



# Portesbery School Newsletter

## March 2011

a happy school where every one matters

### Message from Matthew

We are delighted to have the good news about the re-building of Portesbery School. We feel that the site is appropriate in meeting our needs, and the identified budget will provide us with a school that has exciting facilities to meet all of our pupils' needs (and more!). Of course, this is the start of a long process and we will endeavour to keep you informed as the situation progresses.

This term we are focusing on developing a coaching culture across the school. Class teachers have been meeting with coaching partners to discuss professional issues. The Senior Management Team are having a coaching session delivered by Babcock 4S to enhance our coaching skills. I have been allocated a Professional Partner through the National College to offer me coaching support as a new Head. All of this should have a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning that your children are receiving.

### Staffing News

We said goodbye (and good luck!) to Shelley Pyman, Lead Assistant in Green Class, as she left us to start her maternity leave a few weeks ago. Shelley and her husband Matt welcomed Freddie James into the world on Sunday 20th March. Now the real fun begins!



We welcome back Karla Wilding from her maternity leave. Karla has decided to come back for 3 days and will be working as Lead Assistant in Green class Wednesday—Friday. Val Lees will be supporting the class on a Monday and Tuesday.

### Government Green Paper

As you may have heard in the news, the Green Paper has now been published.

The recommendations of this paper will cause some big changes to the assessment and statement process for children with SEN.

The impact that this will have for our school is unclear at the moment and we will keep you informed of any changes.

A consultation process has now started. Please access this through the Department for Education website at: [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

### Your Feedback is vital!



### From your Chair of Governors

Spring has arrived at last and the sun is shining as I write this.

I would like to formally welcome Matthew Sartin as your new Head Teacher after his appointment in January.

Since the last Newsletter we have seen a few changes in the Governing Body. Dr Dale Henderson has resigned after a number of years on the Governing Body. I would like to thank Dale for his contributions as a governor, particularly the Curriculum Committee, as a member of the Head Teacher's Review Panel and advising on the use of IT throughout the school. We have also welcomed a new local authority governor; Mr David Allen who will bring business, IT and community issues knowledge to our team.

The most important news to share is the outcome of the most recent rebuild meeting with officers from Surrey County Council. We have been offered and accepted the former Blackdown School at Deepcut as a site for the rebuild. This is very exciting as the site offers us a flat, spacious site with woodland along one side. The funds for the rebuild are secured so hopefully the planning work can begin shortly.

Susan

## Academies

I'm sure that many of you are aware of the new Government agenda relating to schools becoming academies. Special Schools are entitled to apply for academy status, with the first Special School Academies opening in September 2011.

There is currently very little information about what advantages there are for a Special School Academy, and we are unlikely to be applying for this in the near future whilst so little is known. Matthew and Susan have been attending lots of meetings about this issue, and are working with the SPAN (**SLD, PMLD, ASD Network of Surrey Special Schools**) Heads and Governors and will continue to seek further information so that the Governing Body can make an informed choice. We will keep all stakeholders updated with future development.

## Eco News

Sensory Ed have been sorting through bags of bottle tops & have found a good use for all plastic milk bottle tops. They are taking the bottle tops to Camberley Library where a member of staff collects them to raise money for specialised wheelchairs. Parents may wish to send in their washed plastic milk bottle tops to add to Sensory Ed's collection.



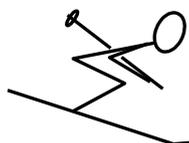
## Ski Trip

The recent ski trip was very successful providing such a great experience for a number of our young people and staff.

All of the students made excellent progress with their skiing ability and were able to mix with friends from a variety of different schools.

A big thank you goes out to all the staff who supported this trip.

For more information check the school website!



## Extended Services

Our After School Clubs continue to be enjoyed by your children and we would like to thank all the staff for helping to make them a success. We have had the good news that additional funding for our after school clubs and summer club has been granted for another year by Aiming High. This means that we can continue to offer our after school clubs at the same rate and maintain transport. More information about our Summer Club will be sent out after Easter.

If you would like more info about extended services, please contact Sam Coomber.



## Parents Forum

We had a very good turn out for the talk delivered by the Transition team this month. A big thank you to all that came and I hope that you found the session informative.

**Rosemary Johnson** is coming to talk to the **Parents Forum** on **Wednesday 6th April** about **Benefits**. She will be able to answer any questions you may have about the proposed changes to the system.

This will be taking place between **1-2.30pm** (meeting informally from 12.30pm) at **High Cross Church**.

## Note from the Health Team

We would like to welcome Elaine to the Health Team! Elaine has taken the full time position as Health Care Assistant working with Joy. Elaine brings a wealth of experience to the post, having previously worked in Domiciliary Care, she already knows some of the pupils at Portesbery, and is looking forward to getting to know everyone else!

We are now ready to put the emergency medical cards onto transport. This has been a lengthy process, but we have now received consent from the majority of parents. If you have not yet returned your consent, could I please urge you to do so as a matter of urgency. If you are unsure (or require a new form,) please phone school to discuss with myself or Karen in the School Office.

Audiology services are still temporarily suspended in school, due to the constraints on the service. If you have a concern about your child's hearing, (or any aspect of their health,) please contact me.

Regards Joy (Nurse.)