



VH TELEGRAPH incorporating the Bulletin

Newsletter 3rd October 2008

Now that we are fully into the speed of the new term I have started my visits to classes to watch the teaching and learning that takes place on a daily basis in the school. I have really enjoyed watching the teachers inspire and motivate their classes and the enthusiasm of the children is wonderful to see. I believe very strongly that all the things we do with our children in school helps them academically because so much more can be achieved with improved self confidence which leads to much improved decision making both inside and outside the classroom. Increasing a child's self esteem helps them achieve in all aspects of school life and if this can be done in an enjoyable way then even more will be achieved. I am very lucky to be surrounded by teachers who believe so strongly in the value of all round education that they are prepared to give so much of their time so freely to widen the educational choices and experiences of our children. I am certain that this then leads to increased success in the classroom.

The past fortnight has seen great progress being made both inside and outside the classroom. Our Year Four pupils visited Bedgebury Pinetum where they were faced with a number of challenges that ensured thought; teamwork and practical skills were required in abundance. Our Year Five and Six pupils went on their sports tours to West Kent and Brighton where they experienced an overnight stay. A combination of modesty and my policy of not naming individuals in my newsletter stop me from naming the winner of the ten pin bowling yet again! Our Reception classes visited the school farm and were still happy to eat boiled eggs the following day!

Our school Harvest Festival celebration takes place for Junior children on Sunday 12th October and all families are encouraged to attend. Dr Paul Glass, our Chaplain, will lead the service and the choir and orchestra will be performing as will our Year Three children who will be helping our Senior School Senior Pupils tell a story. On Monday 13th October we hold our Infant Harvest Festival in the morning, following this service Year Five and Six pupils will distribute the parcels to residents of Alms Houses in Canterbury and Harbledown. All children are encouraged to bring into school a shoebox-sized parcel of non-perishable goods on Friday, 10th October. This is the first of our special days within the school and I hope that everyone is able to support us.

As you are all aware we are a member of IAPS (Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools) and as such are inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate a minimum of every six years. Our next inspection will take place in February 2009 and as part of the information gathering process for the inspection I shall be sending to all families a questionnaire, which is produced by the ISI. This will need to be returned to the school office in a sealed envelope marked for the attention of the lead inspector. We will not be looking at the replies but the inspectors will use them as part of their evidence base for their findings following their visits to the school. The inspection report will be made available to all parents and put on line on the ISI web site. Whilst I think it would be extending the truth to say that I was looking forward to the school being inspected, it is a very important thing for the school and will help us with

continued school improvement. I will keep everyone fully informed about the inspection process throughout the year.

All Junior children will bring home their effort grades in English, Maths and Science this weekend. It promises to be another very busy weekend with us hosting a Cross Country Relay event on Saturday morning and sports fixtures on Saturday afternoon for boys and girls. Our sporting successes continue in regular fixtures and our Under 11 boys retained the Spring Grove soccer cup for the fourth successive season with a mixed sequence of performances where they managed to lose to the two weakest teams in their qualifying group before defeating Kings and St Edmunds convincingly to qualify for the final!

Finally, we have an Open Morning on Saturday, 11th October throughout the school. This will be a good opportunity for our parents to visit the Senior School, meet some pupils and staff and start to discover about future developments in the school. I know Dr Lamper, who is a regular and very welcome visitor here, is keen to meet parents and share his visions for the future. There are exciting challenges ahead for all children at Kent College from the ages of three to eighteen. It was great to welcome back some of our Upper Sixth formers into assembly on Monday who shared some lovely memories of starting in our Nursery some fifteen years ago! Time goes very quickly and our children grow up so fast, let's make sure that we all enjoy these times that we have together in our very special school.

☐☐ **THE NEXT TWO WEEKS** ☐☐

Mon 6 Oct	1.30 pm U11 Girls' Hockey C & D v Kings Canterbury. Home
Wed 8 Oct	1.30 pm U11 Girl's Hockey A, B, C & D v Northbourne Park. Polo Farm
Thu 9 Oct	8.45 am Coffee Morning, Year 1 Parents. Garden House
Fri 10 Oct	1.00 pm Sevenoaks Prep Cross Country. Away
Sat 11 Oct	9.30 am Open Morning 2.00 pm U11 Football A, B, C & D v Kings Canterbury. Away
Sun 12 Oct	11.00 am Harvest Service for Juniors. Sports Hall
Mon 13 Oct	9.30 am Infant Harvest Festival. Sports Hall 11.00 am Harvest Concert at St Johns 2.00 pm Year 5 & 6 Arsenal Grass Roots Soccer Skills. TBC
Thu 16 Oct	8.45 am Coffee Morning, Year 3 & 4 Parents. Garden House
Fri 17 Oct	2.00 pm IAPS Regional Cross Country Championships at Summerhill