



Newsletter - December 2016

A happy school where every one matters



**Message
from
Matthew**

That's another term over, and my final Christmas at Portesbery. Thank you so much for your comments regarding me moving to pastures new. It was a difficult decision for me to leave such a special school (that I have put my heart and soul into for the last 9 years). I am so proud of all of your children in their performances in the Nativity and the Carol Service and it was lovely to see so many of you there.

Thank you also for your overwhelmingly positive comments about the school during the Parents Evening in November. These have been shared with the staff who are rightly proud to be part of a successful school.

I hope that you all have a great Christmas and a peaceful New Year, and we'll see you all back on Tuesday 3rd January!



**Message
from your
Chair of
Governors**

We were all very sorry to hear that Matthew is going to be leaving us at Easter, but really pleased that he has found a new post that will use all of his experience and skills. He has been a great headteacher here, steering our school safely through its many challenges and our monumental transition from Camberley to Deepcut. Well done Matthew, and congratulations from all of us.

I know that some of you are a bit anxious about what happens next, so I'm pleased to tell you that governors have recruitment well in hand and our advertisement is up and running. We know that Portesbery is a fantastic school, we believe it will attract excellent candidates and we had several enquiries even before the advertisement was published. Rest assured that governors will only make an appointment when they are sure they have found the *right* head for our school.

I'll keep you updated on progress with this, but if you have any concerns please feel free to drop me a line by letter to the school or by email to

chairofgovernors@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

In other news, I'm delighted to report that Brigadier Steve Shirley, Commandant of Deepcut, has recently joined our Governing Body, strengthening our connection with the local community and bringing another perspective to our work. We are still looking for another Parent Governor so let me know if you might be interested in that too – being a governor is a really good way to understand how the school works while helping it develop and deliver the best outcomes for pupils.

Wishing you a very happy holiday from all the Governors.



Staffing news

We have just had the news that Sam is having baby number three! Her maternity leave is due to commence in May. With both AHTs off on maternity leave next year, both Clare Walker and Kirsty Hodge will become acting AHTs. We are planning to recruit replacements for their teaching commitments in EYs and P16 next term.

We will be saying goodbye and good luck to:

- Katherine Dyke (Class Teacher in Bee)
- Jess Mott and Sam Harvey (TAs)

New staff appointments:

- Penny Phillips will be taking over the class teacher position in Bee class from January. Penny has extensive experience in both SLD and LD schools.

- Lea-Anna Haydon, Francesca Holland, Isabelle Woodage, Emily Birchell-Wright and Ipek Ross will be joining the team of Teaching Assistants in the new year.

Dates for your diary

January	
Spring term begins	Tuesday 3 rd Jan
Secondary Curriculum Day	31 st January
February	
Primary Curriculum Day	3 rd Feb
Half term	WC Mon 13 th Feb
Whole School Enrichment – World Book Day	27 th Feb
March	
INSET – School closed	Monday 6 th March
INSET – School closed	Tuesday 7 th March
Parents Evening	15 th March
Spring term ends	Friday 31 st March (2.15pm)
April	
Summer term begins	Tuesday 18 th April
May	
Whole School Enrichment – May Day	2 nd May
INSET – School closed	Friday 26 th May
Half term	WC Mon 29 th May
June	
Primary Sports Day	21 st June (am)
Secondary Sports Day	28 th June (am)
July	
Secondary Production	11 th July @ 1.45pm
Secondary Curriculum Day	11 th July
BBQ & Presentation Evening	12 th July
Primary Curriculum Day	14 th July
Summer term ends	Friday 21 st July (2.15pm)