



# Portesbery School Newsletter

## September 2014

a happy school where every one matters

### Message from Matthew

I hope that this message finds you all well and that you were able to enjoy your Summer break. As always, the school holidays have flown by and September has come around too soon! It has been great to see our pupils settling into new classes with some different friends and staff, and we are particularly pleased with how our new pupils (and staff!) have managed this transition.

The start of a school year is always filled with such promise for the year ahead, and this year is no exception. I hope you are all keeping up to date with the new build, either through facebook or the school website. I cannot believe that this time next year we should be commencing a new chapter for our school in very different surroundings!

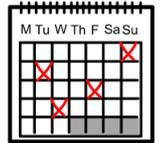
As always, please do not hesitate to contact me directly through the School Office or by email at:

matthew.sartin@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

I look forward to catching up with many of you soon.

### Dates for the term

Wed 24th Sept (1pm) -  
**Parents' Forum—Using  
Symbols (at High  
Cross)**



Fri 26th Sept (10am) - **McMillan  
Coffee Morning (hosted by S3)**

TBC—**Harvest Festival**

Wed 15th Oct (from 3.30pm) —  
**Parents' Evening**

Wed 22nd Oct (1pm) - **Parents'  
Forum—Using Schedules (at High  
Cross)**

Fri 24th Oct—**INSET Day**

W/C Mon 27th Oct—**Half Term**

Thurs 6th Nov (7pm) - **Parents'  
Forum—Promoting Self Care**

### ParentMail

We are pleased to announce that following the successful launch of ParentMail for paying for school meals last term, we are now able to extend it to cover After School Clubs, Uniform and School Fund Contributions!

If you have not yet registered, please either see the dinner money payments page on our website which gives you all the information you need, or contact Emma or Neil who will be happy to help you.



### From your Chair of Governors

Welcome to the new school year, a year that should prove exciting for the Portesbery family as we say goodbye to the old school and prepare for the move to Deepcut.

Matthew will keep everyone informed of the preparations during the year.

Last term's Presentation Evening and BBQ were again an excellent end to a very good year. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing both pupils and parents before the summer break.

The Governing Body will be active during the year in supporting you all through the move.

New legislation requires all Governing Bodies to reconstitute during the next term, our changes will be notified to all parents in the near future.

Thank you to Rob and his team who ran the Summer School during the holidays.

We look forward to a successful 2014/15 at Portesbery.

Susan Carpenter

### Parents' Forum

This academic year we are re-launching Parents' Forum as part of our Partnership work.

We will hold sessions on a variety of topics and be offering a mix of afternoon and evening sessions. Hopefully this will maximise your opportunities to attend and you will be able to attend some of these sessions. It is often the case that the best support you get is from each other and it is hoped that the group is made up of a wide range of parents across the school.

You will be receiving a letter shortly confirming the arrangements for these sessions.



### Staffing News

After many years at this school, Maxine Elliot resigned from her post as Inclusion Assistant as she secured a post within a Mainstream School to support their growing population of SEN pupils. This was a difficult decision for Maxine and we wish her all the best at her new school.

Julie Constantine (Physio Tech) also left her role within Virgin Care to work for Social Services to assess OH equipment needs within the home.



### Summer Club

We all had a fantastic summer club this year, with the students enjoying lots of outings like Boscombe Beach, Aerobility at Blackbushe Airport and Companion Cycling at Bushy Park, as well as some nice chilled out days at school with t-shirt printing, a bake-off, and drumming with our friend Ray!

If you enjoyed it as much as we hoped then please send in the questionnaires with your feedback, we have extra copies if needed. This feedback will go towards my hopes of developing more exciting things for Summer and After School Club next year.

### After School Club

Now of course we are back full swing into After School Club already. Our students in Kids' Choice have selected activities for their own programme this term, with some old favourites mixed with some new ideas such as, having our own ice cream sundae party! Swim & Spa club has already restarted and Creative & Friday Club members can look forward to soap making, cafe trips, lots of themed art & craft nights and much more.

If you have any queries whatsoever regarding ASC please contact Rob:  
[rob.broughton@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:rob.broughton@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk)

### Music Therapy

In these times of insecure school budgets we have had to look at alternative sources of funding to keep some of the therapeutic approaches we use at school. We are delighted to be able to tell you that this school year music therapy will be funded by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and staff who provided supportive evidence for this bid.

Music therapy will be offered to children who need additional support to engage well with their education - focusing on communication and interaction, motivation for learning or emotional needs.

Music therapy is provided in school by the Parity for Disability Music Therapy Service. Our music therapists are Jenny and Leigh. Parity also accepts referrals directly from families. If anyone would like to purchase music therapy directly it could be offered in school time. If this is something of interest, please contact Jenny directly on [jenny@parityfordisability.org.uk](mailto:jenny@parityfordisability.org.uk) or 01252 375581. [www.parityfordisability.org.uk/music.html](http://www.parityfordisability.org.uk/music.html)

### Re-Build News

The new school build is continuing to progress and is on track to be ready for the next academic year, opening next September.

It is hoped that the separate newsletters are a useful source of information, as well as the updated images on facebook.

So far, the involvement of the re-build committee of pupils has been good and this will continue throughout this year.

