



# Portesbery School Newsletter

## March 2013

a happy school where every one matters

### Message from Matthew

As you already know, we have received our visit from Ofsted. The new framework was challenging for the school but the process was fair. We were fortunate to have 2 inspectors who had Special School experience, and they were very complimentary about what we are offering your children. The leadership team worked alongside them for the two days and have identified areas of development to make our school even better. These areas will appear on our School Development Plan.

I am very proud of your children and all that they achieve. I am also proud of how the staff represented the school and that Ofsted saw some excellent practice. I would also like to thank everyone who contributed their views to ParentView and in letters to the Ofsted team, your support is invaluable.

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

May I wish you all a Happy Easter break!

Matthew

### Staffing News

At the end of term we say a sad goodbye to Jeanette Carr, who has been a class teacher with us for many years. Jeanette has decided to call it a day and retire—apparently this is when life really begins! We would all like to wish Jeanette the very best and are looking forward to regular catch ups—she might even sign up to FaceBook!

We will also be saying a brief goodbye to Becky (Lead Assistant in Sensory Ed), who is going on maternity leave to have her second baby. We wish her a restful(!) time and hope to hear news of the newest addition to the family soon!



### Pupil Absence

Please note, any time your child is unwell and is unable to attend school or has a medical appointment, you must make contact **directly** with the **School Office** (either by leaving a message on the answer phone or calling after 8.30am to speak to a member of staff). It is important that the school is able to enter the correct information into the register system. **Please continue to inform transport as before.**

We cannot accept message sent via school transport or directly to school staff.

Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.



### From your Chair of Governors

Another term has gone by and we have again enjoyed a successful few months. The Ofsted experience challenging, yet positive. The report reads very well, it sounds like Portesbery – we were very lucky to have two Inspectors who understood our young people and their needs. We have an excellent school, with good staff who only want the best for our young people. Thank you to those parents who contributed with helpful comments. Well done to everyone we now have a few targets to develop.

I am pleased to welcome two new governors to the Governing Body, both known to our families; teacher Tracey Haigh and ex Health Team member Maggie Dean. They both bring knowledge of the school and specific expertise to the Governing Body.

Have a good Easter, wrap up warm and hopefully the next term will see warmer, sunnier weather.

Susan Carpenter

## Leading Parent Partnership Award



We have made good progress towards many of the objectives in our Action Plan. Our most interesting discussion concerned the use of Facebook and Twitter as a means of sharing information. Many agreed it would be a quick and convenient format to share basic information about school events and important dates in the term but there was some concern about sharing photos of special occasions. Another hot topic was the PTA, with parents asking for more opportunities to support the school and to socialise with other families. Please look out for a

questionnaire coming home soon so you can give your opinion on both topics. Our next LPPA meeting for the working party is Tuesday 26th March.

Sam Coomber

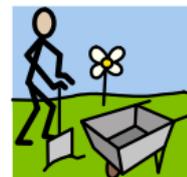


## Eco News



Waste week started on 11th March and the whole school saved up their waste paper to support our ECO afternoon, which took place on Wednesday 20th March. A lot of fun was had recycling waste paper into scarecrow heads for the Gardening Club and beads for making jewellery!

Our focus next term will be on the grounds, looking at planting and working with the Gardening Club.



Debbie Squirrel

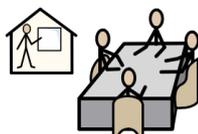
## School Council

The School Council have had a hectic couple of months. We organised a Valentines Disco and slumber party in aid of Red Nose Day. All in all, we raised just over £300; well done everyone!

We had a very important role to play in the recent Ofsted inspection - the inspector wanted to speak with us about how we felt about our school. We were very honest and were total superstars!

Hopefully next term will be just as Successful, but maybe not as busy!

Cathryn



## After School Club

Another busy half term at After School Club!

Sports Club have been getting to know their new coach, Chris, and have been learning Boccia. Kids Choice Club have chosen some great activities; one of the favourites was a pizza party! Creativity Club have been very arty and have enjoyed cooking sessions and a music session with Phil. Friday clubs continue to wind down at the end of the week with a film and some pampering.

We're looking forward to some warmer weather and getting outside next term!

Emma



SURREY SHORT BREAKS  
FOR DISABLED CHILDREN



**Quiz Night**  
**Friday 17th May 2013**  
**From 7.30pm**

Get the date in your diary, round up your brainy friends and come and test your general knowledge.

Entrance £2 per person (maximum 6 per team)

BYO drinks and nibbles—brain optional!

Further details to follow...

## Dates for the half term

**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)

**Mon 27th—Fri 31st May**— Half Term

