the Hailsham Health Centre on 01323 446983 and will support children and families and give advice on any health issues.

Christmas Lunch



This will take place on Wednesday 14th December. All children will sit together and be part of the festivities to eat, whether they have a packed lunch or a hot meal. **Please send £2 if you have ordered lunch for your child.** At present there are 6 children on the reserve list if there are spare dinners on the day (there usually are a few, as children are either off sick or change their mind and bring a packed lunch).

A school lunch will be available for all children on free school meals.

Dates for your Diary

16th December		Last day of Term 2
3rd January		First day of Term 3
9th January		Year 5 swimming, for 5 Mondays
10th February		Inset Day
13th—17th Feb		Half Term holiday