



# Orchards Community Middle School

## Newsletter – January 2011



### It's a New Year at The Orchards and time to look back!

We have had a wonderful return to action and, as you would expect from The Orchards, hit the ground running with some fantastic events. The first assembly back provided a great surprise to me as half way through explaining my New Year resolution plans, Mrs McCarthy hi-jacked the event! The children were then treated to a DVD of my Ten Years at The Orchards including visits from some of my favourite ex-pupils and some ropey sketches by each year team! There wasn't a dry eye in the house – I hope I wasn't the only one crying! The whole assembly summed up why this is such a wonderful place to work and after ten great years I am looking forward to ten more although I'll be around 36 years old then! It has been such an amazing journey, I am truly fortunate to be able to work alongside such amazing colleagues and friends with the best group of children in the world! My sincere thanks to every one for making the past decade such a memorable period of time. It is both a privilege and a pleasure to be Headteacher at The Orchards. Great people, great place and great achievements.

Looking forward to the Spring Term, you will have received a new clubs list with some really great opportunities for the children to further their enjoyment of their favourite activities. We are very proud of our club provision and the commitment of the children is outstanding – a win-win situation if ever I saw one!

The Spring Term is always dominated by the Arts Festival – now in its sixth year! I had a quick peek back at some of the winners – Orchards definitely has talent. What makes it so good is not just the quality of the winners but some of the amazing acts who haven't won – Orchards has talent *in depth*. This month sees the auditions and then the serious work goes into the acts until the end of term spectacular on the theme of 'Colours'.

We always review our School Improvement Plan each term and you may be interested to know that we achieved 42 significant aspects in just the first term of 2010/2011. This speaks volumes for the commitment of the staff and the participation of the children in each of these activities. It really is a vibrant place to be.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and have enjoyed a good new year so far – Best Wishes *Dr Jones*

### News

-  Club news
-  10 fantastic years
-  Dates for your diary
-  Arts Festival

### DIARY DATES

17<sup>th</sup> January

Sussex Indoor Athletics Final

21<sup>st</sup> January

Year 6 G & T to Preston Manor

20<sup>th</sup> January

Year 7G & T to War Horse

21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February

Half Term

7<sup>th</sup> March

Year 4 Parent Consultation

8<sup>th</sup> March

Year 5 Parent Consultation

14<sup>th</sup> March

Year 6 Parent Consultation

21<sup>st</sup> March

Year 7 Parent Consultation

5<sup>th</sup> April

Arts Festival 7:00 p.m.

8<sup>th</sup> April

School closed for Inset Training

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Children return to school