



# Portesbery School Newsletter

## November 2010

a happy school where every one matters

### Message from Matthew

The term seems to be passing quickly and I hope that everyone had an enjoyable half term break.

It was a busy half term for everyone. I have met with all the class teachers to discuss your children's assessment results for last year, and am working alongside them to ensure that every child is making the maximum potential. All staff have also had their Performance Management interviews. This is to recognise achievements and identify individual training priorities.

This term, Cathryn and I will be in classes conducting lesson observations. It is always a great opportunity to formally observe the classes, and feedback to the teachers about the high quality education that your children are receiving here.

A big thank you to all of you who attended Parent's Evening in October. It was great to see so many of you. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our school.

Matthew

### Staffing News

We said goodbye to Nikki Foote (Red class) last week. She is going to work for a family as a nanny and we wish her well for this new venture.



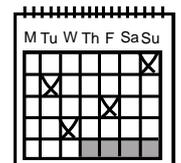
### Dates for the term

Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Dec – **Secondary Christmas Carol Service** (2pm)

Thur 16<sup>th</sup> Dec – **Primary Christmas Production** (10.30am)

Tue 21<sup>st</sup> December – **Last day of term** (2.15pm finish)

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 – **Back to school!**



### Parents Forum

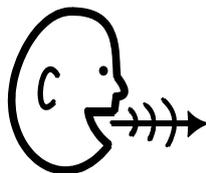
We have been able to secure Ros Blackburn to come and do a talk for you on:

**Wednesday 1st December** at **1pm** at **High Cross Church**.

Ros is an adult with ASD and speaks firsthand about how she has overcome many of the difficulties associated with this condition.

Many of you came last year and the feedback was extremely positive.

If you would like to reserve a space please contact the school office or email Matthew.



### From your Chair of Governors

The term seems to be rushing by as usual. We welcome a new parent Governor – Mr Steve Dowley to the Governing Body. Steve replaces Mr Toby Wells who has made many valuable contributions during his time as governor.

I am pleased to report that there are several plans to improve the present site for both the pupils and staff. The details will be shared shortly.

The governors plan to appoint a new Headteacher in the New Year with a start date of April 2011. In the meantime Matthew is working hard to ensure that the standards achieved under Justin continue to develop.

Something of great importance to our school and all of you as parents and carers of children with severe learning difficulties is the publication of a Green Paper looking at education of children and young people with disabilities.

I hope to meet many of you at our various end of term celebrations.

Susan

## Harvest Festival

The whole school went to High Cross Church for a Harvest Festival service on Monday 18th October. The service was led by Louise, the Youth and Children's worker. We sang and signed some songs and collected all the food that was sent in. This was collected for Step by Step, a charity for homeless people based in Aldershot. Your donations were delivered by some pupils from FE the following week.

Thanks to Jenni for organising this.



## Eco News



We are now recycling twice as much & throwing away half the amount of rubbish we were!

In addition our food waste is being collected separately to be made into compost rather than going straight to landfill.

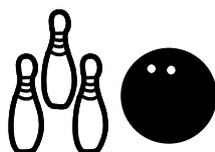
We are still collecting stamps to raise money for hearing dogs for the deaf & with Christmas approaching please remember to collect your stamps & send them into school.

## Siblings—Bowling

The Secondary Siblings group enjoyed a trip bowling to the Atrium last month. Thank you to Cathryn for arranging this trip.

The group is planning to meet again soon, any sibling aged between 11 and 16 is welcome to attend.

Further details of this next event will be sent out nearer the time.



## Surrey Heath Dance Festival

The After School Club took part in a Surrey Heath Dance Festival at Camberley Theatre last week.

The theme of the dance was 'Out to Play' and the students used movement to represent some of their favourite toys and games.

StopGap, a dance company, supported this activity and had been rehearsing with our students in the weeks building up to the event.

Well done to all of the students who took part and thanks go to StopGap, Emma and the rest of the after school staff for their hard work to make this happen.



## Visit to a Sculpture Park

Some of the Secondary classes visited The Sculpture Park, Churt, a few weeks ago as part of their art topic. The pupils loved exploring the various sculptures and drawing pictures of them. We then used these to provide ideas for our own sculptures.



## Note from the Health Team

A lot of exciting changes have happened within the Health Team over the past few months. Beth, our new Speech and Language Therapist joined us in late September and will be with us for two days each week. She is looking forward to working with all of the students, and will be available to meet with parents to discuss their child's progress or to help to address any concerns that they may have about their child's communication.

A new Health Care Assistant has been appointed, and we look forward to welcoming Kelly to our team. She will be working alongside Joy on the nursing team.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's health, please do not hesitate to contact the Health Team through the school office.

Best wishes, The Health Team