



# PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Thursday 17th December 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had record numbers of parents and grandparents come and watch the Christmas production 'Ebenezer' last week – well over 700 people watched the shows. I received many positive comments about the play. I thought the play was superb; the way the children all learned their parts and the confidence they displayed on stage was great. Well done to all the children and staff who worked hard to put on the play and thanks to all the parents who helped with costumes and props.

### **PTFA Christmas Fair and Disco**

The PTFA Christmas Discos, held last month, were very well supported and everyone attending had a great time. The PTFA Christmas Fair was held in school on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December and was a great success, too. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported the event – it went brilliantly again this year. The hot dogs and mulled wine went down especially well! I would like to thank the PTFA for all their hard work behind the scenes preparing for, and putting on, the fair – your efforts are much appreciated. I would also like to thank all the parents who supported the fair by providing your kind gifts. The money raised will go towards more ICT equipment for the children.

### **Fundraising and the Year 6 Charity Fair**

There have been a number of events this year where parents and children have raised money and collected goods for charity. Thank you to everyone for supporting the Lions' Charity, Children in Need (which raised £310) and the Poppy Appeal (£277). The president of the Derby Lions Club, Clive Stewart, sent the children a certificate of thanks – the certificate is now on the school noticeboard – please have a look.

On the last day of this term, December 18<sup>th</sup>, the Year 6 children will be holding their annual charity fair. This has become something of a tradition in school. Year 6 have been working hard making crafts, cakes, sweets and preparing games for the rest of the school. Each class in Years 3, 4 and 5 will have the opportunity to buy small gifts, refreshments and play some of the games. We have asked your children to bring in some small change that they can spend at the fair up to a maximum of £3. All the proceeds will be going to a charity of the Year 6's choosing. If your child would like to come dressed in non-school uniform, please send in 50p, which will be donated to Save the Children.

### **School Choir**

Mrs Hindmarch and the school choir have had a very busy Christmas period and have performed in numerous events. Well done to the school choir for their singing at St Nicholas' Church, Woodlands Church, The Silk Mill and Derby Cathedral. It is clear they love singing and that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It is equally clear, from the comments and emails of people who listened to them sing, that they performed brilliantly and were excellent representatives of the school. Well done to you all.

### **New Assessment Procedure**

Last half term I sent out a leaflet explaining the new assessment procedures which replace the old procedures that were based on National Curriculum levels. The leaflet is still available on the school website. At the end of every full term now teachers will be making a judgement on every child's learning for the whole of the term. Teachers will use the information they have gathered from the two test weeks and their day-to-day knowledge of how each child has been performing in their lessons to make a 'summative judgement'. The summative judgement will be an age and stage. For example, in Year 3 a teacher may make a summative judgement at the end of the autumn term that a child is working at **Year 3 Developing (Y3D)**. This means that for this term this child is currently working slightly below the age expected standard which is Year 3 Secure (Y3S). The summative assessment would tell parents and teachers three important things: 1. The age and stage a child has been working at during the over the term. 2. The minimum expectation for what the child should achieve at the end of the year; and most important, 3. What areas of learning the child needs to develop to be working securely at age expected standards. In the spring parents' evening teachers will be sharing their latest assessment information with parents.

### **Before and After School**

Earlier in the year we asked for parents to let us know if they would be interested in the school setting up a walking bus. There were a very low number of responses. In total there were only 17 families from the infants' school and our school combined who were interested in using the walking bus. It was decided, then, that the walking bus would not be cost effective nor would it have the intended impact on the parking situation on the roads around school so it will not be introduced. The parking situation outside school at the start and end of the day is still a real concern. I had a parent contact me telling me that a car had bumped her leg on Woodlands Road as the driver pulled away from the kerb. This near miss could have been a lot worse in many ways. Please park safely and carefully and considerately for local residents. Try to park away from school to reduce congestion on the roads immediately around school.

***Portway Junior School, alongside Derby City Council, is committed to promoting equal opportunities, valuing diversity and tackling social exclusion in everything it does. Our aim is equality for everyone who lives, works and visits our school. Please contact the school, in the first instance, if you have any questions or concerns about school.***

For safety reasons please also do not use the staff car park either before school or when school finishes. Thanks for your help.

### **Dinners and Dinner Money**

Dinner money for next half term (30 days) is £64.50. Our preferred method of payment is online; however, if you would like to pay by cash or cheque, these can be sent via your child to their class teacher. Please make cheques payable to **Derby City Council**. Dinner money per day is £2.15, therefore £10.75 per week. Dinner money must be paid for in advance, i.e. on a Monday for that week or termly if opting for the flexible arrangement. **Please note:** If we do not receive dinner money for two consecutive weeks, we cannot provide your child with a meal. You can pay online at your own convenience at any time – you can do this by logging in at [www.schoolmoney.co.uk](http://www.schoolmoney.co.uk) and going to the 'Shop' area in the top right hand corner of the screen. You will have the option of paying for single days, full weeks or a lump sum for the half term, and you can select any combination of these to make up the amount that you wish to pay for your child's meals. If you have any difficulty paying online, please contact the office and we will be glad to help.

### **In the Event of Snow**

We will continue to do everything we can to ensure the school stays open in the event of snowy weather. Unfortunately the decision to remain open or to close is best made early in the morning and a number of factors have to be considered; the most important being the health and safety of children and adults in school. If, in extreme conditions, we have to make the difficult decision to close the school we will try to give you as much notice as possible. We will inform you of any school closure by sending out a text and by informing Radio Derby and Capital FM, who will then broadcast the information. We will also put a message on the school website in the 'Latest News' area as soon as a decision is reached.

### **Portway Gymnasts Achieve Best Result Ever!**

Miss Briggs has run her gymnastics club for a number of years now and it has been great to see this year's dedicated team practising early in the morning getting ready for the Derby City Primary Schools' Competition. Over the years the school has done very well and this year did even better! The school entered three teams; one team won Silver and another won Gold and were city champions for 2015. There was an individual competition, too, and Evie Shepherd won Gold! Without doubt, the best gymnastics results we have ever had!

### **Two Midday Vacancies**

Due to two of our midday supervisors finding other jobs, we currently have 2 posts vacant in school. One post is for 5 days a week. The other is for 2 days per week; Wednesday and Thursday. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in applying for either position please either download an application pack from the Derby City Council online vacancies, web pages or call into school to have an informal chat and pick up the application documents from here.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr J Pass  
Headteacher

### **Dates**

Mon 4 Jan	Start Back
Mon 18 Jan	Boosters Start for Y6
WC 1 Feb	Test Week
Thurs 11 Feb	PTFA Film Night
Fri 12 Feb	Break Up
Mon 22 Feb	Start Back ( <b>Clubs Start for 5 Weeks</b> )
Thu 25 Feb	Swimming Lessons restart for Year 4
WC 29 Feb	Themed Week
Thu 10 Mar	Governor visit in the afternoon
Fri 11 Mar	INSET Day 4
Thur 17 Mar	PTFA Disco
WC 14 Mar	Test Week 4
22 & 23 Mar	Parents' Evenings
Thu 24 Mar	11.00am Year 3 Easter Assembly
Thu 24 Mar	Break Up

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