



Portesbery School Newsletter

July 2012

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

It's the end of another busy year and we are all taking stock of the achievements and challenges of the previous 10 months. Once again, the time has flown by and I am always surprised at the amount of tasks and activities we can squeeze into such a short time.

Looking ahead to next year, we are one term into our new School Development Plan and making good progress against the targets set, the school re-build is progressing well and the consultation process will begin in the Autumn term and we are due Ofsted! Exciting times ahead.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continuing support and belief in the school. All of you play an important part in the successes of Portesbery and help to move it forward.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable summer holidays and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Matthew

From your Chair of Governors

There are always changes at the end of a school year amongst the staff and pupils. This year we are saying goodbye to two long serving governors. Elaine Wood and Mike Head will both retire from the Governing Body after long connections with the school. Mike became involved in Portesbery when his wife was a member of staff and he was often seen helping with various activities. He has served on the Governing Body for a number of years, helping particularly with buildings and health and safety. Elaine began life at Portesbery as a parent; she spent some time as a member of the Parents Association and then joined the Governing Body. In recent years she has been both Vice Chair and Chair. She has shown a passion and a determination to ensure that our children receive the best possible care and education whilst at Portesbery. On behalf of the school I would like to thank them both for their time and commitment to our school.

The Governing Body is at present considering a re-structuring following a recent directive from the Department of Education. Your GB will be discussing its' role with a view to providing greater strategic support to Matthew and his team. I hope to update you all in the next Newsletter.

Susan

Staffing News

At the end of the year we will be saying goodbye to Jenni Jones who is retiring. Jenni has been a huge part of the school community for a long time and she will be missed enormously. She has promised to keep in touch and pop in from time to time.

We are also saying goodbye to Chris Johnson, who is emigrating to Canada and Mattie McCarthy, will be starting a new job as Assistant Head at The Park School in September.

We are also saying goodbye to the following SNSAs, Cat Lyons, Emma Banner, Heather Bennet, Collette Smith and Michele Smith. Cat's family are relocating, Emma and Heather are starting Teaching Degrees, Collette will be working in a local Nursery and Michele is going to work at another Surrey School to support a pupil there.

We wish everyone all the best!



Pupils moving on...

Sam Calway will be leaving us at the end of this week to start at an Adult Day Centre run by the National Autistic Society in Godalming. Sam has been at the school since 1996, so this will be a big (but exciting) change for him.

We are also saying goodbye to the following pupils: April Osborne (The Park), Joseph (West Hill), Sophie (Carwarden) and Aleiun (Kennel Lane). We wish them all the best at their new schools and hope that they continue to make great progress in their new settings.

Message from the Health Team

The Nursing Team would like to thank all parents who were randomly selected and returned their questionnaires last term. The feedback was positive and your comments have helped to shape the service. We will be looking at putting on some parent training sessions in the Autumn term to help meet some of your requests.

We will be sending home your son/daughters medication and a number of forms at the end of this week, can we please have these returned to use on the first day of the new term.

We would all like to wish you good health and much fun for the holidays. See you in September, bright and breezy ready for the new term. We wish all of the school leavers best wishes for the future.

Best Wishes,

Maggie, Aimee and Elaine.

Eco News

This term we enjoyed an Eco Afternoon creating Olympic themed junk models from recycled materials. Some fabulous pieces were created including a large London Bus, many Olympic Torches and Olympic rings. The winning piece was a group collaboration by Green Class of the Kenyan Flag who they represented on World Sports Day.

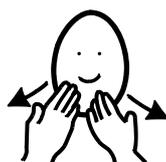
We have sent home Rag Bags for you to fill over the Summer holidays when sorting out your airing cupboards and bottoms of wardrobes. Please send in your filled bags by the 14th September for collection and hopefully the school will make some money to go towards future Eco projects. **Sunshine**



Great news that the Summer Fair **raised just over £1000!** A big thank you to everyone who supported this event. Money raised through Portesbery Partnerships

will support the development of what we can offer our pupils, siblings and wider families, as well as go towards larger fund raising projects.

If any of you have any good ideas for future fundraising events, please contact the school.



Feeling Good Week

The pupils and staff enjoyed CAMHS Feeling Good Week (18th July). The Feeling Good Committee planned a series of activities and events to support this good cause.

The pupils enjoyed a varied week of activities, and the staff benefitted from a daily raffle.

Congratulations to Daisy Naylor and family for winning the family prize.

A big thank you to Clare Walker and Amy Copley and the rest of the Feeling Good Committee for organising a successful week of events.



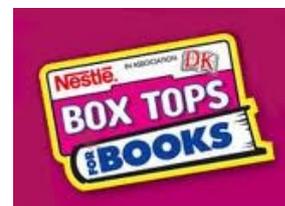
Governor Vacancies

We are now looking for a new Parent Governor and two other Governors, if you are interested but not sure about the role please make contact with the school and we will put you in touch with a member of the GB.

Nestle Box Tops

Just to let you know, we are collecting Nestle Box Tops for Books.

Please save these up and send them into school.



Summer Holiday plans

Are you going away for the summer and planning on swimming? Incy Wincy are a provider of discrete incontinence swimwear for children and adults. Check out their website at incywincy.net

Please let the school know of any similar websites that are around which may be of interest to our families and we will share them.

Dates for next term

Tue 4th Sept — INSET

Wed 5th Sept — Pupils return to school

Wed 19th Sept—Transition Team Talk (6.30pm)

Wed 26th Sept—Parent's Evening and BBQ

Fri 26th October—INSET

W/C 29th October—Half Term!