

Dear Parents,

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mr Anscombe is now the proud father of a baby girl, Imogen Esme, born on 17th May. Mum, baby and Dad are all doing well! Mr Anscombe has been on paternity leave for 2 weeks and will be returning to school on Monday 11th June.

MAY FAIR

I would like to say a huge thank you to every one who contributed to the success of the May Fair. It was a very enjoyable event and well attended by most families. The PTA raised in excess of £1200 which will go towards improving the trim trail with an all weather surface.

PEDESTRIAN GATE TO THE MEADS/NEW FARTHINGDALE

We have now fitted a child proof latch to this gate, which will be in operation from 9.30am to 3.00 pm each day. It prevents children opening the gate from inside the school, but it also makes it a little tricky for visitors to get in! To open the gate from the outside you will need to lift the latch from the outside of the gate (it's on the top left hand side). Please ensure that you always replace the latch securely as you leave.

TOGS FOR DOGS APPEAL

Dormansland resident Adam Wilson will be introducing his hearing dog, Baxter to the children in assembly on Monday next week. Dogs like Baxter change lives. They alert their deaf owners to sounds we take for granted, providing greater independence, confidence and security. Most are selected from rescue centres or donated as unwanted pets. One person in every seven in the UK experiences a degree of hearing loss and over 650,000 of these people are severely or profoundly deaf and could benefit from a hearing dog.

Adam and Baxter have supported the school over the past few years when we have been learning about hearing and we have chosen Hearing Dogs for the Deaf for our school charity this year. After meeting Baxter and hearing about his work, the children will be invited to raise funds for this worthwhile cause by donating £1 to the charity in return for wearing their own clothes to school on Monday, 18th June – our 'Togs for Dogs' day.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We interviewed from a strong field of candidates for our new Reception Class Teacher and have appointed Miss Claire Robinson who will be joining us from September. We have also appointed Miss Selina Manlove as the new Teaching Assistant for Year 5, Mrs Sarah Floyd as a new Teaching Assistant in Year 1 and Ms Karen Pryor as a Special Needs Assistant in Year 4. A very warm welcome

to them all!

GOLDEN BOOT

It's that time of year again, so get your walking shoes, bicycles or scooters ready! For the next 4 Fridays we are encouraging everyone to use a greener method of transport to come to school. This could be walking, using public transport, driving part of the way and walking the rest, car sharing, or cycling. The class with the most improved number of children using green travel will win the coveted 'Golden Boot', so please support your children and get walking!

CHILDREN'S SWIVEL CHAIRS

We have a number of children's swivel chairs which are surplus to our requirements. We have nowhere to store them, so we need to find a new home for them! If you would like to take one, please come and see Mrs Lowe in the office. A small donation to school funds would be appreciated in return for a chair which would be perfect for use with a child's desk or computer station.

SPORTS WEEK

The children enjoyed a very active week just before half term when we had a big focus on being active, part of the Healthy Schools initiative. The week included daily aerobics sessions, hockey skills and a skipping workshop. The children really enjoyed the skipping workshop, and many of them are using their skipping ropes in the playground at breaktimes.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please note that girls may wear either summer dresses or skirts and polo shirts for their summer uniform. Shorts are not part of the uniform for girls.

HOMEWORK QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to respond to our homework questionnaire. It was good to see that the vast majority of you are pleased with current homework arrangements. The table below shows the results for the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Cowley
Headteacher