



# Portesbery School Newsletter

## January 2015

a happy school where every one matters

### Message from Matthew

Once again, time seems to be flying and I cannot believe that it is already the end of January!

I am pleased to report that Sue has made a great start to her role as Deputy Head Teacher. She has spent her first four weeks getting to know your children and the staff teams - it seems like she has always been a part of Portesbery!

Cathryn will be starting her maternity leave at Easter, and Sam will be returning before we make our move to the new site. To offer us additional Leadership support over a very busy Summer term, Clare and Kirsty will both be working an extra day each week.

The re-build is progressing well and our staff have all had the opportunity to visit the site and tour the building. The feedback has been positive and we are all excited for the big move over the Summer holidays! The Re-build committee will be visiting the site on Tuesday so please look out for the update on facebook and another Re-build Newsletter shortly afterwards.

### Dates for the term

**Tue 3rd Feb (9am)** - Parents' Working Party meeting

**Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb** - Half Term

**Thur 26th Feb (7pm)** - What is Sensory Integration? with Emma Clee

**Mon 2nd March** - INSET (no children at school)

**Wed 11th March (3.30pm - 6.30pm)** - Parents' Evening

**Fri 27th March (2.15pm)** - End of Spring Term

**Mon 13th April** - Summer Term begins!



### Parents' Working Party

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we have arranged a parents' working party to help assist us in identifying what support is needed by our families and how best to deliver this.

The first meeting is on **Tuesday 3rd Feb at 9am**. We know this time may not be convenient for all but really hope that some of you can make it. It will be an informal opportunity to identify current issues and help develop a way forwards (and have a cup of tea/coffee and a chat!). *If you're able to, please do come and join us.*



### From your Chair of Governors

This is a special year for the school as we look forward to our move to a purpose built school which will provide so many opportunities for our young people. There will be times during the next 9 months that there will be pressures on all the staff as they work with the Project Manager and Architects to ensure that everything is on time and correct so please bear with Matthew and his staff. I am pleased to welcome Sue from Freemantles as Deputy Head; her experience will be valuable during this time.

A special congratulations to Amy, Chloe and Lara for the primary nativity, I know that a lot of extra work was needed to present this. I was sorry to miss the Secondary carols and the Christmas lunch but again I know that it all was very enjoyable.

I write this as the Surrey Special School ski trip is taking place. I know that our students who are there are having a wonderful experience. Thank you to the staff and Governor Ruth who are with them.

Finally after discussions with Surrey officers I am able to report that our financial situation is a little better than expected although we will need to take care with all aspects of expenditure as we move towards a new financial year. The 2015/16 budget plan has required some necessary cuts to non-essential items.

Susan

### Staffing News

We are pleased to announce that we have recruited a new person for the Admin team, Sue Broadley. Sue will be working in the School Office Monday to Friday from 12 until 4pm. She will provide some much needed support to the admin team in the afternoons, and enable us to have someone on the front desk until after school has finished.

We have also had the news that Margaret, class teacher in S2, will be leaving us in the Summer term to re-locate with her family to Singapore. For those of you who know Margaret, she will be sorely missed (but the school will be much quieter!). Arrangements for the pupils in S2 will be shared with those parents once finalised.



### What is Sensory Integration?

As you already know, Emma Clee will be talking to parents about Sensory Integration on **Thursday 26th Feb at 7pm.**

Emma will be talking about children's sensory systems, and reactions or responses to different situations. She will be able to provide some practical suggestions for the home environment as well as ideas to help you better understand your child's sensory needs.

We expect that this will be a useful session for parents and we hope that many of you can make it.

### School Council

The School Council have eased themselves back into the school year in a very relaxed style! We've held just the one meeting, but we were very productive: organising fundraising activities for Children in Need. We held a spooky disco just before half term where everyone was invited to dress-up in spooky outfits, and we gave prizes out for the best costumes. We also sold Pudsey Ears and dressed up as either animals or pop stars and had a sing-along to raise money. In total we made over £250! Adele will be overseeing the Council from January, and new pupils will be elected to carry on the good work. Many thanks for their hard work over the year goes out to Anjum, Naqib, Ryan and Abbie. Well Done!

Cathryn

### Message from School Office

**Another reminder please** - If your child is going to be unwell or has a medical appointment and cannot attend school, **please call the school office before 9.30am.** We cannot accept messages passed on from a secondary source (i.e. Transport providers).

Please also try to keep payments for school meal a week in advance. We do not have the facility to offer credit and this makes closing the accounts at the end of each week difficult. ParentMail is a great way to do this!

### After School Club

Our new cooking club has now roared into life, with training and assistance with cooking skills and healthy recipes from the Let's Get Cooking Foundation, and a generous grant of specialised cooking equipment from the charity Starburst. All of our students who have been attending the club have been able to come together and all contribute to a lovely sociable meal at the end. We also look forward to welcoming parents and siblings to join us on the last Wednesday of this half term to enjoy some yummy food made by our students (look out for invites for those of you booked in).

Thursday night students have enjoyed a new array of sports and dancing (please look out on facebook soon for highlights of our active kids voucher rock 'n' roll dance sessions) alongside the usual swim sessions too. Additionally our Friday night Kids' Choice have made their programme for the term, including old favourites such as pizza party, bowling and another drumming session with Ray.

Please keep an eye out in the first week after half term for your summer term ASC booking forms and programmes coming out, and be sure to return them quickly as it's a very short half term!

Rob

