



Junior News

THE PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to report that the first full week of term has passed very smoothly, so smoothly in fact that you would not have known that the children and staff were all facing fresh challenges and new experiences. Certainly, I have been seeing many bouncy children and very many happy faces around the school, hopefully this will be the case throughout the year. Inevitably, one or two of the new pupils have needed special support and re-assurance from time to time; with so many new experiences, this is understandable and I hope all anxieties have been identified and the children helped accordingly. Should, however, your child be at all worried about anything, please do let their form teacher know right away, just in case they are not yet aware of this concern. The start of term Parents' Information Evenings present the ideal opportunity for staff to find out how well the children are settling into their new classes and it has been good to meet the parents of pupils in Years 1 to 4 this week. We look forward to the two Information Evenings that are taking place next week for parents of children in the Reception Year and Years 5 and 6. I certainly value these occasions for giving me the opportunity to talk to as many parents as possible, in particular it is good to get to know all new parents and to see those parents who, because of work commitments or the fact that children are in the older year groups, do not have the same opportunity to visit the school on a regular basis.

Because this weekly Newsletter goes to print by 1.00pm on a Thursday, the news reflects events that have happened from Thursday to Thursday so Friday's news can be a week old! Last Friday we held a special start of year service in the Cathedral when all the children from Year 1 to Year 6 joined together to welcome the new school year and to value all the opportunities that the year ahead will be bringing us. With a strong message of making the most of a fresh start in order to do our best in everything we do and to make the most of every opportunity that comes our way, the service conveyed an excellent message with which to herald in the new year. Across the year we hold regular Cathedral services, when the whole school community: parents, grandparents, family friends and relatives, staff and pupils can gather together, as a very special family, to express our gratitude, and to ask for support and guidance during the many different experiences of our lives. Later this term, we will be holding a very special service to celebrate the life of Dolores Mulley, the 'lollipop' lady who has been a much valued member of the whole school community in her role as crossing lady outside the Upper Junior School site for over twenty years. My first contact with Dolores was over twenty years ago when my first two sons attended the Lower School of PGS, then, following a period of absence, I was delighted when she returned to the post when the Junior School came into existence nearly ten years ago. At that time there were no zebra crossings and, because of the changes in the structure of the school, pupil movement between sites was greatly increased. In addition to this, the dining space in those days was very small, so children from the Upper Junior School site only came across to the main site at lunch times if they required a cooked lunch. Dolores took it upon herself, like a good shepherd, to count the children over the crossing on their way and then count them all back again after they had eaten, making sure all pupils were safe and well. Sadly, following a short illness, Dolores died at the end of August. Over the many years Dolores established very special relationships with the children and their families watching them grow and develop, caring about them all. We miss her greatly and wish to celebrate her life and the contribution

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she has made to the school in the Cathedral later this term. I hope many parents will be able to join us on this very special occasion.

Portsmouth Grammar School has enjoyed a close relationship with the Cathedral ever since the school was founded in 1732, indeed there is a stained glass window in the Cathedral dedicated to the school's founder, William Smith. At the commencement of each new school year the school holds a special Evensong in the Cathedral to celebrate the relationship. This year the date is Tuesday 15th September at 6.00pm when all parents would be most welcome to attend.

There are many occasions and all sorts of ways in which over the year, the school welcomes parents to become involved with the life of the school. If you enjoy singing you may wish to take the opportunity to join the Parent/Staff choir which performs in various concerts across the year. The choir rehearses in the Music School Rotunda each Monday commencing at 6.00pm, the Senior School's Director of Music, Andrew Cleary, will be delighted to welcome new members; there is no audition! The first occasion on which the choir will be singing this school year is in the Remembrance Concert when they will be performing the Faure Requiem.

Parents are also most warmly invited to a very different musical event—the JSA Barn Dance and Barbecue—which takes place on Sunday 20th September from 2.00-5.00pm in the Small Quad. An excellent opportunity for family entertainment, the Barn Dance is always a very enjoyable event—do come along!

The school's Combined Cadet Force would also like to extend an invitation to you; to attend the CCF Auction of Promises on Friday 6th November in the David Bawtree Building, commencing at 7.30pm. The CCF cadets are hoping that the event will raise funds for a permanent Rock Climbing Wall for the use of pupils from Year 3 upwards. If you are unable to attend but can offer an auction lot, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Further details are on the back page of this Newsletter.

Yesterday Year 5 pupils had an excellent educational experience in the Historic Dockyard when they attended a workshop on 'Explorers'. It was a very informative and inspirational experience for the children providing them with an excellent introduction to this term's History topic. A report on the trip will be included in next week's Newsletter.

This week has also seen a super start to our netball season with some excellent wins in the U11 and U10 matches against St Hilary's on Wednesday afternoon. Well done girls!

Hopefully the lovely weather will still be with us on Saturday morning thus encouraging as many Key Stage Two pupils as possible to attend the Games session at Hilsea playing fields (9.30-10.45am) - I look forward to seeing you there!

I wish you a very happy and restful weekend.

Philippa Foster

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INFORMATION AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

STRING PLAYERS

Vivaldi Orchestra welcomes all Year 4 string players and rehearses on Wednesdays after school until 4.45pm. Rehearsals take place in the New Hall and pupils should meet Mrs Ingamells in the basement of O Block after school. Corelli Orchestra is open to all Year 5 and 6 string players and meets on Tuesdays after school until 4.45pm in the Upper Junior School Hall. Both Orchestras start next week.

