



# Portesbery School Newsletter

## May 2015

a happy school where every one matters

### Message from Matthew

With half term fast approaching, Sue and I are in the middle of this cycle of teaching and learning observations. I am pleased to report that the standard of education your children receives continue to be very high! We are also continuing to get informal feedback from visitors that we are a happy and friendly school, which we are very proud to receive. This all supports our judgements that we continue to be a good school (if not better!).

Whilst the delay of the move into our new school is disappointing, the staff have been thinking about the opportunities that this will provide in getting the new classes set up and established prior to moving to a new environment. The Re-build Committee has been enjoying their visits and seeing the progress 'first hand'. We are also planning creative ways in which the School Council can be involved in the process too!

### Dates for the term

W/C 25th May—Half term

Mon & Tue 1st & 2nd June—INSET

Wed 24th June (am) - Sports Day (Secondary)

Wed 1st July (am) - Sports Day (Primary)

Tue 7th July (pm)—Secondary Production

Wed 15th July (5-7pm)—BBQ and Presentation Evening

Tue 21st July - Last day of term—school ends at 2.15pm

Tue 2nd Sept—INSET

Wed 3rd Sept—Autumn term begins

### Meet the Professionals

Following the feedback received at the Parents' Working Party meeting, we have organised a set of dates in June for you to be able to 'Meet the Professionals' who at times, may be working with your children.

These dates are:

**Wed 10th June**—Chloe Gibson (Educational Psychologist)

**Wed 17th June**—Jenny Robson (Music Therapist, Parity)

**Wed 24th June**—Health Team (Avril Bembridge (School Nurse) & Gail Tudor (Physio))

These sessions are planned to take place at **High Cross Church** from **1.30pm**.

Please come along to what is planned to be a series of informative sessions.



### From your Chair of Governors

I have just returned from a holiday in Scotland realising that the school year is disappearing rather quickly. I am pleased to report that some solid hard work by our Business Manager Debbie has gone a long way to help Matthew and the Governors to produce an acceptable budget plan for 2015/16. I believe that finance will remain the top priority for the Governing Body during the next few years.

I realise that many of you will be disappointed that we will not move across to Deepcut until October half term, however when we move we can be assured of an excellent build which our young people and staff will find different, exciting and much more conducive to an excellent learning environment. I hope that you have been following the updates on the web.

There has been little comment on education policy by any of the parties during the run up to the election so what will be on an agenda after May 7th is difficult to consider. Your Governing Body will be watching with interest.

I hope that the rest of the school year goes well for everyone. I look forward to meeting with many of you at the Annual Presentation Evening.

Susan

### Staffing News

Cathryn and Neil welcomed the safe arrival of their daughter, Esme, on Friday 17th April. All reported to be doing well and we are all looking forward to meeting her!

We said goodbye to Leanne in S2, who left us at half term to commence a degree in Nursing. We also only have a few weeks left with Margaret but Rachel and Kirsty, who are returning from maternity leave, will be taking over in S2 after half term.

It is with sadness that Irene Gilmore has decided to leave following an extended period of ill health. Irene has shown great commitment to the school over a number of years and we are planning to get her in after half term to give her the send off she deserves!

### School Uniform Consultation

With the planning well advanced for the new school, we are taking this opportunity to gauge your views over our school uniform. We are considering introducing a compulsory uniform for all pupils, except EYs and Post 16. This would consist of a polo shirt and jumper with the school logo on them. We would like to phase in set colours for the primary and secondary departments, but this applies to new orders and we would allow any old uniform to be used.

The best way to gain your views is by following the link to a survey that can be accessed via the school website. Alternatively, a paper copy can be requested from the school office.



### School Council

Portesbery School council are now on Twitter. Our account name is @PortesberyVoice if you would like to give us a follow. Joshua Kelley will be typing School Council tweets.

We are very happy to announce that we raised £260.00 for Comic Relief.

We are looking forward to thinking of ideas for class names at the new school at our next meeting.

### Message from School Office

We have just sent out pink data collection sheets to you all in the home/ school books. It is important that we do this regularly so that we have the most up-to-date information for your children. Please take some time to check the details are correct and sign and return them. If you wish to make any amendments, please do so directly on this sheet and they will be amended on our system.

We would also encourage you to provide us with at least two emergency contacts, but would welcome up to four, as there has been the odd occasion when making contact has been difficult. Thank you

Help raise money for the school by following this link-  
<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/signup?cid=31262>

### After School Club

With summer term well under way we have had great fun making and trying our summer tea party treats in cooking club, ahead of our next family tea party on the 20th May. Splash and Active club have burned off a lot of energy in the pool and doing such activities as yoga, football and basketball. The Friday Kids' Choice group have made their own programme for the term, mixing some old favourites like Movie and Popcorn, Bowling and Dancing with Ashleigh with new ideas, such as a trip to a Harvester Restaurant for our tea on the 15th May. Creative Arts Club have enjoyed sessions such as potato printing, mosaic making and a Disney themed craft night! Look out for the autumn term booking forms and programmes shortly after half term to see what we're going to be getting up to in the new school!  
Rob

### Summer Club

You should have all received your booking forms and programmes for Summer Club 2015, but spares can be downloaded from the ASC section of the school website or ask and we will send out more. The deadline for returns is Friday 22nd May so please make sure to complete them so you don't miss out on trips like Companion Cycling, Bocketts Farm, Aerobility and the Watercress Line. Any forms received after the deadline will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis, but will likely result in mostly waiting list spaces as demand has been very high this year. Some families are entitled to 5 free days at Summer Club (discounted on standard £20 days first and then the extended £25 days). If you are unsure of your entitlement please ask Emma Craft in the school office. Siblings can also join us for the Friday sessions.