



VH TELEGRAPH incorporating the Bulletin

Newsletter 2nd October 2009

I can remember as a child counting the days to my birthday and every time I walked past the local sports shop studying the cricket bats displayed in the window and wondering whether my parents would select the Tony Greig Autograph Gray Nichols or the Ted Dexter Cavalier for my present. It was one of the advantages of having a Summer birthday! Speaking to our children I don't think things have changed for them in terms of the anticipation but the presents are perhaps more virtual than real. Of course I have reached an age where I no longer look forward to birthdays as the appeal of being a year older has faded as each year has gone by! In the Summer holiday I went to my Aunt's hundredth birthday party (Carter women tend to live a long time!) and was interested to hear from my cousin that his mother had been counting the years and days until her 100th birthday arrived. Next year Kent College is 125 years old and we think that there should be a celebration, so on Mon February 1st there will be a service to celebrate the College's birthday. This will be a very special occasion but part of me feels that a child might look upon it much as my daughter anticipated my Aunt's birthday celebration; something for the adults that had to be endured! She did enjoy the pictures of my aunt when she was young and she did enjoy the stories of life in the past and this sparked an interest. So alongside the formal celebration we would like to identify a week of celebration for our Nursery, Infant and Junior children. The amateur historian in me has already had some ideas of taking education back to Victorian times, re-introducing the cane for a week! Educating the boys whilst the girls learn to cook and sew and making everyone write right handed! Not surprisingly there were some deep intakes of breath at these suggestions so they are three that we will not be pursuing! However, I do think that this can be a celebration that can be enjoyable and educational and I think that is the perfect combination for a school's birthday.

Whilst on the theme of celebration I have been delighted to hear from teachers and witness for myself at our celebratory Friday assemblies just how well our children are doing and how enthusiastically they are throwing themselves into all aspects of school life. Sunday 11th October is our Junior Harvest Festival service and then Monday 12th is our Infant service, both of which will be held in the Sports Hall. These are our first gatherings of our school community of the year and I hope that everyone is able to support them. In the Junior Service the choir will be singing, the orchestra playing and the Year Three children helping the Senior School Prefects in a small presentation. All other Junior and Infant children are encouraged to attend. Parents are asked to bring a shoebox sized gift of tinned produce to be displayed on Thursday 8th or Friday 9th. These gifts will be distributed by our Year Five and Six pupils to the elderly residents of Alms Houses in Harbledown and Canterbury. Full details of the Infant and Junior Services will be sent out early next week.

I have been delighted with the enthusiasm and standards that our children have been showing on the games field. Our girls produced some excellent hockey to finish third in the Bishop Stortford tournament competing with the strongest teams in the country and beating easily all their local rivals. I enjoyed watching them play at Ashford yesterday and to see every girl in Years Five and Six taking part and doing their best. It has been a similar story for the boys producing football of a high standard and everyone being involved. As a sports fan and educationalist I could not ask more

of my teachers and children. The cross country running season is underway and again the standard of performance and enthusiasm is wonderful to witness, last Saturday saw more children than ever taking part in our cross country relay. It seems that hardly a week passes without a news story about the poor health and fitness of our nation's children, well I would encourage the people who write such stories to visit and see what can be achieved with hard work from children and teachers and tremendous support from parents. We are laying the foundations for our children to achieve success as they get older and progress through life but also I hope to look forward to long and healthy lives.

It would not be a letter from me this year if I didn't mention our web site! I admit that it is becoming a pre-occupation with me but it is being re launched very soon and you will be able to read about all the exciting events and see pictures of these events very soon after the re-launch!

Finally, can I encourage everyone to attend the Kent College Open Morning on Saturday 10th October. We will be open on Thursday 15th and Saturday 17th October if you know of people who would like to visit.

NOTICES

Lost Property

We have in the School Office a pair of a child's pink metal framed glasses (Specsavers), a pair of Thomas the Tank sunglasses, a Solo wrist watch with a black strap and a two diamond stud earrings – not a matching pair! Please come and claim any items that are yours.