



Portesbery School Newsletter

January 2011

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. It was lovely to see all of the students after their break.

A lot is planned to happen in this term. Cathryn and I will be in classes observing the quality of learning and teaching. Our SiP (School Improvement Partner), Helen Johns, is coming in to focus on the provision for our pupils with PMLD alongside Jenni Jones. I will also be meeting with teachers to discuss the progress that your children are making, and review IEP targets and set new ones (due at the end of February). Class teachers will meet with you to discuss these.

If anyone wishes to discuss anything with me, please contact me at school or send me an email.

Here's looking forward to a successful term!

After School Clubs

As you already know, we are now able to offer quality after school childcare for 4 nights a week. Sam Coomber has worked hard, alongside Emma and the team to organise exciting clubs.

4 Play Workers have been employed to help support the successful running of these and we welcome Lorraine, Debbie, Lucy and Tanya to the team.

If you have any questions about After School Clubs please contact Sam or Emma at school, or email Sam on scoomber@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

We look forward to the development of these clubs.



School Closures

In December, we had to close the school on 2 occasions due to the bad weather.

Please be assured that this measure is due to the conditions of the school site and surrounding area due to heavy snowfall and is a last resort.

We will endeavour to let you know at the earliest opportunity, to allow you time to make arrangements for having your children at home, and we appreciate the disturbance this may cause to some of their routines. We will always keep the website updated with the current situation

and use ParentMail to keep you informed.

Thank you for your support in this matter.



From your Chair of Governors

Happy New Year to all our families. I do hope that you all managed to have an enjoyable holiday. I am sorry that we had to extend the time that the young people were at home but travel during the snow and ice was very difficult and so the decision to close early had to be taken.

I enjoyed both of our Christmas celebrations, well done to the organisers and to everyone who took part. I also enjoyed the opportunity to talk with a number of you after both of the shows.

I am very pleased to report that some of the proposed improvements to the school site have begun. At present the flat roof is being refurbished; we have moved with the plans to improve our parking facility, although still at planning stage; and shortly work will start on further improvements to outdoor learning and play spaces.

I can report that interviews for the new Head Teacher will take place shortly.

I wish you all a good 2011.

Susan Carpenter

Duke of Edinburgh Award

After successful implementation by another Surrey SLD school, we here at Portesbery thought that we would also like to take on the challenge of the DofE award! We are planning to enter approximately 12 students for the Bronze award. There are four elements to the award; volunteering, physical, skills and expedition. This will involve the students completing various activities which could include fundraising, work experience, sporting activities such as ice skating, cooking, and an overnight residential experience. We're starting this term, and are really looking forward to some exciting times ahead!

The DofE Award Scheme is a nationally recognised programme whereby young people aged 14-24, regardless of gender, ability, race or religion, can work through varying challenges to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold award. There is no time limit to completing the award; it just needs to be done by the student's 25th birthday.



Eco News



Thank you to all of you who sent in Morrison's Lets Grow vouchers. We have been able to order an easy pull wheelbarrow, some brooms, a potting tray and some trugs.

Christmas has been & gone but don't forget we are still collecting stamps for Hearing dogs for the Deaf.

Note from the Health Team

A very Happy New Year from the Health Team, we hope you all had a restful Christmas.

As some of you may be aware, there are exciting changes afoot in the NHS! On February 14th we are going live with our new 'RIO' computer system. The Health Team are currently being trained in its use, which involves transferring patient records onto the system. Your patience is appreciated during these testing times!

All being well, this will increase the efficiency of our services and promote multi-disciplinary working.

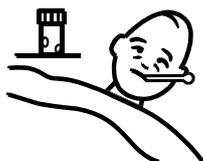
If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's health, please do not hesitate to contact the Health Team through the school office.

Please also keep us informed of any clinics or appointments that your child is due to attend.

Attendance of Unwell Children

As always at this time of year there are a lot of bugs around. If your child is presenting as unwell (vomiting, diarrhoea, temperature, etc), please do not send them into school. You must keep them at home until they have fully recovered (at least 48 hours). This will help to reduce the spread of any illness which may be passed onto other children or staff.

If your child is unwell at school, we will contact you to collect them.



Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Dates for the term

17th Jan—**Christmas Lunch** (pm)
20th Jan—**PTA meeting** (7.30pm in FE)
28th Jan—**PTA Quiz Night** (7.30pm in School Hall)
18th Feb—**Half Term begins**
2nd March—**Transition meeting** Repeated Parent's Forum session (7pm in FE)
21st March—**INSET day**
8th April—**Last day of term** (2.15pm)
Please note—Summer term begins **Tuesday 26th April**.

Parents Forum

Please put the following dates in your diary's:

2nd February—Issues around Growing Up
Joy Agno (School Nurse)

2nd March—Transitioning to Adult Services
Kim Foster (Social Worker)

6th April—Benefits Rosemary Johnson

All sessions between 1-2.30pm (meeting informally from 12.30pm) at High Cross Church.

