



VH TELEGRAPH incorporating the Bulletin

Newsletter Friday 6th February

Thank you to you all for your help and support during the difficult weather conditions this week. I can confirm you that we will always do our best to avoid closing as we do have teaching and support staff that are resident on site. If snow arrives during the night I will endeavour to be answering the school phone from seven in the morning but can be contacted at home or my mobile earlier if you need guidance before seven. I am aware that many of you have potentially quite difficult journeys and would never expect you to travel if you were worried about travelling. I would also like to congratulate your children on their attitude towards snow, whilst I am advanced on the journey through life and see snow as potentially problematic for our children it is wonderful and an opportunity for enjoyment. As Head I believe very strongly that it is an opportunity for teaching and an opportunity to re-enforce all the aspects of learning and play that we feel so strongly about. Watching the children play so nicely, enjoying themselves but being considerate of the needs of those out playing with them made me feel very proud to be their Head Master. I was also delighted to see how enthusiastic all the teachers were and to see them all out enjoying themselves with the children showed how close our school community is, although I'm not sure that Mrs Freeborough will be attempting to ride a sledge again in a hurry! We have displayed a number of photographs through the school and I encourage you to look at them.

Those of you that look at your child's work on a regular basis will have noticed that we are using a new marking system which we feel will improve our ability to communicate to each individual child what we like about their work and what the child can do to progress and improve their work in the future. It is called three stars and a wish and your child should be able to tell you all about it, your child's form teacher will also be happy to explain to you how it works.

I enjoyed spending time at the senior school two Saturdays ago when our Year Six pupils attended their interviews. I felt it was a positive experience for our children and for many was probably the first of a large number of formal interviews that they will attend over the years ahead. I hope that parents enjoyed their opportunity to meet with senior teachers at Kent College; I know the teachers involved felt it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile morning. The results of the assessments and interviews will be sent to parents in the next two weeks. I shall be writing to all parents with children in Year Five to invite them in to have an evening meeting with me after half term where we can look specifically at the challenges of Year Six and beyond that their child will be facing. Examination expectations are high and in my view potentially stressful for children aged ten living in this county and it is very important that we adults help and support them fully at this time.

Our children are regularly achieving success in academic and also less academic areas of the curriculum. I feel that this is very important for all our children in raising their self esteem. I am delighted to inform you that our under eleven boys have won the South East IAPS Hockey championships and reached the semi final of the Canterbury District Primary Schools' Soccer Cup having won their league, however I actually get far more pleasure and satisfaction from seeing so many boys and a few girls attending after school soccer and all of them showing they can play to a high standard in an enjoyable atmosphere with high expectations. I was equally as pleased to see so many children taking part in Saturday morning's cross country event at school and so many parents there enjoying the event. Sport is for all and every child matters.

Last week we welcomed a lot of children from different schools into our school to rehearse for the Canterbury Schools' Dance Show, which Mrs Mathew's organises. I thought Thursday's show was superb and it was wonderful to see the hall so full. Next week will be Mrs Griffin's final week in school before she starts her maternity leave, Mrs Matthews will start her maternity leave at the end of the Spring Term and I wish them well in the exciting time ahead of them. I can inform you that Mrs Carter who is the third dance teacher is most definitely not expecting!

I was delighted to be able to award so many music certificates in assembly last week, there is certainly a very positive feel about the music and children seem to be achieving ever higher grades. The violin play together was once again enjoyable and the staffs' enthusiasm shines through, I was delighted on Monday when standing in four inches of snow as Mrs Wales informed me that the performance would go ahead regardless! The musical theme continues and our Year Five and Six children really enjoyed the senior school performance of Annie, I don't know of any other school that puts on a performance during the week before a whole school inspection that is being directed by the Head Master and I congratulate Dr Lamper on his team's achievement and his enthusiasm. I am delighted I have reached the week before inspection before I mention it in a newsletter but I am sure that you are all aware that next week we will be welcoming a team from the Independent Schools' Inspectorate into school to look at all aspects of school life. I do thank you all for your very positive comments in the parental questionnaire and I will let you all have a full report as soon as it is available. As ever if there is any aspect of school you want further information about please do not hesitate to contact the office or me personally. Thank you all once again for your support for all we are trying to achieve for our children.

NOTICES

Lost Property

Sebastian Blench has lost his watch, hat, scarf and gloves, all of which are named.
Would you all please be kind enough to check name tags.

📅 **THE NEXT TWO WEEKS** 📅

Mon 9 Feb	Inspection
Tue 10 Feb	Inspection 2.00 pm U9 Girls' Netball A & B v Northbourne Park. Away
Wed 11 Feb	Inspection 1.30 pm U11 Boys' Hockey A, B, C & D v St Edmunds. Polo Farm
Thu 12 Feb	Inspection
Fri 13 Feb	Charity Non-Uniform Day 8.45 am Coffee Morning for Year 4 and Year 5 Parents. Garden House Junior Effort & Attainment Marks (all subjects) Half Term Commences