

Newsletter - October 2016

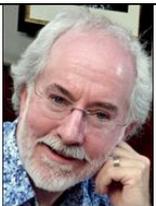
A happy school where every one matters



**Message from
Matthew**

We are half way through the Autumn term and I hope this newsletter finds you well. I am planning to send out a newsletter at the end of each half term to enable you to have a catch up with what is happening at school, however I am sure that you are all loving the timelier updates that you get through facebook or the school website, department newsletters or via your child's home/school book. We are always trying to improve our communication with you (hence the long list of upcoming dates at the end of the newsletter) and if you can think of any further ways to do this, please let me know! I am pleased to say that the new term has started well. All of your children have settled back into their routines and the new faces have settled well into Early Years and throughout the school. All of our new staff have completed their induction training covering safeguarding, health and safety, behaviour, moving and handling and school specific interventions (such as sensory integration and intensive interaction). The nursing team have also covered sessions about health awareness and administration of medication and the therapy teams have led sessions on SLT, Physio and OT. This extensive induction should hopefully enable new staff to have the skills to meet the complex needs of the pupils successfully and already feel part of the team! I am also pleased to say that our two Newly Qualified Teachers are settling in well (Emma and Liz) and are being well supported through their first year of teaching by Sam and Cathryn. I am also delighted to say that we are hosting two trainee teachers (Emma and Lucy) through our partnership with the Innovation Teaching School and Chichester University. Both trainees will be with us throughout this term and the summer term, with the Spring term spent in a mainstream school.

I hope that you all have a great half term break!



**Message from
your Chair of
Governors**

The best part of being a governor is actually getting into school, seeing how staff are working with plans, policies and pupils to deliver fantastic teaching and learning. That's what a group of us were doing this week on one of our regular learning walks, where we look in on a range of classes, ask lots of questions and provide feedback. This usually generates ideas for staff to explore, and themes for governors to look at in the future. It's one of the ways we help to ensure that the school is always moving forward, always giving its best. If you're a parent, maybe you'd be interested in joining us? Contact me through the school office and I'd be very happy to explain what's involved. Chris.



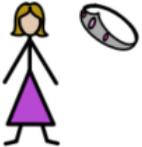
Staffing news

Wedding bells were ringing at the beginning of the month with Cathryn getting married to Neil. They both had a lovely day (and Esme enjoyed herself too!). Cathryn has also announced that she is expecting her second child in April, so it was a double celebration! We will be saying goodbye and good luck to:

- Sophie Craven (Senior Teaching Assistant) will be leaving us at half term to work in Adult Social Care to help her enable her aspirations to become a Social Worker.
- Mark Dewey (Ground person) has resigned in order to be able to concentrate on his own company.

New staff appointments:

- Kirsten Macleod had been appointed as Class Teacher in Beetle class and started this week. Amy (one of our HLTAs) did a great job covering this vacancy and will now be working in Caterpillar class.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had the following Teaching Assistants join the team in September: Emily Barton (Post 16), Emma Bennet (Post 16), Agata Burton (Grasshopper class), Jaime Chapman (Beetle class), Jasmine Moreley (Caterpillar class), Grace O’Shea (Ladybird class) and Stacy Pritchard (Part time TA). • We have also had two Midday Meals Supervisors join us in September, Kim Allan and Olivia Masters. • We have recently appointed some new Teaching Assistants, Sam Head (Pine class), Cathy Corner (Chestnut class) and Sonja Eagle (Primary).
 <p>Royal Opening</p>	<p>The schools’ official opening will take place on the afternoon of 17th November by HRH Countess of Wessex. I am sorry to say that this event is not open to everyone but we will make sure that she gets to meet as many of your children as possible and get lots of photos!</p> <p>The pupils, staff, governors and re-build team will get the chance to show off our new facilities and we are really grateful to Surrey County Council for organising this special event for us.</p>
 <p>Award Winners</p>	<p>We are proud to announce that our new school has won an award!</p> <p>We were nominated for Best Inclusive Building at the Building Excellence Awards 2016 (South East) sponsored by the Local Authority Building Control and we won! We will now be entered into the National competition so watch this space...</p>
 <p>Assessment – My Outcomes</p>	<p>As you already know, we have replaced your child’s IEP with a document called ‘My Outcomes’ (based on targets agreed at AR/EHCP meetings). You will have already agreed the target areas at the last AR/EHCP meeting and you will get a chance to see how much progress your child is making against these at the parents evening next month.</p> <p>We are currently planning for ways to ensure that you are involved in assessing the progress that your children are making at home and will be asking for your input and feedback.</p>
 <p>Summer club & After School Club</p>	<p>After a very fun and successful Summer Club there are some wonderful photos on Facebook if you wish to relive the memories. The results of the family and staff questionnaires are also available to download and read from the ASC section of the school website and have been overwhelmingly positive.</p> <p>We have been busy this term, making the most of the autumn light and having a messy sensory session outside in Relaxation/Sensory Club. Let's Get Cooking Club have been making some 'Brilliant Brunch' dishes including Kedgerree and Omelette Popovers. Splash & Active Club have begun accessing the school pool and enjoying bowling sessions and rebound therapy on the trampoline. Kids' Choice Club have had a bubble party, movie and popcorn and this week we'll be having a pizza party.</p> <p>I have been receiving lots of enquiries from families wishing to start accessing After School Club this term. ASC is booked a term in advance and we are currently oversubscribed this term, with a waiting list for each day. Your child can be added to the waiting list but spaces cannot be guaranteed to open up. Excitingly, the programmes and booking forms for Spring Term 2017 are going to be released in the week after half term. If you return a completed booking form by the deadline you will be guaranteed some spaces. If you wish to make enquiries please email rob.broughton@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk or send me a note through your child's home/school book.</p>



School Uniform

We are so proud of our uniform and all of the pupils look so smart wearing it. We do not have many rules but we would like **all Primary and Secondary aged pupils to be in their uniform every day** – Early Years and Post 16 are an exception to this. The primary department wear a yellow polo shirt with a royal blue jumper, and the secondary department wear a light blue polo shirt with a navy blue jumper. Uniform can be ordered through the school office (forms are available through the school’s website) and Post 16 pupils process these orders as part of their work experience.



Money into school

Please write in your home/school book when you are sending any cash or cheques into school with your child. Also please ensure cash is put in a clearly marked envelope stating which school item you are paying for (eg. dinner money, trips, uniform, school funds etc). A member of the class team will initial your note in the book to say the money has been received and pass it to the school office who will issue a receipt. Please remember that most items, including trips, can also be paid for via Parentmail.

Dates for your diary

October	
Harvest Festival	18 th Oct (am)
INSET – School closed	Friday 21 st October
Half term	WC Mon 24 th Oct
November	
Whole School Enrichment afternoon – Diwali	1 st Nov (pm)
Parents Evening (and Alumni Disco)	16 th November
Secondary Curriculum Day	29 th Nov
December	
Primary Curriculum Day	2 nd Dec
Secondary Carols	13 th Dec @ 1.45pm
Primary Production	14 th Dec @ 1.45pm
Christmas lunch (and Christmas Jumper Day)	16 th Dec
Autumn term ends	Wednesday 21 st Dec (2.15pm)
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)