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Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of a few things the children have been involved with recently.

Last week a group of children in Year 3 and 4 attended a local schools Sports hall athletic event at Chailey Secondary School; organised by the Chailey Schools Cluster Sports Partnership. The children competed brilliantly against other local schools. The team won the event convincingly and also showed great sportsmanship.

This week a group of children in Year 5 and 6 represented the school in the Wealden Schools Sports hall athletic finals. The children competed magnificently and once again won the tournament! The team will now go on to compete in the county finals. These will be held at Tanbridge House School, Horsham on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February from 10:00am until 12:30pm. Congratulations to both teams on their fantastic performances!

### **Break Out Of Barcombe**

The children in our Year 1 Rabbits Class will be spending this afternoon at 'Wild About Barcombe' they will be building obstacle courses, creating characters from stories using natural materials and cooking pancakes over an open fire .... weather permitting!

The children in Hedgehogs Class will be enjoying their second 'Break Out' experience next Friday. More information about this coming soon.

I have been asked by Mrs Moulds to draw your attention to a great community project coming up soon. On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February from 10am to midday. She is inviting local children and families to join a team of like-minded people to spend the morning at Wild About Barcombe helping with some vital maintenance work. Children can also get involved with a den building workshop and there will be sausages and coffee available as refreshments. If you are interested in coming along please email [fran.moulds@virgin.net](mailto:fran.moulds@virgin.net) or just turn up on the morning!

### **Author Visit**

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January; children's author David Fuller visited the school. The children were given some top tips for helping them to plan and write their own stories as well as learning how David develops plot and characters within his popular series of children's books.

### **Listening to Readers**

If any parents or grandparents have any spare time to come into school on a regular basis to listen to readers I would greatly appreciate any support given. It is essential the children are heard to read as much as possible to develop their literacy skills.

### **A Polite Reminder**

I would like to remind all parents to be extra vigilant and careful when dropping off and collecting children at the beginning and end of the school day. School Path is a public right of way and the school is not able to enforce restrictions on parents driving down school path. However, I am increasingly concerned with the speed at which some parents drive up/ down school path at these very busy times of day. If you do have to drive down school path please ensure you drive extremely slowly!

### **Curriculum Workshops**

Miss Stocker recently ran a workshop highlighting the importance of phonics to help children begin to read and spell words. She explained the progressive stages of how we teach phonics at school. Miss Stocker also produced a booklet to help parents understand more about phonics and the teaching of it. I hope all parents from Reception to Year 3 found the phonics booklets helpful. If you have not received a booklet and would like one you will be able to collect one from the school office from next week.

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February Mr Walton will be running a parents workshop focusing on how we teach calculations at school. He will demonstrate the progressive way in which each of the four calculations are taught and will be giving some helpful tips on how you can support your child at home. The calculation workshop will be in Owls Class from 4.30 to 5.30pm.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a relaxing weekend and enjoy the six nations.

Best Wishes

Stewart James

Head Teacher

*Learning Together, Believing Together*

East Sussex County Council

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