



Portesbery School Newsletter

May 2013

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

It's another busy term at school, and a key time for class teachers to compile assessment data on you children to illustrate the progress that they are making with us. These assessments take into account a wide range of areas and give us a really good picture of where each individual is at.

I would also like to tell you about the INSET closure that we started this term with. These two days enabled us to have Advanced PECS training for all staff. This excellent training has given us an opportunity to revise our use of symbols across the school and the benefits that PECS will have for you at home. As a school, we have drawn up a PECS agreement, which will be sent home to all of our PECS users along with their PECS books. We are asking for you all to support this system within your homes to improve your child's communication. If you feel you need further support, Sam is offering symbols workshops throughout this term so look out for these.

As always, if you wish to discuss anything with me, you are welcome to email or make an appointment. Matthew

Staffing News



Can I take this opportunity to congratulate Sam Gomez and Rob Broughton on their

successful promotions to temporary Lead Assistant in Sensory Ed and Blue.

Can we also welcome the following new SNSAs to the team:

Amanda Rayward (Blue), George Gower (Green), Anjelica Hawkins (S1) and Zara Middleton (S2).

Baby News—Becky welcomed Lewis Richard Berry into her family over the Bank Holiday Weekend.

Mum, baby and Nanny Val doing really well.



Portesbery is on FaceBook!

In an effort to improve our home/school communication we have developed a Portesbery School page on FaceBook.

To access this, search for us and "like" the page. You will be able to keep up to date with news and trips that are taking place throughout the school day, as well as comment on what you are seeing. Use of this site is monitored by school staff, so hopefully this exciting platform won't be abused for the wrong purposes.

We are using photographs of the students on this site, as we do on the school website. If you want to discuss this, please contact Neil (our ICT Tech).



From your Chair of Governors

Nearly half term and as usual a lot has taken place in the school for all the young people since Easter.

The Ofsted Report was very positive about our school and I wish to thank all our staff for their continued hard work on behalf of the pupils and their families. We have a few targets to consider for the coming academic year based on the comments from the two inspectors.

On a recent visit to the school I visited all classes with Matthew and observed lots of examples of good practise along with happy, engaged pupils.

We said goodbye to Jeanette, who retired at Easter after long service to the school, the governors wish her a happy and full retirement.

On behalf of the school a big thank you to Lloyds Bank for their recent time and efforts improving the sensory garden and play ground area.

Only one more half term before another year has come and gone!
Susan Carpenter

Leading Parent Partnership Award



The LPPA process has so far proved to be very useful for highlighting all the wonderful work the school and parents do to support our children as well as show up some areas for improvement.

The group most recently devised a Portesbery specific action-plan of the crucial steps to take next including; developing a 'buddy' system where existing parents can provide support for new parents and also a handbook providing useful information about the school day. We are looking to reignite 'parents forum' and to start hosting termly coffee mornings at High Cross as another

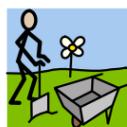


opportunity for parents to meet and provide support. At our next meeting we will be deciding whether we are ready to go ahead and seek the LPPA accreditation. Sam

Eco News



So much for Summer! However, we will continue with our ECO plans for this term concentrating on the grounds. The garden in Sensory Ed has had a total makeover courtesy of the Lloyds Bank Give & Gain day – it looks amazing with lots of new plants and sensory items. Our scarecrow comp is in full swing – some fantastic contributions are currently sitting in the Quad awaiting judgement. Gardening Club also continues and is providing herbs for cooking in class, with further vegetables in due course.



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School Council

As usual, the School Council have had a very busy couple of months. We sent home all of the daffodils planted in aid of Marie Curie cancer, and raised £50. Well done everyone! We've also been doing some forward thinking as we've been looking towards the upcoming SPAN Special Schools Council Conference. We will be doing a presentation about our achievements over the past year. We've also been putting our heads together to come up with activities for the forthcoming 40th birthday celebrations. Exciting times ahead! Cathryn



After School Club

We have had an exciting and busy time at After School Club.

Sports Club have been having lots of fun with a new coach, Amy. Kid's Choice Club have enjoyed some trips out to Frimley Lodge Park and Camberley Library. Creativity Club have been exploring lots of different mediums to make art, and Friday Club have had a lovely relaxing time at the end of every week.



Sign up forms for September will be out soon, get them back early to avoid disappointment!

Emma

Note for the Health Team

As we approach the end of another busy school year, I will soon be sending out letters for the Physiotherapy summer holiday visits. This is for the children who currently receive Physiotherapy at school and is an opportunity to adjust any equipment your child may have and also to review their physical management programme. I would be grateful if you could return the letter as soon as possible, this will enable me to draw up a timetable.

We will also be holding an orthotic review clinic at school on Wednesday 5th June. If you feel that your child needs a review please let me know.

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. Have a great half term! Julie

Dates for the half term

Mon 27th—Fri 31st May— Half Term

Thur 6th June— Parent Workshop—Using Schedules (9.00am)

Mon 10th June—Secondary Siblings (6pm)

Mon 17th & 24th June—Behaviour Workshop for parents (9am)

Sat 29th June—Portesbery's 40th Birthday Bash (12—2.30pm)

Wed 17th July—BBQ and Presentation Eve

Fri 19th July—Curriculum Reports out

Wed 24th July—Last day of term (2.15pm)

Mon 2nd Sept—INSET

Tue 3rd Sept—Autumn term begins