



Portesbery School Newsletter

January 2012

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

I hope that everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! I am pleased that the weather did not force an early closure as in previous years.

The new term has started well and all of your children seem to be happy to be back at school (which I am sure you all are as well). Many are complaining of feeling tired (who isn't!) but am sure that being back in their familiar routines will help.

The main focus for this term will be putting together a new School Development Plan. The whole school community will have opportunities to contribute to this, and have their say in the direction they want the school to go in. I will send out more information about this in February, but we will be holding an after school event to gain your views on the 5th March.

Can I also remind you all that I am available if anyone should wish to contact me through the school office or by email—matthew.sartin@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

Dates for the term

Thursday 19th January—PTA meeting in FE (7pm)

Friday 10th February—INSET day (No children)

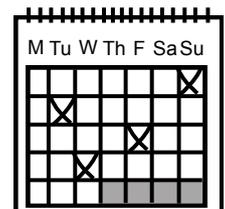
Monday 13th—Friday 17th February—Half Term

Monday 5th March—School Development Plan event

Monday 12th March—Joint INSET day with SPAN Schools (No Children)

Friday 30th March—Easter Holidays begin (2.15pm)

Monday 16th April—Summer Term starts



Ofsted—Parent View

www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk
(or follow the link on our website)

Ofsted have created a new section on their website giving you the chance to share information about your child's school.

Parent View asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of your child's school. They will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect, and when.

By sharing your views, you'll be helping us understand what we are doing well and where we need to improve.



From your Chair of Governors

A Happy New Year to you all.

The primary production was delightful as I am sure many of you will agree and it was good to see so many parents and siblings at both this production and the secondary carols.

I am pleased to see that the building works are moving forwards and that finally we have the extra car parking for all of our staff next to the police station. Hopefully we shall all benefit from these improvements shortly. As far as the Rebuild Programme is concerned we have agreed some adjustments to the original schedule as drawn up by the LA architect. We are now waiting for Surrey County Council to agree for the next stage to begin.

In the next few weeks I shall be sending home a Parent's Questionnaire from the Governing Body. This is part of the whole school planning process for a new 3 to 4 year's School Development Plan. In discussion with Matthew it was agreed that the questionnaire should be produced and handled by the governors. We have used the new Ofsted format as the basis for the questions. I do hope that every family will complete the questionnaire and return it. It is very important that everyone who has an interest in the school and its' future is part of the planning process.

Susan

Building Work

The building work has been progressing well since October half term. The team that we have had on site have been great, and most of the students have been watching the progress unfold. All of the external work has been completed and we are still on schedule for a finish at the end of February.

This work will have a big impact to our school, and enable us to have some more spaces which can be used flexibly (especially at times when there is more than one meeting going on!). Security will be greatly improved with the addition of a secure lobby area for visitors. We will also have a larger number of visitor spaces outside the school, due to a new staff car park by the Police Station. This should help to ensure that drop offs, pick ups and visits to the school are much easier!



Eco News



On 6th December we had our green flag assessment & were delighted with the result. Not only were we awarded our second green flag but the assessor went away from Portesbery 'inspired' by our enthusiasm. The assessor commented 'Their interest in the Eco-Schools Programme is genuine & inspirational. The way that they have been able to deliver it to ALL the children is fantastic to see' So a big well done to all the staff & pupils for all that recycling!

Jenni Rainbow

Parent's Forum

As you are aware we have revamped Parents Forum for 2012 and it is now called

Portesbery Partnership with Parents.

Some of you responded to our questionnaire and I will use your responses to tailor the service and support we provide. If any of you still have the questionnaires at home we are still collecting in your responses.

Thank you, Sam

After School Club

This term sees the introduction of some new and exciting clubs. We have introduced **Cooking Club**, **MOVIE CLUB**, and *Pamper Club*. Unfortunately there was very limited interest in *Play Club* so it will not be running. Our most popular clubs, **Sports** and **Creativity** continue to be well subscribed.

Thank you to those who responded promptly to the sign-up sheets for this term. We have had a good sign-up however there are still some spaces. ASC is open to all our students so if you would like your child to try a new or different club please contact me sam.coomber@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk and we can arrange a trial session.



Note from the Health Team

I am very happy to have joined the Nursing Team at Portesbery School. I look forward to working with all the pupils and their families.

Good news that the Health Team now have an answer phone for the direct line—**01276 61268**. Please use this number to contact any member of the Health Team (Nursing Team, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy or Occupational Therapy) if you wish to discuss any medical issues. If no-one answers, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Maggie Dean
School Nurse

Staffing News

At the end of term we said goodbye to Karla Wilding (S2). Karla left us to support a child with ASD in a local Mainstream School. Victoria Arrowsmith (Red) also left us following an extended period of illness.

This term we would like to welcome Mattie McCarthy (Class teacher in Red). Mattie previously worked at Freemantles School and has brought to the school his vast understanding of ASD. We would also like to welcome Mandy Pack and Jack Beaumont (SNSAs in Red) and Lynn Lear (SNSA in S2).

