



# Heathcote School



Headteacher  
Mr. K. Gladwin (Cert. Ed.)

25<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Dear Parents,

Our Sports Day and Prize-giving is on Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> and we hope that everyone will enjoy the occasion. The Guest of Honour this year is Councillor Rodney Bass who is Vice Chairman of Essex County Council, he is also a previous Head Boy of this school. There are many trophies to be won on the field or presented for excellence and hard work in the class room. All visitors are invited to join the children in the hall for the Prize-giving after the Sports.

Many parents take their children for a picnic on the field, please note that they will be more comfortable in their races if they eat early (not after 12.15). They remain their parents' responsibility until they are called for registration by the staff and for safety reasons we ask that they are not allowed to run freely in the High Jump area while that competition is taking place. Please note that this year the children will not gather in the front playground but will be called by staff on the field at 12.45pm.

The High Jump competition starts at 11am and the rest of the programme begins at 1.00pm. The Pavilion will be open for refreshments during the day.

This year we will use the running track alongside the top field car park. The children will be seated beside the cricket pitch so we ask parents to use the area in front of the car park for their viewing area.

**An area of safety will be cordoned off beyond the finish line.** This is vital to prevent accidents to children and adults. Please do not enter this area; we are delighted that you all support your children so well and cheer them on but please do not infringe the safety area. Ideally they will see you in the distance and race through the finishing line towards you. If you are on top of the finish line they'll either collide with you or slow down – not the way to win a race.

Your help with the following details will be very much appreciated:

- a) Children should be on the field ready to be called by their teacher at 12.45pm for registration. A child who isn't registered cannot participate in the events. They should wear their whites and their blazers, (no coloured patterns or flashes on clothes). House badges on white T-shirts please.

- b) Please make sure your child is prepared for a hot day! They must have their uniform sun hats, and suntan lotion should have been liberally applied!
- c) Please make sure that they have had plenty to drink up to half an hour before sports begin. After that  
DO NOT GIVE THEM DRINKS.  
It is not wise for the children to run with a tummy full of liquid, they may be sick or feel very ill. The staff will be watching the children closely and, if it is necessary, drinks will be given by the staff.  
Please do not cross the field to attend to your child while they are waiting for the races. If we are concerned we will get you, if you are concerned please let Mrs Norton know and she will check out the problem for you.
- d) Children who attend pre-school will have their own races and sit with Mrs Smith and the rest of the school. After the sports pre-school prize-winners will be taken to the hall before joining the others in the Twilight Club area for tea. Children should be collected, after 4pm, as you leave to go home. Please do not take them back into the tea area.
- e) Younger children should remain with their parents. In the interests of safety we would request that you ensure they **stay with you** and that they **do not go into the tea rooms** where people will be balancing hot tea and cakes. You may choose to miss the Prize-giving and take your children on the swings for the time the presentations take approximately 40 minutes. You may also wait in the school gardens if you prefer. Please join us for tea which is usually served around 3.50pm.
- f) After the sports the children will remain on the field in their classes, while the parents cross the road first to go to the Village Hall for the Prize-giving. The tea rooms will remain locked until after the presentations, the entrances are colour coded to ensure ease of access for all – please go with the flow and the colour of your card. Please reply to your invitation to obtain tea tickets.
- g) Children are served their own tea and are not permitted to come into the parents' tea area. **Please do not ask them to do so as they know they will get into trouble!** All children should be collected from their rooms or the hall when you are ready to leave.
- h) Please park with consideration. The traffic officer has been informed, as they must be when a major event is planned in an area, and we have been warned to expect to see police and/or traffic wardens about.
- i) We are often asked about the dress code for the day, we consider this to be a major event in our calendar and therefore would suggest smart/casual with the emphasis on smart. Many people wear hats, for protection from the sun and to add style to the occasion.
- j) May we remind you to choose your picnic spot carefully. If you sit on the long distance track you will be run over!
- k) We must insist that parents respect the placing given at the line.

**The referee's decision is final**

A great deal of hard work, planning and experience goes into the organisation of Sports Day and Prize-giving. The children have worked hard at their practices and always look forward to the events (although after the wet day practice a few are praying for rain). Two hundred cups have been polished, a thousand cakes ordered and a special request has been put in for good weather. Now we all look forward to sharing this occasion with you and hope that everyone enjoys our very special day!

Jacey Carn and Ken Gladwin