



Portesbery School Newsletter

November 2014

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

Can I start by thanking all of you that came to our Parents' Evening in October. It's a great opportunity for you to be fully involved in your child's education and to help strengthen the partnership between home and school. It was great to have such a positive response from you all.

As you will read later in this newsletter the school will be facing some challenges in this upcoming year. I am confident that the steps we have put in place will create opportunities to further strengthen what we are offering our pupils.

On a final note, we are delighted with the progress of the new build, and continue to be impressed with the team supporting us both at the site and in far away offices! I am sure that you will all be impressed when you finally get in there with your children—I cannot believe this is now only two terms away!

I look forward to seeing many of you over this festive period at the Primary Production or the Secondary Christmas Carols.

Matthew

Dates for the term

Fri 28th Nov—Christmas Fayre (6pm)

Tue 9th Dec—Secondary Dept. Carols at High Cross (2pm)

Fri 12th Dec—Christmas Jumper Day (including Christmas Lunch)

Wed 17th Dec—Primary Dept. Production (2pm)

Fri 19th Dec—Last day of term (2.15pm finish)



Mon 5th Jan 2015—Back to school

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for the responses to our questionnaire—we had a total of 35 responses. We are so pleased to see how happy you are with the provision we are providing at school. The support from you was overwhelmingly positive and for that we are extremely grateful. Many of you raised some points around homework and this is something for the senior management team and teaching staff to consider.

If you want to provide feedback on the school at any time, please do so using ParentView (on the Ofsted website) using the link from our home page.



From your Chair of Governors

I hope that this message finds you all well.

Over this term, we have welcomed two new governors to our Governing Body. Jane Vaughan is joining us from an educational background. She has most recently been working for the National Autistic Society, supporting the opening of some of their free schools. Jacques-Olivier Olmo is a resident of Deepcut, with a background in hospitality. I have met with both of our new members, detailing the important role that all Governors play in supporting the Leadership and Management of the school and being a critical friend to aid school development.

I was pleased to be able to join my fellow Governors at a site visit a few weeks back, and would like to express my gratitude to the team from Osborne for doing such a good job for us. The sheer size and scale of the school is impressive and I am looking forward to September when the school opens.

I hope that you are all able to enjoy Christmas and the New Year.

Susan Carpenter

Staffing News

Sam welcomed her baby, Evelyn, on the 3rd November (the first day of her maternity leave!). Evie is doing well and Sam and Mike are thrilled to be parents. On this note, Cathryn is also pregnant and due in April!

Angie, in the school office, will not be returning to her position, following complications after her ankle surgery. We wish Angie all the best and hope that she continues to concentrate on her recovery.

Also, we welcome Arabella (S3) and Lynne (Yellow from Jan) to our team as SNSAs.

Leadership Review

With the news that both of the school's Assistant Heads will be on maternity leave throughout this year and next, and the additional workload from the school move, the Governors have taken the decision to appoint a Deputy Head Teacher on a secondment from January 2015 until April 2016.

We were lucky enough to find Sue Thelton from Freemantles School. Sue has worked within Special Schools for her whole teaching profession, and has spent the last sixteen years at Freemantles. She will be bringing her skills as an established school leader as well as her knowledge of the process of moving schools as she was part of that process at Freemantles seven years ago. Sue is looking forward to the challenge of taking up this key role within our school.

Parents' Forum

Unfortunately, the decision has been taken to cancel the planned Parents' Forum sessions for the remainder of the year due to a poor turn out at each event.

We understand the pressures that you are under, but would like to be able to support you as best we can. To help us gain a better understanding of what support is needed and how best this can be delivered we would like to form a working party of parents. The first meeting for this group will be on **Tuesday 3rd February at 9.00am**. More details of this will be sent nearer the time.



Message from School Office

If your child is going to be unwell or has a medical appointment and cannot attend school, **please call the school office before 9.30am**—we cannot accept messages passed on from a second source (i.e. Transport providers). This enables the school office to update the registers with the correct information and saves time and effort during an already busy day.

Any requests for exceptional leave during term time should be made directly to Matthew. A form can be requested from the school office or printed off our website.

Did you know—You can pay in advance for school meals using ParentMail and keep this topped up.

After School Club

We are planning an exciting new look programme for after school club next year, with the launch of our new Let's Get Cooking club, our revamped 'Splash & Active' swimming and sports club moving to Thursdays and the continuation of Creative Arts and Kids' Choice clubs.

None of that can happen before we finish this term off with December seeing activities such as t-shirt printing, Christmas cooking and yoga coming up, and our Rock 'n' Roll dance lessons in the new year.

I hope you're all looking forward to all the new activities and clubs as much as we are, and I hope to hear all your feedback in due course.



Summer Club

We have finished evaluating Summer Club 2014 and feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the activities such as Companion Cycling, Aerobility and our trip to the Seaside being mentioned a lot as the favourites. There are lots of positives to take forward to next year when we run our last Summer Club before moving to the new site, and we will take on board the wishes for what else you want to see there!