



VH TELEGRAPH incorporating the Bulletin

Newsletter 16th October 2009

Our children never cease to impress me in so many ways. Their sheer enthusiasm for school and all the opportunities and challenges is positively uplifting. They have a tremendous approach and attitude towards school. When they are in their academic lessons they are focused and working hard. As I visit lessons it is wonderful to see so many hands raised enthusiastically to answer questions or volunteer to lead a task. Their teachers have high standards that they expect and the children try hard to achieve and even surpass their teachers' expectations. Outside their lessons their achievements and approach can be witnessed by all.

I thought our Harvest Festival celebrations were wonderful and emphasised what children of different ages can achieve when challenged appropriately. Our Junior service on Sunday morning was absolutely outstanding; I have to plead guilty if accused of the charge of just assuming before they perform that our choir and orchestra will perform to the very highest of standards simply because they always do! I am in the very fortunate position of being able to hear most of their rehearsals from my office so I am very aware of the hard work that they and their teachers put in to enable them to achieve such heights in their public performances. Once again they set the standards for us all but I was equally delighted with the clarity of the readers and the drama performed by Year Three was truly memorable. The service like the bread rolls was enjoyed by us all.

Our Infant service on Monday morning had a different feel but nevertheless involved our children sharing their talents and thinking about the message of Harvest through small acorns and very large combine harvesters. We then distributed the food parcels to residents of Alms Houses in Canterbury and Harbledown following another short service in the Chapel of St John's in Canterbury which must be one of the smallest chapels in the county.

Alongside their academic efforts and their performing art skills our children have done outstandingly well on the sports field recently. Our last two Saturdays have seen eight teams visiting Kings Canterbury and Kings Rochester to play soccer fixtures with all the boys in Years Five and Six being selected to represent the school. These games brought seven victories and a draw. In between these block fixtures we took part in the annual Spring Grove tournament, which we won in a convincing manner for the fifth consecutive year. Our girls have continued to achieve success at hockey and this week won the Sutton Valence tournament for the first time for a couple of years. This is thoroughly deserved as the girls have been working hard at their games and it is wonderful to see all the girls involved in matches and showing real enthusiasm for their sport. Our cross country runners continue to be busy travelling to the West of the county to compete with the very large schools and are achieving outstanding successes over very tough courses. I arrived at Sevenoaks last Friday just in time to see us win the girls' Year Five and Six race by a convincing margin.

It wouldn't be a letter from me this term if it didn't mention the web site and I am very pleased with the progress that we are making with ours. It is not yet the finished article and I realise that at present we are only using a fraction of its potential but I do encourage you to have a look. We are still playing catch up with the latest news and staff have written about ten articles for that section which will soon be appearing. One of the problems with being such a busy school is we have so much latest news to report!

I would encourage you to have a look at our new prospectus as well which in my view is absolutely stunning, with the possible exception of the first page which has a look at the two Kent College head masters and finds an interesting way of linking them together!

It would be impossible for us to be the school we are without the superb support of you, our parents. You enable us to help your children achieve so much and add to the school community. This Saturday sees our Charity Ball take place in the grounds and if hard work from the organisers means that the event will be successful this will be an outstandingly successful evening as so many people have worked so hard. Just when the Ball is over it will mean preparation starts for our firework display on November 5th and then our Christmas Fayre on Friday, 27th November. It is this hard work and commitment from all members of school community that ensure the success of the school and I count myself to be very honoured to be a part of this outstanding school.

I wish everyone an enjoyable half term from Friday, 23rd October and look forward to all the challenges and delights of the second half of our term. They say time goes quickly when you are enjoying yourself. I must have had a great time!