



The Portsmouth Grammar School Nursery,
High Street,
Portsmouth,
PO1 2LN
www.pgs.org.uk
Head of Nursery
Mrs. L. Johnson
9 September 2011

Dear Parents,

I would like to start by welcoming all the new children and their families. Also, to familiar faces, welcome back after the summer break.

A celebration has happened during the summer as Miss O'Mara was married and is now Mrs Waajen. She will return to nursery next week. Congratulation to Jodie and Karl.

The children in the nursery use a lot of collage bits and we love to allow them free access to these resources. This is where you can help – please collect and bring in bits of fur, ribbon, net and shiny paper.

Activity Trays in the Parents Room. There are 6 activity trays for use with your children when you use this room. If you would like to borrow one of the boxes to use at home, please sign it out using the Activity Folder by the sink. In the folder there are also some observation stickers – please kindly use these to record any learning and give the sticker to your child's 'Key person' for their 'Learning Journey'. I hope you enjoy using the activities either at home or in the Parents Room. Please give us some feedback about this development. Thank you.

What to do about illness? If your child becomes unwell, please check the list on the 'Parents notice board' for the length of time they must be away from nursery. For any occurrence of sickness the minimum length of absence from nursery must be 48 hours to prevent the spread of infection.

Home/School Link Book

Every child should have a Home/School Link Book. Please use it to record anything that might help us to care for your child more effectively e.g. had a bad nights sleep; really enjoyed a trip to the park; is going on holiday at the weekend. In addition, please record any achievements that can be added to your child's profile e.g. noticed numbers on car registration plates; recognised first sound in own name. The Nursery staff will record particular achievements, but will also use the book to let you know about other happenings at nursery e.g. the reason for a change of clothes, dining room messages. If you have put a note in your child's book, please hand the book in at the Reception Desk as you arrive in order for us to read and reply as necessary. This book is only a link book and not a diary – please do not expect daily communication. Thank you.

Policy Folder and Action Plans

The policies and procedures of the Nursery are updated annually, and explain in detail the organisation and standards of care and education you can expect for your child. A copy of these documents is available for you to read in the Reception Area and can be found on the school website www.pgs.org.uk . If you have any queries or concern about these please ask a staff member, who will be only too happy to help.

Nursery School Curriculum

The Statutory Framework and Practice Guidance of the Early Years Foundation Stage are in use in the Nursery. If you would like more details, please ask.

During the school year the Nursery explores six themes – one each half term. Each week I will let you know about the activities for the coming week, ask for help with interest tables, and give suggestions for extension at home. The theme for this half term is 'Home' and we began this week by considering 'My home'.

Next week the focus is 'People in my home'. If you have a family photo, please can you bring it to nursery for us to look at with all the children. Thank you very much.

The 'Sound Table' in the Nursery changes each week. Please look around at home with your child, for something with the initial sound 'a'. Bring the item to school and display on the 'sound table'. All items will be examined in detail during a morning 'group time'. Please label clearly with your child's name so that it can be returned safely at the end of the week.

Thank you very much.

Each week there will be a 'special colour' or 'special shape'. Next week the colour is yellow. Please wear yellow on Thursday 15 September. Thank you.

Important Dates This Term:

Boogie Mites Music Workshops – will visit us each Wednesday morning for the next six weeks commencing on 14 September.

'Parents Welcome Evening' Wednesday 14 September at 7.00 p.m. **All parents are welcome to attend – please make a note of this date in your diary – we would love to see you!** During the evening you will be able to learn about the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' and the way the nursery is organised to observe the progress your child is making, meet the staff, understand a little more about the 'play' environment; and look around the Reception classrooms in PGS Junior School. Refreshments will be available in the dining room during the evening.

JSA meeting Wednesday 21 September

The nursery representative with the Junior School Association is Mrs Elaine Trise. She has two children, the younger is in the nursery. The JSA raise money by organising events across the year. The money is then spent on enhancing the provision for the children in school.

Packed lunch – is needed on Friday 23 September. The school dining room is closed to prepare for Open Morning.

'The Portsmouth Grammar School Open Morning' takes place on Saturday 24 September from 9.30 a.m. -12.30 p.m. The whole school is open for family and friends to visit. The nursery is also open all morning – please bring family and friends to look around. There are so many things happening around the school – it really is worth putting this date in your diary!

Nursery 10 Birthday Party – Friday 30 September from 3.30 – 5 p.m. **This is the most important date for the nursery this term. The mayor will be cutting a celebration cake and the JS band will play 'Happy Birthday'. Please come for tea and cake!**

Harvest Festival for the Nursery will take place on Monday 3 October. Tea and coffee will be available in the JS Hall from 8.30a.m. The children will celebrate by singing to you at 9.30 a.m. family and friends are very welcome.

Parents Forum – Wednesday 12 October at 8.45 a.m. Please come along and give your ideas for the development of the nursery and to organise social events.

Autumn Walk – Ravalin Park – Friday 14 October during the morning. Please sign the list in the reception area if you can help with this walk.

Packed Lunches – are needed during the week commencing 17 October – Nursery is open as usual.
Holiday Club will be open during half term – 24 – 28 October for those attending 45 weeks per year. A number of spaces will be available for term time children – please let Mrs Heyes know if you would like a space as soon as possible. The last date for booking a space is Friday 7 October.

Porchester Castle outing Thursday 3 November. The children will travel by minibus to have a look at Porchester Castle as part of the theme 'Fairy Tales'. If you can help with this trip, please sign on the list in the Reception Area. (There is a wet weather plan for this trip to take place on Thursday 10 November.)

Periodic Progress Reviews – During the weeks commencing 7 November and 14 November. This is a chance for you to chat informally to your child's 'Key Person' about you child's 'Learning Journey'. It also gives you an opportunity to add achievements noticed at home.

Pudsey Bear – Children in Need – Friday 18 November. The theme this year is 'Show your spots, lets raise lots!' The whole school will be raising money for charity on this day!!

Parents / Carers are invited to 'Stay 'n' play. Wednesday 23 November between 8.00 – 10.00 a.m. Parents / Grandparents / friends are invited to join the nursery children playing. This is just an opportunity for you to find out how the nursery is organised. You can arrive and leave at any time during the two hours – just enjoy playing with your child!

Christmas Songs – Dress rehearsal at 9.15 a.m.

Christmas Songs – Tuesday 13 December at 9.30 a.m. in the David Russell Theatre. Refreshments will be available from 8.30 a.m in the Dining Room. The children will dress up and sing Christmas songs for you to enjoy – family and friends very welcome.

Christmas Party – Thursday 15 December 10 a.m. – 11.45 a.m. (Normal opening hours will also operate on this day) Children who do not attend on Thursday are welcome to attend for the duration of the party!

End of term – Thursday 15 December.

Christmas Holiday Care – Friday 16 December – Wednesday 21 December.

Have a very pleasant weekend.

Lois Johnson