



Portway Junior School

Summer 1 Newsletter 2017

As we enter the Summer term we have a very busy time planned. Year 6 will be completing their Statutory Assessments (SATs) and we wish them every success. We will be starting the transition programme for our new Year 3 intake and our current Year 6s. There are planned trips to support learning and the Year 3 residential, which both staff and children are excited about.

We have now added to the website information about how we support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children in Portway Juniors and how we encourage a deeper understanding of modern British Values.

This term, we are encouraging the children to take responsibility for their own belongings and to make sure they have everything they need for school such as; water bottle, lunch box (if needed), reading book and home-school diary and homework. Please help us to help the children to become more independent as this supports their long-term learning skills and attitudes.

Kind regards, Karen Puszczynska

EVENTS IN SCHOOL THIS HALF TERM:



Thursday 18th May

Outdoor Classroom Day is part of a GLOBAL campaign to celebrate and inspire outdoor play and learning at schools! Learning outdoors creates lasting memories, helps build a greater awareness of the environment, provides more opportunities to think independently and gets children feeling challenged and excited by learning. Children are more active when they are outdoors; it is essential for their healthy development and enjoyment of childhood. To this end this year we are taking part in this exciting event.

LOST PROPERTY

Any unnamed will be put into reception for collection on Friday afternoons.

Robincroft Road, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2GL Telephone: (01332) 550113
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OTHER NEWS...

GOVERNING BOARD UPDATE

As the school governing board we are so pleased that the industrial dispute is suspended and that this term school is back to normal. Thank you to all of you who encouraged us during the difficulties of last term.

This week we had our 4th full board meeting of the school year during which we approved the school budget for 2017-18. As you may know from the news, there are real pressures on school budgets and we are pleased to have a balanced budget for the forthcoming year.

We still have **2 vacancies for parent governors**. It is a really important role in both supporting the school's progress and holding it to account. Please do consider if this is a role you could undertake. We offer full training and you'd join a team that works very well together. Contact the chair of governors Claire Brown at c.brown@portwayj.sch.uk for more information.

Phil Butcher - Vice Chair of Governors.

WORKING TOGETHER... Parents' evening questionnaire.

Thank you to all of you that responded to our questionnaire. The findings were as follows:

1. **I/we prefer parents' evening in the hall.** Over a third of parents who responded agreed and over half were neutral to these changes. 14% disagreed.
2. **The information given was helpful.** Over 90% of responses agreed with 7% disagreeing.
3. **I think it is a good idea for my children to attend.** This produced a mix response with approximately one third of responses falling into each category of agree, neutral and disagree.

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Following this questionnaire and your comments we will continue to look at ways of improving parents' evening by:

- ✓ Giving a broader overview of the children and not just maths and literacy.
- ✓ Retaining the option for pupils to be included in parents' evening, if parents so choose.
- ✓ To ensure the Spring parents' evening is held during Spring term 1.
- ✓ To look at ways of holding parents' evening efficiently but without too much distracting noise.

Thank you again for your comments and responses as this enables us to support all the children and families and improve how we communicate.



TEAM POINTS: This term we will be focussing on awarding Team Points for 'Being the best we can be'. These can be awarded during lessons, in extra-curricular clubs at break times and around school.

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.

During assemblies and PHSE lessons pupils will continue to be taught about; being a good friend, staying safe and who to talk to if they are worried.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Year 5 Assembly - Thursday 25th May, 11am

All the Y5 children are looking forward to sharing their assembly with their families. It will be held at Woodlands Church at 11am. Parents/carers of Y5 children are invited to join us for this special assembly.

History Week - W/c 5th June The school will be transformed into a giant Time Travelling Machine.

We will immerse ourselves in the past and look at the 20th Century 'Through the decades...' We will explore developments in technology, science, music, popular culture and the world at large. To end the week the children will be able to come to school dressed in clothes from their favourite decade. As this will take place in the first week back after the holidays we are letting you know now so that if you have any artefacts, stories or feel you can help out as you have specialist knowledge you can speak to your child's class teacher.



INSET DAYS 2017/18

Please find below the INSET days. We have worked with Portway Infant School to ensure these coincide with each other.

#1 Wed 6th September 2017

#2 Mon 13th November 2017

#3 Wed 3rd January 2018

#4 Friday 9th March 2018

#5 Friday 25th May 2018

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DIARY DATES

Summer 1

Mon Apr 24	Start Back
W/c 8 May	SATS Week
Wed 10 May	Southwell visit for Year 5
Thu 11 May	Southwell visit for Year 5
20-21 May	Y3 to Lea Green
Thu 25 May	Year 5 Assembly at Woodlands Church
Fri 26 May	Break Up

Summer 2

Mon 5 Jun	Start Back (Clubs Start for 6 weeks)
W/C 5 Jun	HISTORY WEEK
Fri 9 Jun	History dress-up day
Thurs 15 Jun	Kenya Day – Details to follow
Fri 16 Jun	Charity Fair for Kenya Appeal
Mon 12 Jun	Inset Day
Wed 14 Jun	Staff Governor Meeting 4pm
Thurs 15 Jun	Father's Day gift sale (PTFA)
W/C 19 Jun	Year 6 to PGL
W/C 19 Jun	Outdoor learning week
Tues 20 Jun	New intake 'Come dine with me.'
Mon 3 Jul	New Y3 Induction Eve
Tue 4 Jul	Common Transfer Day
Thu 6 Jul	Sports Day (reserve Jul 7)
Fri 7 Jul	Summer Fair
Tues 11 Jul	Y6 Fire safety talks
Wed 12 Jul	Summer Musical Concert
Tue 18 Jul	Reports Out
Wed 19 Jul	Parents' Drop-ins
Wed 19 Jul	Last Swimming lesson for Year 4
Thurs 20 Jul	6:30pm Y6 Leavers' Production
Mon 24 Jul	6:00-7:30pm Y6 Leavers' BBQ and Disco
Wed 26 Jul	End of Year
Wed 6 Sept	INSET #1
Thurs 7 Sept	2017/18 School Year Begins

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