



Portesbery School Newsletter

September 2015

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. It was a pleasure to see all of our pupils returning from their summer holidays, and looking so smart in our new school uniform!

I am pleased to be writing this to you as we enter our final half term at the current site. The progress on the new site is continuing and it **will** be ready to accommodate after the extended half term break! The new school is so impressive, and I feel very grateful to the Local Authority that we will all be benefitting from their investment in us — however some people within the school community have been waiting a very long time indeed!

Despite all that is going on at the new site, it is still business as usual here. All of our new pupils and staff have settled in well and the new class groupings seem to be working. Hopefully this will mean that the pupils should manage the transition to the new school better.

Governing Body

We have a new Chair of Governors!

As many of you already know, after much consideration, Susan Carpenter has decided to step down as Chair of our Governing Body. Susan has shown great commitment to our school and will not be leaving completely as she will remain on the Governing Body. We would like to express our thanks to Susan for her time as Chair.

Chris Hamilton has just been appointed our new Chair. Chris has been on the Governing Body for a number of years and has been acting as Vice Chair under Susan's leadership. Chris will continue to work in partnership the Senior Leadership Team and wider school staff in this exciting time for us, and beyond!

School closure days

As you already know, due to the school move, we will have an extended half term. Pupils will not be in from the 22nd Oct until Friday 6th Nov.

Whilst all of your children will benefit from the facilities at the new school, we realise that this extended break from school will be problematic to you all and we have been trying hard to secure funding from the Local Authority to provide additional respite. However, due to the current financial constraints it is unlikely that this will be the case and unfortunately there is not any legal requirement from the Local Authority to do so in these circumstances.

We will keep you posted but please start making your own arrangements.

Dates for the year

| September | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Parent's Evening | Wed 30th Sept from 3.30pm |
| October | |
| Harvest Festival | Wed 7th Oct @ 10am |
| Goodbye Portesbery School Disco | Wed 14th Oct (7 – 9.30pm) |
| December | |
| Secondary Carols | Tues 15th Dec @ 2pm |
| Primary Production | Wed 16th Dec @ 2pm |
| March | |
| Parents Evening | 9th March from 3.30pm |
| June | |
| Secondary Sports Day | Wed 29th June (am) |
| July | |
| Primary Sports Day | Wed 6th July (am) |
| Secondary Production | Tue 5th July @ 2pm |
| BBQ & Presentation Eve | Wed 13th July (5 – 7.30pm) |

After School Club

We are already back up and running for our last half term of club at the current school. Creative Arts club is mixing old activities like yoga and mosaic making with new activities like making button trees and craft nights with themes like Africa & Dinosaurs. Let's Get Cooking Club are making winter warmers and we've already made toad in the hole and cherry crumble. On the last day of the half term (Wed 21st Oct) at the old site we will be hosting our next family meal where we will cook a selection of these dishes. Splash & Active Club have already made it into the pool and soon we will be enjoying new active sessions such as Tai Chi. The students attending Kids' Choice have already chosen their activities for the whole term including an animal care session, dinner out and bowling. Rob

Staffing News

At the end of last term we said goodbye to two of our TAs: Emma (to commence teacher training) and Kate (to become a child minder enabling her to spend more time with her own children).

In September we welcomed the following teachers, Kim Maxwell (Red), Lauren Jordan (S2), and the following TAs: Anna Mohammed (Yellow), Sonia Williams (Blue), Lisa Moher (Green), Claire Adams (Sensory Ed), Jackie Williams (S1), Kirsty Wallace and Ashleigh Cato (S3). All new staff have settled in well and are getting to know all of your children.



Voluntary Contributions

We will shortly be asking for voluntary contributions from you. These funds enable us to enhance the curriculum for your children, and provide the little extras that our main school budget does not allow. If you are unable to send in the full amount, we would appreciate any donation (however small this may be) because every little does make a difference.



Thank you

Message from the School Office

Request forms for Exceptional Leave during term time can be downloaded from our website (or requested through the school office). Whilst we do not encourage you to take your children out of school during term time, we understand that there may be occasions when this is necessary and support these decisions. We ask that all requests for exceptional leave must be made with as much advance warning as possible.

Please also remember...

If your child is unwell and is unable to attend school you must **inform the School Office directly**—we cannot accept messages passed on through third parties (i.e. transport staff).

Help raise money for the school through your everyday shopping by following this link-
<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/signup?cid=31262>

Summer Club

It feels strange that summer club already finished over a month ago but the fun memories are still fresh. New activities such as Marwell Zoo and the Watercress Line were great fun, and so were trips to favourites from last year like Aerobility, Companion Cycling and Boscombe Beach. Hopefully you saw all the fun we had through the facebook photos, but if you were unable to view photos of your children at summer club then contact me and I can provide some for you. Please make sure to return the summer club questionnaires sent out on Friday 11th so that your feedback can be used to shape next year's club. It really does make a difference - for example, many of you asked for the Watercress Line in last year's questionnaires and it turned out to be a huge hit this year. So who knows what we could get up to next year, especially in the new school! Rob



School Disco

We are planning to hold a School Disco to say goodbye to this site on Wednesday 14th October between 7-9.30pm. Everyone who is or has been part of Portesbery School is welcome to attend this celebration and mark this very special occasion so please spread the word.