JSA MEETING

The JSA meeting will now be on Tuesday 22nd September at 7.30pm in the Willis Room.

PARKING - JUNIOR SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENINGS— Mon 14 Sep and Thu 17 Sep

Parents will be able to access parking through either the High Street or Museum Road for these evenings.

JUNIOR SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

These will be over Mon 14 Sep, Tue 15 Sep and Wed 16 Sep as detailed in the Red Book. Please could all KS1 pupils have their red jumpers in school.

AFTERNOON GAMES—IMPORTANT REMINDER

The timetable has been adjusted to allow the afternoon Games session to begin directly after lunch thus creating sufficient time for us to RETURN ALL PUPILS FROM HILSEA for collection at school at the normal time of 3.35pm.

JSA BARN DANCE

Come along and have fun at the JSA Barn Dance on Sunday 20 September 2009 from 2pm - 5pm. Family Fun, dancing, snacks, Bar, Raffle. Meet other parents new and old. Support the JSA. Tickets £6.00 each (available from Junior School Office).

PUPILS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to **Michaela Clancy** (6P) who has just gained her red badge at Portsdown Archery Club, which is the equivalent of second class archery standard.

Well done to **Joshua Chipper** 2M who managed to climb unaided, up Ranger Path on Mount Snowdon.



Congratulations to **Priya Badial** (2Y) who took part in the Race for Life on Sun 19th July 2009. Along with Mums from the school they collectively raised £1,475.

Well done to **Emily Nelson** (2O) for taking part in the National Summer Reading Challenge and gaining a Quest Seekers Certificate.

Congratulations to **Louis Crocker** (2M) and **Tamara Crocker** (1M) who have completed the National Summer Reading Challenge over the

BADGES

GREEN BADGE

Congratulations to **Greg Porter** for gaining his Green Badge.

MENU WEEK 3



HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

The following Head Teacher's Awards were awarded: **Joseph Gowers** and **Harvey Hamilton** for writing three excellent stories over the summer holidays, **Samuel Tucker** for making a special contribution to the Brass Band trip to Italy, **2Y** for being exceptionally well behaved and for setting a wonderful standard of behaviour

ROLL OF HONOUR KS2

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week:

English: Samuel Tucker

Maths: Isabel Boden, Molly Harfield, Naeve Molho, Raunak Mukherjee, Jak Waktare, Holly White

Reading: Raunak Mukherjee

KS1 HONOURS

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week: Frederick Ansell-Virco, Kirav Behari, Claudia Bishop, Emily Clark, Tamara Crocker, Jon Garcia Tarifa, William Hartridge, Adam Heyes, Harvey Hill, George Hodell, Ava Hooper, Charlotte Howard, Louie Howe-Walsh, Alex Ly, Asef Mahir, Nathan McBride, Meha Patel, Isaac Platts, Lauren-Lilly Prentice, Tom Shahrn, Noah Stocker

PARENT HELPERS: All parent helpers need to have current CRB clearance through the School.

Name: (please print)

Child's name(s)

I can help regularly* Occasionally* Telephone number*

* please delete as applicable.

All forms to be returned to Mrs E. Day via the Junior School Office or to Mrs. Kent on the Upper Junior School site.
Please use the black post boxes outside the Junior School Office.



SPORT

SATURDAY SPORT

HILSEA GAMES

There will be practices for **KEYSTAGE 2 PUPILS** at Hilsea this Saturday from 0930 to 1045. Saturday morning games are voluntary. There will be cricket for the boys and rounders for the girls as well as tennis for both boys and girls if numbers permit.

NO FIXTURES

WEEKDAY SPORT

POLITE NOTICE

There are occasions when weekday games sessions have to be cancelled even when the weather would appear to be fine. We strongly recommend that you make it a weekly habit to telephone the games line number on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The date is always stated on these occasions to ensure that there can be no misunderstanding. It would be appreciated if you could avoid ringing the Junior School Office for this information to leave the office free to deal with other communications.

FIXTURES—Wednesday 16 September—1430

U11A Netball v Barrow Hills Training Afternoon (away)
U10A & B Netball v Barrow Hills (away)

Thursday 17 September—1430

U9A & B Netball v Amesbury (home)

ANSWERPHONE SYSTEM

In the event of uncertainty due to inclement weather please check above sports arrangements using the answerphone system. Please phone the School on Saturday morning from 8.00 a.m. On weekday games days please phone from 1.30 p.m. **The number to ring is 02392 364266.** In **EMERGENCIES ONLY** please ring the following number: **07738 958314**

CCF Auction of Promises
Friday 6th November 19:30
David Bawtree Building

Please help the cadets in their quest to raise funds for a permanent Rock Wall facility by pledging an auction promise!
Amazing auction lots already include:

- Flight for 5 in world's oldest flying de Havilland Rapide bi-plane (1934)
- Signed Sports memorabilia and lots more

THE CCF AUCTION NEEDS YOU!

Pledge your promise of an opportunity, object or offer of service today!

Email to: development@pgs.org.uk or contact

Alasdair Akass, Development Director,
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