



# Portesbery School Newsletter

## November 2013

a happy school where every one matters

### Message from Matthew

I am writing to you as another term is coming to an end and the festive preparations are in full force.

The Leadership team have been spending time in classes monitoring the quality of teaching and learning, and can report that the quality of what we have observed has been of a very high standard. We have been particularly impressed with how each staff team is adapting their strategies and resources to meet the individual needs within the classroom.

We have also been working closely with the leadership team and staff at Carwarden House School; we enjoyed our first joint INSET day and some staff have taken part in Learning Walks. More collaboration is planned in the future.

Can I thank you all for your continued support; your feedback at Parents Evening was overwhelmingly positive, but with some great ideas for us to make our school even better.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Matthew

### Dates for the half term

Friday 6th Dec—**Christmas Craft Fayre (from 6pm)**

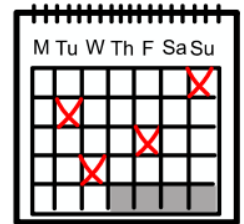
Wed 11th Dec—**Primary Production**

Wed 11th Dec—**Secondary Carols**

Wed 18th Dec—**Christmas Quiz**

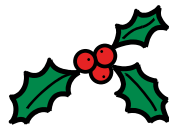
Fri 20th Dec—**School term ends (2.15pm)**

Mon 6th Jan 2014—**Back to school!**



### Christmas Craft Fayre

On **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Christmas Quiz Night

After the success of the last one, we will be having another **Quiz Night** with a festive theme on **Wednesday 18th December** from **7.30pm!**

We know it is a school night, but do come along with friends and family to test your knowledge. For more information see our website.

### From your Chair of Governors

Well the weather has changed and term is rolling by. Some governors have been spending time at the school on Learning Walks, and it is pleasing to hear their very positive comments about the life of the school.

Funding is a large item for the governors to be concerned with as the new funding regime for special schools has begun.

**We are one Parent Governor short so if any parents are interested please contact me via the school and I will take time to explain the role of governors.**

The new school build programme will shortly begin, firstly in the New Year with the demolition of the present building on the new site at Deepcut. Matthew and I will keep you all up to date with its progress. It should be an exciting time for the school.

I hope to see many of you at the end of term functions. If I don't see you, may I wish you a Merry Christmas and a good start to 2014!

Susan Carpenter



### Leading Parent Partnership Award

Over the past year the LPPA group have made some big changes to how we reach out to families.

Our biggest achievement was the development of our Facebook page which has proved to be a really effective way of sharing photos and information about future events. We have also created information booklets and a 'buddy' scheme for parents new to Portesbery.

All of those involved in the LPPA group have found it a positive experience and we have agreed to extend our work to re-launch parents forum with a focus on the socialising and networking element.

Sam Coomber



### Emergency Contact Numbers

A number of times this term, we have been in the position where we have been unable to make contact with some families during the school day.

**Just to confirm, you must provide us with three telephone numbers to use as emergency contacts.**

We will be sending out our Pupil Contact details again (and this will now take place termly) for you to check and adjust.

Please help us by returning these promptly and ensure that this information is accurate.



### School Council

We reconvened after the Summer break and held elections. The new representatives for the school are: SE - Anjum, Primary - Naqib, Secondary - Ryan and FE - Abbie. At our first meeting all new members were welcomed and we got straight down to business! We decided to hold a fancy dress competition and have a Halloween disco to raise some money for Children in Need before half term. We also arranged to have a Superheroes fancy dress day. Again, all proceeds to Children in Need.

Cathryn



### After School Club

After School Clubs have enjoyed settling back in after the Summer Holidays. Our new Swimming Club is having a great time splashing around in the pool every Tuesday, and we are looking forward to a visit to the Arena at the end of term. Kids' choice Club has made some very exciting plans over the term, including a Wii night, a trip out for dinner and a visit to Magic Castle Soft Play. Creativity Club has been very busy with music, dance, cooking and art sessions; they particularly enjoyed a Bollywood dance session! Our new Friday Club has had a far more relaxing time, unwinding with their friends at the end of the week.

Emma



### Note from the Health Team



We are very happy to announce that Aimee, one of our nurses, is expecting a baby which is due in

April, and so Aimee will be on maternity leave from February.

It was really nice to see some of you at parents' evening and we appreciate you updating any of the health team with medical appointments or any changes that we should be made aware of. Thank you also for returning forms to the health office promptly, it really helps us to keep on top of things here!

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 are sad to be announcing that we are saying goodbye to Emma Denman at the end of this term, as she is re-locating. Emma has been with us for a number of years and was instrumental in the setting up and running of our ASC and Summer Club. I know that many of you will want to wish her all the best and she will be missed. Rob Broughton will be taking on Emma's role of After School Club Manager and Becky Berry will be returning from maternity leave to be the Lead Assistant in S1.

We have recruited the following new SNSAs: Jacqui Djili (Yellow), Sarah Barrett (Blue) and Jake Herbert (S2). We have also recruited three new Midday Supervisor Assistants: Polly Morris, Pam Morgan and Emily Barton.

