



# Portesbery School Newsletter

## May 2016

a happy school where every one matters

### Message from the Head Teacher

We are still enjoying our new surroundings and your children are benefitting from their improved environment. Unfortunately, there are still some 'snagging' issues that will be addressed mostly during the half term and summer holiday. Our main issue is the Hydro pool but a solution has been agreed and it will be operational again shortly.

Some of your children have now received (or are in the process of transferring to) an EHCP. There is a small group of pupils who will go through this process next year. Surrey will have transferred all of their Statements to EHCP, by the end of next year. We have had to align our paperwork with this new process and everyone who has had an AR/EHCP meeting will have already received a Curriculum (Teachers) Report, therefore will not receive one at the end of the year. You will all receive a summary of the year with some photos at the end of term. Matthew

### Message from the Chair of Governors

It's been a busy term behind the scenes for governors.

We've been supporting Matthew in his efforts to get the pool operational and talking to the County Council's decision-makers to ensure that the school grows as planned. Until we reach capacity, there will be a gap between our income (determined by pupil numbers) and the increased costs of our new building.

We've agreed to deal with this by setting a deficit budget, effectively borrowing funds from the County Council to maintain our investment in our fantastic staff and wonderful pupils. We're sure you'll approve.

Chris Hamilton

### TES Award Nomination

We are very proud to announce that we have been shortlisted for the TES Schools Awards 2016 ([www.tesawards.co.uk](http://www.tesawards.co.uk)) under the category of 'Creative School of the Year', and based on the work we have done with our visual support for our pupils. To be shortlisted for this prestigious award is a real achievement and is down to the hard work and commitment of the school staff under the guidance of Adele Devine.

The awards, now in their seventh year, recognise the outstanding contribution to education made by teams and individuals both inside and outside schools.

The winners of each category will be revealed at a sparkling awards ceremony and dinner in the Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane, London, on the evening of Friday, June 24.



### Staffing News

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

Since the last newsletter, Sam has welcomed baby Alfie into the world and has made Evie a very proud big sister! Sam will be returning to her role as AHT overseeing the Primary department at the end of July on a part-time basis (4 days per week).

At the end of March, Cathryn returned from maternity leave to her role as AHT overseeing the Secondary department on a part-time basis (4 days per week).

In April, Katherine Dyke started her role as class teacher in Beetle class and due to our expansion, we have also been able to appoint two new teachers for September: Emma Newman and Liz Gray. Amy Harwood will be returning at the end of July as a PE teacher for two days per week, and Kim (CT in Ladybird) will be going on maternity leave. We have had two new Teaching Assistants join the team, Jodee (Pine class) and Michael (Post 16).



## Extended Services

It's a busy and exciting time for extended services. Soon, those of you who have applied for summer club will find out your allocations - including spaces for our first ever sleepover! Shortly after half term I will be releasing the programmes and booking forms for autumn term 2016 after school club, so look out for those. I will be looking to speak to families currently booking onto ASC to discuss potential changes to how we run Kids' Choice club on Fridays. Currently the programmes that come out during the booking period do not have any choices on them, as students choose the term's activities in the first session. What I'm hoping to get feedback on is whether families would be more excited about Kids' Choice Club if the initial programme had two potential activities listed for each week, then allowing the students to vote between the pair for each week. So please come and see me with your views and be prepared to be caught by me at pick up time! Rob

## Parent Sessions

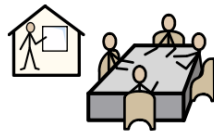
We have now run two successful sessions for parents on Intensive Interaction and Makaton. These sessions are a great way to discuss key strategies/interventions that we use to support your children in a friendly environment. It's also a great opportunity to catch up and experience the wonderful 'Kitchin Cafe' run by Post 16.

The following sessions have been planned for the remainder of this year (all sessions start at 9.30am in Post 16):

7th June	Physio and OT (Gail Mandville)
21st June	Behaviour (Kirsty Mingard)
5th July	Communication (Kirsty Hodge)
19th July	Play (Clare Walker)

## School Council

The School Council are hoping to get more ideas and input from other students, staff and parents.



We discussed having a notice board and post box located in the HUB. We would like teachers to allocate time to read school council minutes and think of ideas to share at our next meeting. Parents and carers please send us any suggestions for improving our school or fundraising and we will discuss these at our meetings. Representatives from the School Council will be attending a School Council Conference on July 4th where we will share a presentation about what we have achieved this year.

Adele

## Message from the School Office

The additional donations that families make to class funds are very much appreciated and enable us to provide extra treats which all go to make your child's school experience that bit more special. Looking ahead, we are planning to send out one donation request letter at the beginning of the Autumn term and you can choose to either make a one-off contribution or continue to make three separate termly payments. Don't forget that you can do this via parentmail!

Also, a reminder that if you sign up to Give as You Live all your online purchases can benefit the school and your children without costing you an extra penny!

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/parentsstaffandfriendsofportesberschool>

Debbie

## My Outcomes

To reflect the changes that the EHCPs have introduced, we have had to change the way that we report progress on targets. At the start of the next half term, your child will have a document called 'My Outcomes' which will reflect the targets set at AR/EHCP meetings. This will replace their IEP. Targets will be set in the following areas:

- Cognition and Learning
- Communication and Social Interaction
- Sensory and Physical
- Social Mental and Emotional Health

You can play an important role in measuring the success of these targets by capturing the progress that your child is making at home. Once a term, you will be sent a copy of your child's 'outcomes' and be asked to note any progress seen and be part of identifying and agreeing next steps.



## Dates for the term

27/5/16	INSET day
WC 30/5/16	Half Term
10/6/16	Street Party for the Queen's 90th Birthday
29/6/16 (am)	Secondary Sports Event
6/7/16 (am)	Primary Sports Event
Tu5/7/16 (2pm)	Secondary Production
13/7/16 (from 5pm)	BBQ & Presentation Eve
22/7/16	Last day of Summer term (school finishes at 2.15pm)
5/9/16	INSET
6/9/16	Autumn term begins