



HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Artificial Grass Project

Hoorah! Hoorah! Hoorah! After a tediously long time, West Sussex County Council has finally gained possession of the small field (and also the area directly next to it on which the dilapidated stone building is situated). You may not know that in the past we have only held the lease to the land and could therefore not change it in any way. The whole project to gain possession of the small field and give it an all-weather surface has been fraught with difficulties. However, the situation is beginning to change and the project is gaining momentum at last. Alongside possession of the deeds, we gain the right to change the character of the field. So the application for planning for the artificial grass installation has been submitted together with all the completed surveys which were required. For those of you who missed my last newsletter, these included: an archaeological survey, a topographical survey, a drainage and flood risk survey, a tree survey, an ecological appraisal survey, a protected species and bat roost assessment survey, a landscape and visual appraisal survey and a noise assessment survey!

We anticipate that the application should take eight weeks to process from the first day of the application which takes us up to approximately half term, next term. We are hoping that there will not be any further obstacles in the way because the company we have chosen to do the artificial grass, Trulawn, is due to come and start the works during that half term. They will take three to four weeks to install and so the children should be playing on the newly surfaced field well before the end of the summer term. In its current state, it is of very limited value because the surface is so uneven and this problem is exacerbated by the very enthusiastic activity of the mole population.

I desperately want to have this project completed before I leave! At last, it is looking like a real possibility. It will be wonderful to have more than double the existing play space all the year round for the children and it will completely change the scope of what we can offer at playtimes for all.

We are all extremely grateful to the trustees of the Hyde Estate for donating the land to us, especially to Mary Habersham, the original owner of the land and her niece, Davin Irwin-Clark, who now sits on the board of trustees in her place. Without their generosity, this project could never take place.



Assemblies next term – can you help?

The theme of the assemblies next term is *Going for Goals*. We want to motivate the children to try their absolute best to be their absolute best and achieve their goals. These may be learning goals or they may be other goals that they create for themselves, e.g. swimming 25m, joining an outside club, raising money for charity, giving up something that is not good for them like fizzy drinks and crisps. We want to help them to overcome the obstacles in their path and see failure as just the first step towards learning/ achieving their chosen end. We want to help the children identify the difficulties that lie in their path and find ways of overcoming them. We will talk about things like the excuses that we make for ourselves. We'll talk about the necessity of determination and perseverance. We want to show them how adults are faced with the same challenges and wondered whether any of you would be prepared to come and share some of the experiences you have had as you have striven to achieve something that was very challenging, e.g. realising your ambition to become some sort of professional, running a marathon, learning to play an instrument, or perhaps something more unusual. It would be great if you would be prepared to come in and talk about your experiences as you worked towards your goal. You do not have to be extremely confident in order to do this because I could do most/all of the talking for you or we could do a pre-rehearsed question and answer session. If you don't have anything like this in your own life to talk about, maybe you know someone who could come in and inspire the children. Please let me know asap so that I can schedule the assemblies for next term. Many thanks.

Book Sale

You responded brilliantly to the Scholastic book sale last week. Not only did you buy a selection of wonderful books for your children, Scholastic donated a very high percentage of their profits by letting the school select £600 worth of Scholastic books for the school. It has been a wonderful boost to our reading book collection. Thank you very much for your contribution.

Easter

You will have had letters from the classteachers about the arrangements for Thursday, the last day of the term. We start the day with an Easter bonnet parade. There will be prizes for the winners who will be chosen by a panel of teachers. This is followed by Maths (!) and our Easter egg hunt. The school lunches have been cancelled on that day because the children have planned to have a shared Easter themed lunch in their classrooms instead. Thank you very much for your contributions to this.

I would like to thank you very much once again for all your support this term and wish you a very happy, sunny(?) Easter break. Please support your children in completing the Easter homework – it will stop them from falling behind during the holidays, so that we can start from at least the place where we left off at the beginning of next term. We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 16th April.

Warm wishes,



Gill Pedersen