



## Portway Junior School Spring 2 Newsletter 2017

Welcome to our Spring 2 newsletter. We are all very pleased that the strikes have been suspended and that we can now resume the full school week for all year groups. We will keep you updated on the conclusion to the Union ballot with regards the offer that has been made by Derby City Council. This is expected in the next couple of weeks. As we look forward to making Portway Juniors the outstanding and caring school I know it can be. We have tried to ensure that the children have had lots of exciting learning experiences to maximise their enthusiasm and motivation in school and support their overall development.

After the Easter break I intend to send two newsletters to parents during each half term; one at the beginning giving information about what is happening in school and one at the end of the half term to give further information about the learning and events that have happened in school. To ensure that school resources are used effectively, newsletters will be sent to parents via email and will of course be available on the school website - [www.portwayj.derby.sch.uk](http://www.portwayj.derby.sch.uk) If you have previously requested a paper copy of the newsletter or wish to have a paper copy this can be accommodated.

As many of you are aware the school has a new website, this is constantly being updated and new items added. As the website develops and grows, I hope as parents, you will find it to be a useful resource for supporting your children's learning. Please look at our School Vision, Aims and Ethos (About us tab). If you have any suggestions for the school website or ways in which we can work with parents more effectively and efficiently to support children's learning please put these in writing and pop them into our reception post box.

Thank you for your continued support.

Karen Puszczynska

### EVENTS IN SCHOOL THIS HALF TERM:



On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we celebrated World Book Day.

The children and staff came to school dressed as their favourite book characters.

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**READATHON:** We had an amazing response, raising over £600! Well done everyone.



## British Values Enrichment Week. 27<sup>th</sup> Feb - 3<sup>rd</sup> March

During this week the teachers planned a range of learning experiences that enabled the children to understand how art is used to express modern British values. Please look at our display as you come into school for Parents' Evening.

## Swimming

Year 4 swimming lessons have resumed as normal.

This year for Red Nose Day the children wore some very funky outfits and learned about the where their money goes. The donations raised a wonderful £ 314.68 for Comic Relief. This is a great response for a very worthwhile charity.



24 March 2017

## TRIPS

This half term we have had trips for Year 6 to Longendale Environmental Centre and Year 5 to Mam Tor both as part of their whole class topics. The children all behaved impeccably and everyone had a great time, even the adults. The children will be using their experiences to enhance their class-based learning.

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### **OTHER NEWS...**

#### **GOVERNING BOARD UPDATE**

At the half-way point of the school year, we as the governors have been busy fulfilling all our legal duties and responsibilities, acting as a 'critical friend' to the headteacher and senior leadership team - both supporting and holding the school to account. Our biggest need at the moment is for more governors. We have vacancies for two parent governors and one co-opted governor from the wider community. If you are supportive of the school and want to see it flourish then the board can use your input. If you would like more information about what it would involve or are interested, then please contact the chair of governors or headteacher via school.

As well as all the many regular responsibilities we have to carry out, we are trying to assist the school in the midst of the ongoing industrial dispute between the City Council (not Portway Juniors) and Unison regarding school support staff pay and conditions. We have made strong representations to both sides to enter into negotiations again. Be assured that we are doing everything possible to minimise the effect the dispute is having on your children and their education, but it is having an impact within school.

At our latest meeting we also received some training on how to interpret school progress and attainment data to ensure we are keeping the school to account. As ever, governors can be contacted via the school office.

Phil Butcher - Vice-chair.

#### **SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND PUPIL WELFARE**

If you have any concerns about the safeguarding or welfare of any children at Portway Junior School please contact one of the Designated Safeguarding staff who are Mrs Puszczynska, Mrs Marks and Mrs O'Farrell.

The school notice board contains regularly updated information regarding pupil welfare.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Parents' Evening - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Parents' Evening will take place in the school hall and the Book Fair will be in Class 3W along with an opportunity to order uniform through Children's Choice. We have collected a mountain of lost property which will be available to collect at Parents' evening. After which time it will go to a charity collection bank.

#### Year 3 Easter Assembly - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 11am

All the Y3 children have been practising their assembly. It will be held at Woodlands Church at 11am. Parents of Y3 children are invited to join us for this special assembly.

#### PTFA Disco - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April

The children are invited to a fun-filled evening. Admission is £3.50, which includes a bag of sweets and a drink. Year 3/Year 4 will be 6pm-7pm and Year 5/Year 6 7:15-8:15. Children will be receiving a letter this week.

### DIARY DATES

Mar 28 & 29	Parents' Evenings
Tues Apr 4	Y3 Lea Green Parents meeting – 5pm
Thu Apr 6	Year 3 Easter Assembly – 11am PTFA disco – Year 3 and Year 4 6pm – 7pm Year 5 and Year 6 7:15 – 8:15
Fri Apr 7	Break Up
Mon Apr 24	Start Back
Wed Apr 26	Full Governors meeting
W.C. 8 May	SATS Week
Wed 10 May	Southwell Workhouse visit for Year 5
Thu 11 May	Southwell Workhouse visit for Year 5
Sat/Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> May	Y3 to Lea Green
Thu 25 May	Year 5 Assembly at Woodlands Church
Fri 26 May	Break Up
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Back to school

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