

15 April 2010

Dear Parents

Welcome back to what will be a very short term before the arrival of a lengthy mid-year holiday and the much talked of World Cup. I was privileged to spend some time in the Drakensberg per kind favour of one of our parents and feel totally refreshed! I sincerely hope your time together as families was beneficial and that you too are ready for a busy 8 weeks.

This term our Gr 4 – 7's will be involved in examinations from the 19 – 25 May followed by a National Assessment from the 26 May – 4 June. This only applies to Grades 3 & 6 pupils. There is no need to hype the boys up for either the school or National Assessments. They will be written under exam conditions and form part of their continuous assessment for this term.

Parent interviews will be conducted next week from 19 – 21 April. These concern only Grade 4-7 parents and I encourage you to avail yourselves of this time to chat to your son's teacher. I have instructed the staff to be totally honest with parents regarding their son's behaviour and academic standing. Should there be a need for intervention from home to rectify any short comings please join us in addressing the problems ASAP. Please speak often of working towards targets and extending themselves as we together help them to reach their individual potential.

Thank you so much for supporting the "Hands for Cancer" drive at the end of last term. Selborne was by far the greatest contributor and this served to underline the "caring attitude" we seek to instill in our boys.

We are fast approaching the "silly season" of rugby, hockey and soccer. Inevitably the temperature along our touchlines increases! I wish to remind you that our sport is there to teach our boys valuable life lessons and primarily for enjoyment. May I ask you to please conduct yourselves while supporting, in such a way that you do not embarrass yourself, your son and the school. We shall always have "inconsistent" refs but this does not entitle us to display unSelborne-like behaviour.

I spoke to the boys at assembly on Monday on the theme of making or experiencing *Magic Moments* in their and others lives this term. Aussie fast bowler Brett Lee indicated in an interview that his most memorable cricketing moment was Freddie Flintoff's gesture of concern for him after being injured in a test match – one the Aussies lost "nog all!" Simple actions can result in *Magic Moments*! I hope you experience a few this term.

Regarding the upgrade of our IT Department the recabling of the school has now been completed and the reconstruction of the senior lab is under way. Unfortunately our computer system has been down for some time and will, I am sure, be affected from time to time as work continues this term. Please be patient and if you find our e-mail not responding please understand.

Communication or a lack thereof is a hardy annual in any school and we take our fair share of parental flack! I do believe we have improved greatly over the past few years with the introduction of the digital notice board at the gate, the sports line and weekly newsletters, the fortnightly, web site and dozens of notices which unfortunately often do not reach home.

Once the IT system is in place the SMS option will be investigated further assisting us with communication.

Our lack of press coverage has also been questioned. I assure you that numerous photographs, articles etc are submitted but seldom printed – this after personal relationships have been set up within the local newspapers. It is an ongoing problem which we are dealing with on a daily basis.

There are a number of “happenings” this term which require your support where possible.

16 April	Dads and Lads camp out on the main field
7/8 May	Queens Derby Day (home) hockey & rugby
14/15 May	Dale Derby Day (away) hockey & rugby
22 May	St Dominics U11A/U13A soccer (home)
28 May	Xmas in Winter Dinner Dance – school hall
5 June	Grey PE Derby (away) hockey & rugby A & B teams only
29 April}	
3 June }	Selborne Supporters evenings – Greyhound Pavilion

Please remember to swipe your my School cards when purchasing at participating businesses. Selborne is in 97th place nationwide with Grade 1 Beling filling the top spot in the school. It costs you nothing but raises valuable funds for the school. Should you not have a card please collect a form from the Secretary.

Please remember that boys are to wear their winter uniform as from Monday 3 May. We wish our boys to be proud of their uniform so please ensure that all articles of clothing are in good repair and fit correctly.

You will have received a polio and measles vaccination form for your son. It states that the Department are inoculating children 5 years and younger. This is NOT correct and should read 15 years and younger. Should you wish your son to be vaccinated please return the form to your son’s teacher. The clinic sisters will be at school on Thursday 29 April.

Staff News

Mr Russell Keet has returned after a term’s recuperation after his heart surgery. It is good to have him back in the Science Department and to see how fit he is looking. Mrs Caylin McClure will remain in Gr 6K for the remainder of the year. Mrs Elmarie Pienaar is presently in hospital after a successful operation and will be off for the term. We wish her a speedy recovery. We congratulate Mrs Anne Beeby on her recent marriage. She has returned to us as Mrs Graven.

May the term be kind to you all.

Kind regards

MR D J VOKE
HEADMASTER

