



# VH TELEGRAPH incorporating the Bulletin

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Newsletter 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009

A very happy new year to you all and I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas. Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for the excellent support that you gave to the school and your children in the lead up to Christmas? It was a very busy time for us all but a very special time for our children. I thought that all the children performed superbly in their Christmas events, be it Carol Service, play, nativity or a less formal occasion. They also appeared to enjoy themselves in their Christmas parties and I don't think we have ever had so many children in our house before than we had for the Year Six Christmas party! My thanks to those children who gave up a day of their holiday to represent the school at hockey in the Maylam Bowl as part of the Ladies, Gentlemen or Cavaliers team. Whilst all tried their hardest the Gentlemen were convincing winners of the Primary School competition.

The enthusiasm and zest for school that our children showed in the lead up to Christmas has certainly been continued into the new term which is wonderful to see. The pace of school life appears as fast as ever and the children appear to have an increased desire for learning, it is superb to see so many hands raised enthusiastically in each of the classes as I make my way round school each day. Whilst I do have to have a little moan at children occasionally for moving around school too quickly all they are doing is rushing to get to their next lesson! I am once again delighted with the large number of children who have registered to take place in our after school club programme and I thank our teachers for offering their time so willingly to give the children such a large range of options.

Next week sees our Year Six pupils visit the senior school to take their examinations prior to entry in September. They have worked hard and can face the challenges ahead of them with confidence whether they are academic, artistic, musical or sporting. One of my favourite anecdotes is from the 1970's when Gary Player, the South African golfer, had won a major championship the interviewer said that whilst he had played well, he had appeared to be quite lucky on a number of occasions. His reply was "Yes, it's a funny thing but the harder I work at my game the luckier I seem to get!"

Whilst I am on a sporting theme I know many of you are already aware that Mrs Pryce has decided to leave at the end of this term. Mrs Pryce is one of our longer serving teachers and I thank her for all her contributions to girls' games. She was already well established in the school when I arrived nine years ago and she has certainly kept her enthusiasm over the years. I am delighted with the way that sporting opportunities have increased and it was wonderful to see all the girls in Year Five and Six representing the school at Ashford on Wednesday. Recent years have seen us establish sports tours and I was delighted that 2008 saw both our girls and boys hockey teams qualify for the National Finals which is a tremendous achievement for a small school. Whilst I am sad to see Mrs Pryce go I have some exciting ideas for the further development of girls' games in both the short and long term which I shall share with you all in the months ahead. Our boys' hockey tour took place

last weekend; unfortunately the weather stopped us playing much hockey. Whilst that was disappointing, I was delighted to receive so many complimentary comments from people we met. We shared our hotel with Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and the South East Romantic Novelist Association and managed to impress both groups! As a consequence of the excellent behaviour of our children we all enjoyed the residential experience. As you are probably aware, we do have places available at present in our boarding house and Mrs Butler is keen to welcome in day pupils on an occasional basis. In fact she is so keen she has persuaded me to offer two free nights to all Junior pupils between now and the end of this academic year. If you would like to take advantage of this, contact the office or Mrs Butler to book your child's stay.

I wish you all an enjoyable term, if any one has any concerns about any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### NOTICES

#### *Lost Property*

Finlay Knights is still missing his school fleece and also his school coat. Would you all please be kind enough to check name tags.

### ☐☐ THE NEXT TWO WEEKS ☐☐

Mon 19 Jan	2.15 pm U11 Netball Development Squad v Kings Canterbury. Away 2.30 pm U11 Boys Hockey A, B, C & D v Blean Primary. Kent College
Tues 20 Jan	9.00 am Kent College Entrance Exam. Kent College
Wed 21 Jan	2.00 pm U11 Netball A & B v Northbourne Park. Away 2.15 pm U11 Netball C & D v east Court. Home All Day Kent College Scholarship Assessments. Kent College
Fri 23 Jan	8.00 pm Friends of Vernon Holme Wine and Wisdom. Sports Hall Marks Awarded (core subjects) 8.45 am Coffee Morning For Year 2 & 3 Parents. Garden House
Sat 24 Jan	9.00 am / 12.00 noon Kent College Year 6 Entry Interviews
Mon 26 Jan	All Day IAPS Boy's Hockey Tournament at Tonbridge. Away
Wed 28 Jan	2.15 pm U11 Netball B & C v St Lawrence College. Away
Thu 29 Jan	7.00 pm Canterbury School's Dance Festival. Sports Hall
Sat 31 Jan	10.00 am Invitation Cross Country Relays. 10.00 am