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Friday 13th March 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy couple of weeks at school with children experiencing a number of exciting learning opportunities.

Hindleap Warren

Children in Year Four and Five enjoyed a visit to Hindleap Warren. Everyone had a really wonderful time and experienced 'Facing Their Fears' and overcoming individual and group challenges. All the children were wonderful representatives for the school and we are extremely proud of them.

Voice In A Million

Children in Owls and Foxes Classes travelled to Wembley Arena on Wednesday to take part in Voice In A Million. They were joined by 6500 other children from Primary Schools across the South of England taking part in the event helping to raise awareness of adopted children throughout the world. The children all had a really memorable day even though they did get to bed very late!

Sporting Success

On Thursday 5th March two teams of children took part in the Newick School Football Tournament. Once again all the children on the teams demonstrated great sportsmanship and a really positive team spirit. Our Barcombe B team finished fourth and our Barcombe A team won the overall competition. Congratulations to all the children who took part and had lots of fun.

On Saturday 7th March four children in Key Stage Two took part in the Sussex Cross County finals. Sophie, Geordie, Stanley and Maddy competed against 120 other finalists. The children ran brilliantly against a very competitive field. At the end of the event Sophie finished in 22nd place, Geordie finished in 55th place, Stanley finished in 57th place and Maddy finished in 74th place. This was a magnificent effort by all the children and everyone at school was very proud to hear of their achievements.

Absence From School

I am still receiving a number of holiday requests and requests for days out during term time. I would like to reiterate messages sent from the school Governing body. All requests for holidays and family outings during term time will not be authorised. Any unauthorised holiday request for 5 consecutive days or more will result in a fine issued by East Sussex County Council.

I would like to draw your attention to an article published in the Daily Telegraph recently.

'Taking just one week's holiday a year during term time can significantly harm a child's academic performance, ministers have warned.'

New research from the Department for Education suggests children who miss seven days' schooling each year see their prospects of gaining academic success cut markedly.'

One of the most effective ways that schools can improve achievement is by improving attendance. Even the very best teachers struggle to raise the standards of children who are not in school regularly.'

Schools that relentlessly pursue good attendance also get better overall attainment and behaviour.'

We continue to strive towards our school being recognized for Outstanding achievements; please help us by ensuring all children attend school if they are physically well and able to.

Parents Consultation Evenings

I hope you all have an appointment to see your child's Class Teacher. If you have any other concerns you would like to talk to me about please do not hesitate to make an appointment at the office or see myself at either the beginning or end of the school day. During Term 5 I am going to be introducing a new initiative aimed at continuing to improve communication with parents. Parents will be invited to come and talk with myself and a number of school governors about any issues, views or concerns they may have. More information about this event will be shared nearer the time.

Easter Service at St. Mary's Church

On Friday 27th March the school will be holding the Easter Service at St. Mary's church at 9am. Children will be dropped at the church from 8.40am, attend the service then walk back to school; weather permitting! Any parents or cares that would be able help the teachers' chaperone the children back to school after the service would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help please inform the Class Teachers.

Best Wishes

Mr. James
Head Teacher

Learning Together, Believing Together

East Sussex County Council

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