



PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Friday 22 April 2016

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome back after the Easter break; we look forward to a positive and productive summer term. I would like to say very well done to everyone in Year 3 for the Easter assembly, performed at Woodlands Church before the holiday. I thoroughly enjoyed it as I know did the rest of the school and the many parents and grandparents who attended. The quality of the singing and acting and the way the children as a team gave such an enjoyable performance was a reflection of the hard work that all the teachers, teaching assistants, children and parents had put in; very well done to you all. Thanks also to Mr Butcher for allowing us to hold our Easter celebrations in the church.

Thanks to everyone who supported World Autism Awareness Week. The children have enjoyed the day and have learned more about autism. In total we have raised over £200 in support of The National Autistic Society.

On a personal note I would like to tell you all that, at the end of this academic year, I will be leaving Portway to take up a headship in another Derby school. I have been at Portway for nearly seven years and it has been a great place for me to undertake my first headship. I leave knowing that the school is in a good position. Teaching and learning across the school is of a high standard and academic achievements, reflected in SATS results and internal performance indicators, have consistently been high over the last few years. The governors are in the process of making plans for my successor and I will update you on any developments. I would sincerely like to thank all the staff, governors, parents and children who I have worked with during my time here. It has been a privilege to work with and serve such a decent group of people.

Parents' Evening and Questionnaire

Before Easter most parents attended a parents' evening in school. The majority of parents brought their children into the consultations and I believe that this will enable teachers to share information with parents and children more directly and more effectively. This is something we intend to continue in future parents' evenings. Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaires. The results of the questionnaires can be seen in the table below:

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at this school	63%	35%	1%	0%	1%
My child feels safe at this school	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%
My child makes good progress at this school	59%	39%	0%	0%	2%
My child is well looked after at this school	66%	33%	0%	0%	1%
My child is taught well at this school	69%	29%	0%	0%	2%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	49%	44%	4%	0%	4%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	64%	33%	3%	0%	0%
The school deals effectively with bullying	45%	30%	2%	0%	23%
The school is well led and managed	65%	32%	0%	0%	3%
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	58%	31%	2%	0%	9%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	60%	37%	1%	0%	1%
Effective transition from KS1 (36 responses – Y3 parents only)	58%	31%	6%	0%	6%
Would you recommend the school to another parent?	Yes – 99%			No – 1%	

Some percentage totals do not add up to 100%; this was due to rounding. As you can see the vast majority of responses were positive. There were only a few brief written comments – many of them positive; any comments regarding future improvements will be considered when drafting the new School Improvement Plan for 2016-17. I want to stress again, though, that we always want you to come into school, telephone or send in a note or email, if you have any ideas, questions or concerns about school or the education of your children. We will always do our best to ensure that all issues are addressed quickly and effectively.

Mobile Phones in School

As much as possible we do not want to encourage children to bring mobile phones into school. We recognise, however, that there may be times where parents feel it is important for their child to bring one into school. Starting from the 2nd of May, any child bringing a mobile phone into school must have a 'Mobile in School' form completed by their parents. The form will give parents the opportunity to explain why a mobile is needed in school and will set out some expectations in terms of how the phone is used on school premises. The form is available on the school website and a form will also be emailed out. Please return this form before the 2nd of May if you want your child to bring in a mobile.

SATS

During the week commencing the 9th May the Year 6 pupils will be sitting their SATS tests. The test dates are as follows: Mon 9th May – Reading; Tue 10th May – Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling; Wed 11th May – Maths Arithmetic and Maths Paper 1; Thu 12th May – Maths paper 2. I will give you all more detailed information about

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what will happen during test week in the May newsletter, which will go out in a fortnight. The children, teachers and teaching assistants have been working very hard in year 6 to get ready for the tests. I am confident the children will go into the new style SATS as well prepared as they can be.

Team Point Winners

Well done to team Diamond! They were last term's team point winners. Diamond were the leaders of the competition for most of the term and won by just over 100 team points. They will be having their reward afternoon on Friday, 20th of May: they will be able to come to school in non-school uniform and will take part in circus skills workshops. In school this term I want as many children as possible to earn their 150 Team Point award. Ask your child how many team points they need to get to 150!

Reading in School – Can You Help?

We are looking for volunteers to come into school and listen to children read. If you are available, preferably in an afternoon, please get in touch with the school office and they will pass on your details to Mrs Gordon. She will then arrange for you to have an induction and agree on which classes you can support. Even if you are available for an hour or so this would be beneficial as long as you were able to commit to coming in regularly.

Sun Safety

A reminder about sun safety now that the weather is turning a touch warmer (just). We recognise that some sun is good for us, we are mindful of the importance of protecting the children in our care from over exposure to UV during outdoor play and activities. Skin cancer is now the most common and fastest rising cancer in the UK. Malignant melanoma, the deadliest form of the disease is now the most common cancer in young adults aged 15-34. Burning as a young child can cause irreparable damage to a child's delicate skin that over time can develop with serious consequences. However, the good news is that skin cancer is almost entirely preventable and simple steps can be undertaken to ensure that your child's skin is protected from the sun's harmful rays.

Can I ask that all parents/carers provide both appropriate sun hats and quality sunscreen for your children that are to remain at school at all times during the months May through to the end of September. This is necessary to ensure that your children always have access to the appropriate items that will help protect them from over exposure to UV during outdoor activities and break times - the majority of which are taken at the hottest times of the day, when UV penetration is at its strongest.

Sun hats should be either legionnaire or broad brimmed, bucket style hats that shade the face, neck and ears. Sunscreen should have a minimum sun protection factor (SPF) 30 with minimum 4 star UVA protection. Sunscreen will be applied by the children before extended periods of time outdoors such as lunch breaks when UV penetration is at its peak. Both these items should be labelled with your child's name and class and kept in school bags or trays.

Mrs Williams Leaving

Mrs Williams leaves her position as School Administrator today. It is sad to see her leave as she was a very well-liked and much respected member of our team. In assembly we presented her with leaving gifts and cards and wished her all the very best for the future.

Next month her replacement will be starting at our school. Emma Jefford will be our new school administrator, joining our Bursar, Mrs Whitehead, in the office.

Dates

Mon Apr 11	Start Back
W.C. 9 May	SATS Week
WC 16 May	Test Week 5
Sat 21 May	Y3 to Lea Green
Thu 26 May	11.00am Year 5 Assembly at Woodlands Church
Fri 27 May	Break Up
Mon Jun 6	Start Back (Clubs Start for 6 weeks)
Wed 15 Jun	Staff Governor Meeting
Fri 17 Jun	INSET Day
WC 27 Jun	Year 6 to PGL
Mon 4 Jul	New Y3 Induction Eve
Tue 5 Jul	Common Transfer Day
WC 4 Jul	Test Week 6
Thu 7 Jul	9.30am Sports Day (reserve Jul 8)
Wed 13 Jul	2.00pm Summer Musical Concert – Please note this date has changed from June
Tue 19 Jul	Reports Out
Wed 20 Jul	Last Swimming lesson for Year 4
Wed 20 Jul	6.30pm Y6 Leavers' Production
Fri 21 Jul	6.00-7.30pm Y6 Leavers' BBQ and Disco
Mon 25 Jul	Parents Evening – Drop Ins
Tue 26 Jul	End of Year

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