



Portesbery School Newsletter January 2016

a happy school where every one matters

Message from Matthew

Happy New Year to you all!

I cannot express how pleased we all are to be in the new school. It has been wonderful to see how your children have adapted to this new environment and the excitement that this has generated within the staff team. I know that most of you have been able to visit, but if you haven't, please make a time to come and visit soon!

We have a very busy term planned, and are focusing on how this new environment will help improve the quality of the teaching and learning experience for all. As part of our ongoing School Evaluation, it is vital to gauge everyone's views in what is important and you will find attached a Parental Questionnaire to this newsletter. Please complete this (online as a preference) so that we can ensure that the whole school community have their say.

Matthew

Message from the Chair of Governors

I am absolutely delighted to be Chair of Governors in this remarkable year for the school. Always a happy place with fantastic staff, we finally have the space and facilities to match - and with a real wow factor. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen, and to parents, pupils and staff for being so patient.

We currently have a vacancy for a **Parent Governor** and if you have been considering how you could support the school more, this would be a great time to join us. If you would like more information about this important role within the school, please contact me directly at:

chairofgovernors@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

Chris Hamilton

Thank You's

We have recently been in receipt of some very kind donations. Roland Davey (Sarah's dad in Post 16) has donated 10 new iPads on behalf of works carried out by the Borne Education Trust. These will be used as a class bank in the Learning Resource Centre to support the delivery of the ICT curriculum. We have also received a 'sit and go' Brum ride, that we will be using at fundraising events. This was donated on behalf of the Wyvern Pub by Bobby and Charlotte Betts.

Quiz Night

Thank you for the teams that have already signed up for the Quiz night on **Friday 29th January**. There is still time to sign up, and pit your wits against the other parents, staff and school transport teams. All money raised will go to the Portesbery Partnership fund that has a direct benefit for your children. A fun time is guaranteed!



Staffing News

We have a lot of staffing news to update for you!

Last term there was baby news. Amy Harwood (CT) had baby Jack and Ella McClelland (STA) welcomed baby Penelope. Sam Leech (AHT) has started her maternity leave, and is currently overdue... Kim Maxwell (CT in Ladybird class) has announced that she is pregnant and is due in July.

Rachel Davis (CT in Post 16) has decided to leave us to spend some more time with her family, luckily she has agreed to continue to support us as a supply teacher. Sue Cochrane will be taking over her post from February half term. Georgina Cox (CT in Beetle class) will be leaving us at Easter to move to Germany to live with her husband to be. We are currently advertising for this vacancy.

We welcomed some new Teaching Assistants to the team in November, Chloe Robinson (Dragonfly), Belynda Cowlard (Pine) and Ria Coyle (Post 16). At the end of this month we will be saying goodbye to Jake Herbert (Post 16), who is going to be working at the Post 19 provision in Farnham.

In the Health Team, Gail Tudor (our Physio) got married and is now Gail Mandville. We have also welcomed Amy Morrison-Smith, a new physio, to the team.



After School Club

Our new term at after school club has seen the arrival of a new club: Sensory and Relaxation on a Tuesday. The students attending have already experienced story massage (stories such as We're Going on a Bear Hunt told through massage) our sensory studio and the sensory blanket (our touch based interactive floor projection that sets off fireworks, bubbles and lots lots more).

Soon we will also begin Rebound Therapy on our new trampoline which we are all very excited by!

Cooking Club on a Wednesday has seen a delicious return to Cooking Around the World with countries like Russia (yummy Stroganoff) and France (Onion Soup & Ratatouille) already visited.

Thursdays (swimming and sports) and Fridays (Kids' Choice) have continued in the same vein as last term and have been just as fun!

Rob (ASC Manager)

Healthy Schools Award

Thanks to Amy Harwood's hard work before commencing her maternity leave, we have achieved the **bronze level** in the Surrey Healthy Schools Programme.

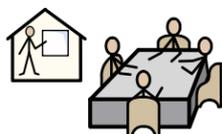
To get this recognition, we had to demonstrate that we are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles with our children. The Quality Assurance group commented that Portesbery provided ' *a very thorough annual review showing strong commitment to promoting physical and emotional health & wellbeing within an inclusive ethos* '.

Well done us!



School Council

We have elected a new school council and had our first meeting last week!



The School Council aims to give all the pupils in the school a voice on all matters. We are really looking forward to the discussions, decisions and raising funds.

If you have any suggestions for things you would like our new School Council to discuss please let us know by emailing:

adele.devine@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

Message from the School Office

This is another reminder to please ensure that you leave a message with the School Office if your child is not well enough to come into school. We appreciate that most of you have already informed Home to School Transport but, as part of our safeguarding arrangements, we cannot accept messages that are passed on through the transport team. Once you have informed transport, please call us and leave a message on the school answerphone, otherwise we will have to call you to seek an explanation during what is already a busy time for us.

Could we also request that all Pupil Data forms are returned (even if there have been no changes) to ensure that we have the most up to date information for our records.

Behaviour Management

As a school, we are always trying different approaches to help promote positive behaviour management that can be used and understood by all of our pupils.

Since the start of the year, we have introduced new house groups (red, yellow, green and blue houses) and the pupils can now earn house tokens for good behaviour and get to deposit these into the corresponding tubes in the Hub—just like in Waitrose (very posh!). We will be monitoring the progress of these tubes in our weekly whole school assembly, seeing who is in the lead, and the house with the most tokens at the end of the term will earn a special treat!

If you feel that your child has done something at home that deserves recognition, please send a message in the Home/School book and we can reward them appropriately!



Dates for the term

- Mon 15th Feb—*Half term*
- Mon 29th Feb—*INSET day*
- Wed 9th March (from 3.30pm) - *Parents Evening*
- Fri 25th March—*Easter holidays begin*
- Mon 11th April—*Summer term starts*

Future dates

- Wed 29th June (am) - *Secondary Sports Day*
- Wed 6th July (am) - *Primary Sports Day*
- Tue 5th July @ 2pm—*Secondary Production*
- Wed 13th July (5 – 7.30pm) - *BBQ & Presentation Eve*