



PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

Robincroft Road, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2GL

Telephone: (01332) 550113

E-Mail – admin@portwayj.derby.sch.uk

Website: www.portwayjunior.com

February 5th 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are well into the spring term now and everyone in school is working hard. This week the first letter home for reaching 150 team points was awarded and a number of children earned their gold or platinum awards. Diamond are leading the way in the team point competition this term with Emerald in second place. Last term's winners, Ruby, are not far behind, either in third. We are still only at the half way point in the term and with hard work and determination, any team could still win.

Parents' Evenings

Please note these will take place on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd of March. A letter will be emailed home after half term which will enable you to make an appointment for Parents' Evening.

Spring Term Clubs Start

Clubs start after half term, the week beginning Monday February 22nd, and will continue until week commencing Monday 18th April. You will have been contacted by email or text confirming places. Thank you to all the staff, parents, governors and members of the local community who run clubs which add so much to the children's enjoyment of school. Please ensure your child is aware of the arrangements for getting home. The teaching staff cannot take responsibility for the children after the finishing time of the club. It is essential that if your child is not able to attend an after school club that a note is sent into the club leader, or please telephone the school office to let us know. Each club will have an official register so it is paramount that we know if your child isn't going to attend on a particular day.

Year 6 Football – Finalists!

Well done to all the Year 6 boys who were excellent ambassadors for our school at last month's JJB football tournament. Mr. Proud told me they played some good football, were great team players and their behaviour was exemplary. They qualified from their group and made it all the way to the final where they were unlucky to lose 2-1 to Dale Primary. In all they played 7 matches and won 6 – a great record! Well played, boys.

PTFA Events

Thank you to all the members of our dedicated PTFA for everything you do for the children at our school. Next week they will be holding another film night and I know the children will really enjoy themselves. Next term there are a few things to look forward to: Thursday 3rd March, the PTFA will be selling Mothers' Day gifts (prices to be confirmed after half term); Thursday, 17th March, PTFA Discos: Y3 & 4 - 6:00pm-7:00pm. Y5 & 6 - 7:15pm-8:15pm.

5 Week Handwriting Initiative

The 5 week handwriting project is nearing its end and it does appear to have had a positive impact on pupils' handwriting and presentation skills. Towards the end of next week the teachers in school will identify a pupil in each year group who they consider to have made extra-special progress in developing their handwriting. One child in each year group will win a £20 Intu voucher for their efforts. I, and the other members of the Senior Leadership Team, regularly monitor standards achieved in pupils' books; I will give you a more comprehensive summary of the impact of the handwriting project in a future newsletter.

Parking Around School

For the safety of all our children can I again ask parents to park carefully outside the school at the beginning and end of the school day. I have been contacted by a resident on Woodlands Road who has told me about being blocked in by cars and also about damage to their car which was parked on the road.

Please park considerately around local residents' driveways and ensure they can get in and out of their drives. Please do not park on the yellow school markings and keep the area directly outside school clear of cars to enable children to cross the road safely. Please do not drop children off in the school car park in the mornings. Whenever you can, walk to school or use the car park at the Woodlands public house and 'park and stride'. Thanks for your help.

Absence Procedures

Just a reminder of procedures if your child is absent from school. Could you please contact school before 9.30 am on the day of absence? There are several ways you can do this. You can ring and leave a message on the answering machine, please speak clearly, by email to admin@portwayj.derby.sch.uk or by sending a text message to +447786208889. Please provide the reason for absence, the child's name, class and your name. As a safeguarding procedure, if we don't hear anything, we will contact you to confirm the absence. If you

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.

know the absence will last longer than one day please tell us. Otherwise, we will check the following day(s) if your child remains absent from school. If your child has diarrhoea and or sickness bug, the guidelines are 48 hours after the last episode before returning to school.

Rolls Royce Design Technology Project

Next week, the week commencing 8th February, there will be a six week project starting in school. Rolls Royce will be working with a group of our pupils to design and make a buggy. The children will be supported by engineers from Rolls Royce and one of the models made will be the school's entry into a city-wide design technology competition. I will give you an update on how the project develops in a future newsletter.

Access to School

It is likely at some point you will want to nip into school to look for lost property or collect forgotten homework, etc. On these occasions please enter school through the main front door. The office staff will then let you into school. In this way we can have a system in school where all adult access to school is controlled and we can account for everyone in the school building. Thanks for your help with this.

Proposal for a Derby Cathedral School

I have been informed that Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT) and Derby Cathedral are developing an application for a new secondary school (for 11 – 19 year olds), which would be established in the centre of the city. Derby Cathedral School plans to open September 2017 in Derby. If interested, please kindly complete a short online form: www.derbycathedralschool.org.uk/register/

Promotional Schemes

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. This year, every time you shop in store, you'll receive your vouchers on one piece of paper. You'll still get one voucher for every £10 spent in store. So if you spend £40 you'll get 4 vouchers, but what's new is they'll all be printed on one piece of paper. These vouchers are white and smaller in size, with no photograph on them. The collection box is next to the First Aid room where they can be dropped off. Please send your vouchers; we will make very good use of them!

Dinners and Dinner Money

Dinner Money for the next half term (23 days) is £49.45; £2.15 per day, so therefore £10.75 each week. Dinner money must be paid in advance on Monday, or termly if you choose. Our preferred method of payment is via our online system, School Money. If paying by cheque please make payable to Derby City Council. Please note if we do not receive dinner money for two consecutive weeks, we cannot provide your child with a meal.

Paperless Communication and the Notice Board

We hope that you are finding our paperless communication beneficial. All letters sent home via email will be displayed on the school notice board for 1 week. Letters can also be found on our website.

www.portwayjunior.com

Fundraising

We would like to thank you all for supporting the school fundraising efforts. Together we have raised £989 from the sale of the school calendars, summer and winter hanging baskets, Christmas DVDs and recycling clothes. The money raised will be put to good use on Eco projects in school. We continue to add to the new reading scheme purchased by the PTFA last year with the donations paid to us by TheGivingMachine. Please remember that if you shop online, you can make a free cash donation with every purchase if you join www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk. It's really simple, you enter your favourite shops via TheGivingMachine and a percentage of your shopping bill is converted into a cash donation for the school, at no extra cost to you. With over 600 stores participating including Amazon, John Lewis and Tesco, you can really help make a difference.

Dates

Mon 22 Feb	Start Back (Clubs Start for 6 Weeks)
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 Mar 14	Test Week 4
Mar 22 & 23	Parents' Evenings
Thu 24 Mar	11.00am Year 3 Easter Assembly
Thu 24 Mar	Break Up

Jason Pass
Headteacher

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