



Portesbery School Newsletter

November 2012

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

I am writing to you after a very busy half term for us at school and I cannot believe that Christmas is nearly upon us already!

September saw eight new staff starting with us, and they have all now completed their intensive induction training. The Senior Leadership Team has been focused on monitoring lesson plans and the classroom environment and will now be going into classes for formal observations to ensure that your children are receiving the best levels of teaching and learning.

As a school, we are ready for Ofsted as a number of local schools have been inspected early. The inspections under the new framework have been challenging for a number of colleagues, so we are working hard to ensure that we have the best chance possible to retain our Outstanding status.

I look forward to catching up with many of you during our Christmas celebrations.
Matthew

Dates for the half term

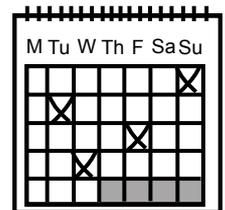
Wed 12th Dec—**Secondary Carol Concert** (2pm)

Wed 12th Dec—**Secondary Sibs** (5.30pm)

Fri 14th Dec—**Primary Performance** (10am)

Fri 21st Dec—**School term ends** (2.15pm)

Mon 7th Jan—**Back to school!**



Transition Event

Guildford College will be hosting a Transition Event on **Thursday 29th November** at **6.45pm**.

Many adult service providers have been invited so the event should be a good source of information for families of our pupils in FE and the older pupils in Sensory Ed.

Christmas Craft Fayre

On **Thursday 13th December** Portesbery are holding a Christmas Craft Fayre **between 6 and 8pm**. There will be lots of stalls from local crafts people, so come along for a glass of mulled wine and a catch up with friends, whilst stocking up on Christmas gifts.



From your Chair of Governors

It was great to see so many of you at the end of last term and to celebrate the successes of the year.

As mentioned in my last update, we have now agreed on a new structure for our Governing Body. We have agreed on a two committee structure, including a Resources Committee and a Children and Learning Committee. We will still meet together once a term as a Full Governing Body. Details of the new structure will be found on the school's website shortly.

I am also happy to report that the formal consultation for the re-build has commenced. You will receive a copy of the consultation in your child's bag—the consultation is also available on the school's website. **Please respond to this as all of your views are important.** Surrey CC will be holding a public meeting at the school on **Thursday 6th December (6—7.30pm)**. Further details of this to follow.

I look forward to seeing many of you as we celebrate the end of this term and Christmas in the coming weeks.

Susan Carpenter

Leading Parent Partnership Award



The LPPA working party held its first meeting on the 15th November. The group currently consists of school staff, governors and parents. We met and discussed the benefits of working towards LPPA accreditation.

Whilst it will be a time consuming process and will incur some expense to the school we all agreed the many benefits of finding more effective ways of working with parents should have a huge impact on student attainment, communication between school and home and parent participation. We began working towards



writing an action plan by assessing our current level of provision based on 10 core objectives as set out in the LPPA toolkit.

Sam Coomber

Eco News



This term the ECO focus is **Power**.

Switch off fortnight is running from 19th to 30th November and student volunteers will be ensuring that we all switch off our computers and other equipment at the socket when not in use.

Our official "Power Down Hour" will be held on Monday 10th December between 10am and 11am when ALL electrical equipment will be shut down to offset the impact of the additional Christmas lights.

Debbie Squirrel

School Council

The School Council have had a very busy start to the term. We arranged a visit to another school, The Ridgeway in Farnham, to meet with their School Council, have a chat and a look around. It was a successful visit and we picked up some great ideas to use back here at school.

We've also looked at fundraising. The Council organised the Portesbery Tea Towels (still available, only £2.50 each!) and also supporting Children in Need raising just over £300!

Cathryn

After School Club

We have had another fun filled half term at ASC. Sports Club has been active as ever, with football, hockey and basketball sessions, whilst Creativity Club has been shaking pom-poms in our cheerleading sessions. Kids Choice Club has enjoyed several afternoons out; our trip to the bowling alley was especially popular. Movie Club and Pampering Club have had a far more relaxed time, watching some of the latest releases (and some old favourites) whilst being pampered and preened – the perfect end to a busy week.

Sign-up sheets for January are already out, please get them back in to ensure your child's space at ASC next term.

Emma



Note from the Health Team



At the end of the autumn term we will be very sad to say goodbye to Maggie our School Nurse.

Maggie has been in nursing for 45 years and will be very much missed as part of the school health team. Maggie has had many years of experience working in schools, hospitals and with social services. Maggie will very much miss the school, the staff and children and has thoroughly enjoyed her time here and would love to keep in touch.

At the start of the new year we will welcome Avril to Portesbery as our School Nurse, she has a background in special school nursing and is currently working at a special needs school in Basingstoke. If you wish to contact any member of the Health Team you can do so through the School Office or on our direct line (01276 61268).

Elaine

Staffing News



We said goodbye to Sara Head on Friday 9th Nov. Sara left to work at Carwarden House

School and they are now benefitting from her extensive knowledge and skills.

We are also going to be saying goodbye to Clare Perry (nee New), who will be leaving us at the end of term after 20 years of working here to relocate with her Husband in Oxfordshire. We wish her all the best for this massive change for her.

We have recently made the following appointments: Becky Berry as Lead Assistant in Sensory Ed, and the following SNSAs - Alex Cameron (Green), Charlene Hince (S Ed), Samantha Harvey (Yellow) and Cressida Robinson (Blue).