



Portesbery School Newsletter

November 2011

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

I hope that everyone had a good half term break and I am sure that everyone is pleased to be back at school for the run up to Christmas (one of the nicest but busiest time to be working in a school).

In the run up to Christmas your children will be enjoying lots of fun activities in school and the local community to help support their learning. Sam, Cathryn and I will be doing formal observations in each class, a task which we each enjoy as it helps support our judgements with regard to the high standard of learning and teaching here at Portesbery.

Thank you to all of you who sent their best wishes with regards to the new addition to my family, Teddy (born on 17th October and weighing 8lbs 5oz).

I look forward to seeing many of you during the Christmas festivities at the end of term.

Matthew

Dates for the term

8th Dec - Christmas Lunch

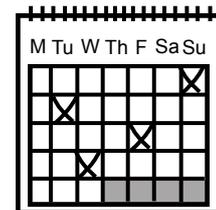
13th Dec - Primary Dept visiting Santa at Painshill Park

14th Dec - Primary Christmas Production (am)

14th Dec - Secondary Carol Concert (pm)

20th Dec - Last day of term (2.15pm finish)

4th Jan 2012 - Back to school



Inclusion Quality Mark

On 13th October, Sue Rush from the Inclusion Quality Mark, came to assess the school for this award.

Following a gruelling day of scrutinising evidence and interviewing staff and students we are pleased to announce that we have been successful in achieving this recognition. In the report it was highlighted that the school provides 'splendidly inclusive practice'.

The school would like to thank Rachel Davis for her hard work in leading the school's bid for this award and the staff and students for continuing to do what they do best!



From your Chair of Governors

As always the term seems to be rushing by. Many of you will have seen that work has begun to give the staff some extra room in the school. We are still waiting for the car park improvements next to the police station. The new school build continues to progress. At a recent we were shown the first ideas from the County architect which Matthew has been able to comment on. Although early days we are moving forward in line with the plans.

I welcome Mrs Andrea Gaines to the Governing Body as a Parent Governor. Andrea has experience of working on another Governing Body locally so she comes with experience which is always good.

We shall soon be working with the school to produce a new Three Year Plan and hope that as many parents, staff and governors as possible will feel able to make some contribution towards ideas for the next few years.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the end of term events.

Susan

Building Work

As previously mentioned in September's newsletter, the school is undergoing some building work to improve its entrance and facilities. This work is having a minimal impact on the children, with many of them enjoying watching the progress for the playground!

When the work is finished in February we will have a new school office, meeting room and more toilets! It will also free up the old office space to become additional 1:1 teaching areas.

It has reduced the number of parking spaces that we are able to offer on site and we request that any visitors to the school park along Portesbery Road where parking for under 2 hours is permitted throughout the day.



Eco News



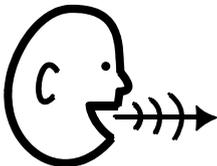
To off-set the extra electricity we will be using during the Christmas period, we are planning a **'Power Shut Down Hour'** on Friday 25th November between 10-11am where all lights and electrical items will be turned off. We have sent a flier to other Special Schools to try to get them to do the same.

We have also put in for a re-assessment of our Eco School status which will take place before Christmas. We will let you know the outcome of this in the new year. Jenni **Rainbow**

Parent's Forum

Parents' Forum sessions have not been scheduled to take place this term.

We are looking to set up some parent training sessions from January 2012. A questionnaire will be sent to all of you over the next few weeks to gain an understanding of areas of training you may need and how best to accommodate these.



After School Club

Portesbery After School Clubs have been re-vamped for January 2012. We will be offering:

Tuesday - Sports Club

Wednesday - Cooking Club and **Play Club**

Thursday - Creativity Club

Friday - MOVIE CLUB and **Pamper Club**

Clubs will be running between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. We have opened up our After School clubs to all children with SEN in the local area. Letters will be going out shortly so please sign up quickly.



Note from the Health Team

Can we thank you for your excellent response to the satisfaction surveys that the Nursing Team sent out last term. It was very enlightening to receive the feedback. We have taken on board that we are not always easy to contact, and we hope that the new direct line (01276 61268) improves this.

The nursing handover is in full flow. If you have any concerns regarding your child's health, please speak to any member of the Nursing Team.

Please can we remind any parents that haven't returned paracetamol consent slips to do so, otherwise it will be assumed that we do not have consent to administer this medication.

If you have any queries for the rest of the Health Team please contact them directly, or through the Home/School books.

Staffing News

We have recently said farewell to Shelley Pyman and Alison Evans. We wish them the best of wishes for their futures.

Rachel welcomed Samuel Patrick into the world in the early hours of Saturday morning (12th November) weighing 7lbs 14oz.

We wish Rachel and Mike all the best wishes at this exciting time in their lives and hope that he's a good baby!

