



Portesbery School Newsletter

June 2011

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable half term break!

We returned to school on an INSET Day with a focus on TEACCH in the morning and Moving and Handling training in the afternoon. Both sessions were a refresher for all staff.

Just before the half term break we received a cheque from the RMA Sandhurst for £15,000! They have been raising this money for us over the past year and have committed to raising more money over this coming year. Representatives have been invited to our BBQ and Presentation Evening in July.

Big congratulations are to be given to Sam Coomber who has been appointed as our new Assistant Head Teacher. She will be overseeing the Primary Department from September, with Cathryn overseeing the Secondary and FE department.

Here's looking forward to another successful half term and all of the celebrations that we will be taking part in as we get towards the end of this academic year.

Staffing News

Last month, Val Lees celebrated 25 years of working at this school! As she has met this milestone she feels ready to retire in July. We will all miss Val and will mark this occasion in an appropriate manner.

In other staffing news, Clare Walker and Becky Berry have returned from maternity leave, Charlotte Checkley, Lorraine Knight and Catriona Lyons were appointed as SNSAs and Frances Bunting (SNSA in Blue class) is leaving us at the end of this week.

We have also heard the sad news that Jeffrey Day, our former Caretaker, passed away. Our thoughts are with his family.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 16th June—**PTA Meeting**
(7pm)

Saturday 2nd July—**Summer Fair**
(12—2.30pm)

Thursday 14th July—**BBQ and
Presentation Evening** (5—7pm)

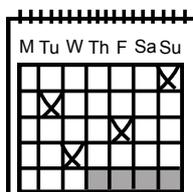
Friday 15th July—**Curriculum
Reports out to parents and carers**

Friday 22nd July—**End of Summer
Term (2.15pm)**

Next Year

Monday 5th September—**INSET Day**

Tuesday 6th
September—**Start of
Autumn Term for
all pupils.**



From your Chair of Governors

I have just returned from a great holiday around the Baltic so have not been into the school too often since the start of term. I can report that Matthew, Keith and I had a very full meeting in mid June with officers from Surrey County Council to begin the planning of the new school. The first stage is very important so that our young peoples' needs are really considered. We will keep you informed as the plans develop. In the meantime a few adaptations to our present site are to go ahead in the next months and we hope that they will make life a little more comfortable for everyone connected with the school. I also enjoyed a brief time with the youngsters at their street party back in April, what an effort so many of them (or parents I suspect) had made with their hats and outfits.

Matthew and several governors have been involved in recruiting staff for the new school year and I believe that we will be fully staffed in September.

We need new parent governors shortly, please consider this if you are at all interested and contact the school.

I shall look forward to seeing many of you at the end of year presentation and BBQ.

Susan

Community Awards

As part of our community awareness we invited various local businesses into school to recognise their continued efforts and support of our school, particularly our students. Over the years we have built strong links with them and wanted to reward them for all their efforts and patience.

The community is a huge and valued part of our curriculum and we are very fortunate to have access to such a wide range of businesses. Representatives from Sainsbury's, Camberley Arena, So Asia and High Cross spent an afternoon visiting us and learning a little bit about what we do and were then presented with a certificate becoming a 'Friend of Portesbery'. It was a lovely afternoon.

Rachel



Eco News

We all enjoyed our 2nd annual Eco Day just before half term. All pupils had a go at planting & there were lots of other activities to try too. Junk modelling from recycled 'rubbish' produced some innovative creations along with paper aeroplanes & hats from scrap paper.

Some pupils saved electricity by turning off the lights in the multi sensory room & using eco torches instead while others did a great job of clearing up litter from the local park. They collected 3 bags of rubbish in total so a big thank you to the litter team!

Jenni

Extended Services

At the end of last half term we held a Family Fun Disco. It was a great success and many families joined in the fun. We had a BBQ and a Disco and the students that attend ASC were able to show off their successes with a DVD playing showing them participating in Judo Club, Sports Club and dancing on the stage at Camberley Theatre. We hope to hold future Family Fun Sessions and it would be great to see you all there! Thank you to all the staff who helped to set up and tidy up and a special thanks to Ted and Mike Head.

We have added a Judo club on a Monday led by Adrian Pearman from Tora-Kai School of Judo. Judo Club has been a great success with the students. It is an ideal opportunity for students to learn new skills and also learn about using their bodies in different ways.

There are spaces available at ASC and it would be great to see more of our students joining in the fun. In September we are offering a free trial session for new students to ASC. More details will be sent to parents before the summer holidays.

Sam

Parents Forum



The last Parents Forum session for this year will take place on **Wednesday 6th July.**

We are planning to have a tea party at school from 2pm.

It will be nice to see many of you there!

Note from the Health Team

Welcome back from what we hope was restful half term break!

We would like to welcome a new member to our team, Fiona Thompson. Fiona is a nurse with a vast experience of working in special schools and will be an asset to Portesbery. A busy term is ahead, preparing reports and programmes for those who will be leaving us in the summer.

Dates for your diary

Wheelchair Services clinic on the 27th June at 10.00

Dr Mughal clinic on the 12th July at 9.00

Dr Maltby clinic on the 21st July at 9.00

Please contact us if you have any issues which need to be discussed at any of these clinics.

Please continue to keep us informed of any clinics or appointments that your child is due to attend, this will enable us to effectively communicate with the other professional involved in your child's care.

Best Wishes, Julie (On behalf of the Health Team)