

Hawkinge Primary School



Miss A Ward
Headteacher

Tel: 01303 892224

www.hawkingeprimaryschool.co.uk

Canterbury Road
Hawkinge
Folkestone
Kent
CT18 7BN

Friday 26th September 2008

Dear Parents / Carers,

Today is European Day of Languages. The first European Day of Languages was celebrated in 2001. The day is intended to be a celebration of language and cultural diversity. This year, the focus of the day at Hawkinge Primary School has been Spanish. The children have been learning Spanish songs that they have performed in the afternoon assembly – maybe they might sing to you if you are lucky! The children in the juniors have also taken part in a European Day of Languages quiz on the computer and children in the infants have been busy drawing a picture of a flamenco dancer.

The School Governors met on Wednesday evening and Mr Beere stood down as Chair of governors. He has worked exceptionally hard for over 6 years as a School Governor, some of those years as chair of Governors. He has become a very familiar face in school supporting both the staff and Senior Leadership Team in improving standards of learning throughout the school. He is still a member of the Governing Body and I am sure will maintain this active role, but I am sure you, with me, would like to thank him for his ceaseless commitment to the school.

Mr Chantry (a parent Governor) will now be the new Chair, and Mr Howes (a parent Governor) will remain as Vice Chair.

At the beginning of term the owner of Cycle Life, a bicycle shop in Canterbury, set a colouring competition for children in local schools, and one of the children at Hawkinge Primary School won first prize! She has won a brand new bike! At the time of writing her name is a secret, but by the time you receive this letter the children will all know. If this news was not exciting enough, the shop has also donated an adult bike to the school to be included in the School Christmas Raffle. I am stunned by the generosity – and would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Barnes for these gifts.

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend – it might be the last sunny weekend seemingly!

Notices and diary dates are on the reverse of this letter

Yours sincerely

Aly Ward



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Dinner Money

From Monday 15th September school dinners increased in price to £1.90. Please make sure that you send in the correct amount.

Diary Dates!

- 1st October – Parents evening
- 3rd October – Jeans for genes
- 10th October – School photographer in!
- 15th October – Harvest Festival in St Luke's Church
- 17th October – Open day for children due to start school Sept 2009!
- 23rd October – Last day of this half term
- 24th October – Staff training day

Absent pupils

To ensure that the children who are not in school are safe each day Mrs Webb checks the registers to follow up any child who is absent. If we have not heard from you by 9am Mrs Webb then makes a telephone call home to find out why your son / daughter is not in school. This process is a valuable one to ensure the safety of our pupils; however it is also time consuming. This delays Mrs Webb from being able to get into the classroom and support the children with their learning. Therefore I am asking for your help. If your child is going to be absent from school would you please telephone the school before 8:45am in the morning, there is usually a member of staff in school from 7:30am who would answer the telephone. Thank you!

Stars of the week'

Last Friday children who had shown that they could listen well and use this skill to improve their learning were given a special certificate. The certificates were awarded to: Luke Stuart, Donavon Butt, Yasmin Carrington, Chloe Kilgariff, Kain Hart, Bradley Kilgariff, Maria Goldsmith, Jessica Pollock & Grace Lester.

Dropping off and collecting children

When dropping children off at school at the beginning of the day, or collecting them at the end of the day, please do not stop in the gateway of the car park. This causes hold ups in Mill Lane and on occasions causes traffic jams in Canterbury road too. Please keep the traffic moving by driving further into the car park and dropping your child off there – or even better.... By leaving your cars at home!!!

Parents Evening

A reminder that it is parents evening on Wednesday 1st October, if you have not made an appointment to see your child's class teacher please do so. It is important that you know how your son / daughter are getting on in school and a great opportunity to have a chat about your child and their learning.

Breakfast Club

A message for the breakfast club staff:

Breakfast club is open each day from 8am – 8:30am. The staff will be serving breakfast from 8am – 8:15am, any child arriving after that time will still be fed, but they may not be provided with the hot breakfast. Please arrive promptly!

On Friday 26th September, Mr Sheriff came to visit the Caterpillars as part of their History topic. He brought in lots of old toys to show them and the children asked him lots of questions. Mr Sheriff brought in marbles, tiddley winks, cigarette cards and a hoop and stick for the children to play with!

Walk on Wednesdays (W.O.W)

The **Walk On Wednesday** scheme begins again this Wednesday. Last year it was very successful, many of you joined in by either walking all the way to school or leaving your cars in the Village Hall / Community Centre Car Park. This term children will be collecting stickers each time they walk to school on a Wednesday and then will be awarded with a Bronze, Silver and Gold badge. The ECO team will meet everyone who walks to school at the gate, and stamp your hands to prove you indeed did walk! It is a fantastic scheme – please support it!