



# Portesbery School Newsletter

## January 2013

a happy school where every one matters

### Message from Matthew

Another year is upon us! For those who I haven't already seen, Happy New Year! 2013 is an exciting year for the school, as it is our 40th Birthday. Look out for news about how we'll be celebrating this later in the term.

I am really proud of the positive feedback that I got from both the Primary Production and the Secondary Carol Service, held at the end of last term. Thank you to all those who supported these events.

We are looking forward to another packed term. We will have a strong focus on the Learning and Teaching of our pupils, thorough lesson observations and monitoring. The Leadership Team will also be working with the class teachers, to identify the progress that your children are making, and how to support this further. This will be shared with you at individual appointments at the Parents' Evening on Wednesday 6th March.

As always, if you wish to contact me please do so through the School Office or via email.

Matthew

### Dates for the half term

**Monday 4th March**— INSET Day  
(School closed to pupils)

**Wednesday 6th March**— Parents' Evening (3.30pm—6.30pm)

**Friday 15th March**— Primary Siblings (from 12pm)

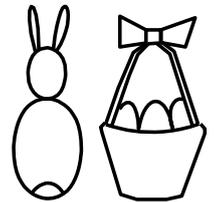
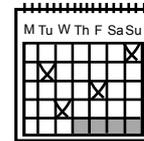
**Thursday 21st March**— Residential Learning Showcase (6.30pm—7.30pm)

**Thursday 28th March**— Last day of term (school finishes at 2.15pm)

### EASTER HOLIDAYS

**Monday and Tuesday 15th & 16th**

**April**— INSET Days  
(School closed to pupils)



### Workshops for Parents

This term, the school will be offering the following workshops for parents and carers:

#### Using symbols

**Thurs 31st January (6—7.30pm)**

We will introduce you to the 6 stages of PECS. We will also suggest ways you can use symbols in the home to help your children share their wants and needs.

#### Using schedules

**Tue 5th February (6—7.30pm)**

We will introduce the basic principles of structured teaching. We will show you ways to use symbols in the home to explain common routines, for example getting ready for school or going to bed.

### From your Chair of Governors

Another winter of snow and disruption! Hopefully we are past the worst and can get back to normality.

It was good to see so many parents and grandparents, along with siblings at the end of term Primary production and Secondary Carols. I certainly enjoyed both events and felt particularly proud of our young people who performed in the Christmas Production.

I would like to thank all of you who responded to the School Consultation on the new build. It was important to have a good response from our Portesbery community. There is now a period of six weeks for formal representation when notices regarding the school's proposed move to Deepcut and the change of numbers on role will be posted in the local community. You will be kept informed as we move through this process.

Just to let you know, the Governor section of the school's website has been updated, please check it out!

Susan Carpenter

## Leading Parent Partnership Award

Progress has been made towards Leading Parent Partnership Award accreditation.

An Action Plan has been completed by the working party and is on the school's website for all to read. It is pleasing to see there are some areas where we have fully achieved the objectives already, highlighting the good work we are already doing.

As expected, this process has uncovered areas we need to work on and as a step towards this we are offering a variety of Parent Workshops.



Our next meeting for the working party is Thursday 7th February where we will be looking for ways to achieve the other objectives not yet met.

Sam Coomber

## Eco News



This term the ECO focus is **Recycling**. We need to make sure that we continue to **reduce, re-use and recycle** as much as possible and are currently investigating several whole school projects which could also benefit our local community. Our use of paper and how it is then disposed of will form the basis of this and we are hoping to come up with some creative alternatives to waste!

Debbie Squirrel

## School Council

The Council had a lot to discuss at their January meeting, including more fundraising ideas, and also Healthy Schools. This term, we will be raising money for Comic Relief. We are selling Red Noses (available NOW - only £1 each!), having a Valentine's Disco on 15th February, and also a "Wear your PJ's to School" day on 15th March. With regards to Healthy Schools, we will be conducting a survey of all the classes to see if we're all doing enough exercise, and eating enough fruit and veg! More info to follow...  
Cathryn

## After School Club

After School Club have had a busy and exciting start to 2013. Sports Club have been having a great time and working on some new skills in our Sports Skills workshops. Kid's Choice Club have, as always, had a wonderful time doing the things they love the most; trips to town, the library and swimming have been particularly popular. Creativity Club have had a very arty month, celebrating the New Year and Burn's Night. We're looking forward to Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day! As usual our Friday Clubs have made up for all the energy used during the week, kicking back and relaxing in front of some of our favourite films.



Emma

## Note from the Health Team

As some of you may or may not be aware, Surrey Community Health has been acquired by Virgincare. This has brought many changes; however, the service we provide for the NHS remains the same! You will notice new letterheads on any correspondence we may send to you.

In November, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy were moved from Frimley Children's centre to a new base at the Berkshire Road clinic on the Old Dean. The outpatient clinics and Nurses have now been moved to Frimley Park hospital. We are unsure about the future of the Children's Centre.

Should you have any questions with regard to this or any aspect of your child's health please call us on (01276) 61268. Please also keep us informed of any clinics or appointments that your child is due to attend. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2013!

## School Closures

It is one of the most difficult decisions to make as a School Leader but, regrettably, this month the school was closed due to the snow for 2 days.

We understand the disruption that this might cause you but please be reassured that any school closures are as a last resort, and are to ensure the health and safety of our pupils and staff.

Any decision to close the school will be made at the earliest opportunity, and you will be informed in writing (if possible), or via Parent Mail. A message will also be put onto the school's website—this will be updated throughout the closure.

Thank you for your understanding.