

Dear Parents,

I am sitting in my office in a strangely quiet and deserted school having enjoyed a cautious walk through ankle deep, crunchy snow to get here, my objective being to communicate with you all.

I am so sorry that the spring term has got off to such a problematic start and hope very much that you are all safe and well and managing to enjoy some aspects of the snowy weather. I can remember only one time, back in the winter of 1963/4, when the island of Portsea was affected by snow as badly as on this occasion when it was so cold that even the two harbours iced over. However, I think I am reliably informed that this is the first time in living memory that the school has been forced to close (though my 35 year old son informs me that he was sent home early from the Preprep back in the 80's when there was a heavy snow fall!).

It is hoped very much that the School will be able to re-open tomorrow; however, the weather forecast is for continued freezing weather and given the volume of frozen snow and ice on the School site we have continuing concerns about the safe movement of pupils around the school, as well as the safety of travel for pupils and staff between school and home. We will continue to provide updates on the school website and keep you in touch via e mail.

Year 6 pupils are encouraged to make full use of the time available to prepare for this month's 11+ assessment. On their return to school we will ensure that they are all supported in such a way that they will not have been disadvantaged by missing some days of school and are as well prepared as usual for the experience. Those pupils who were due to have their 11+ interviews this week when the school has been closed will have their interviews rescheduled so please do not worry about this.

As you will know, the school is being inspected this term with an initial two day visit taking place next week on Tuesday and Wednesday and a follow up visit four weeks later on February 8th, 9th and 10th. The inspection process is of considerable importance to schools as it provides a very effective process for ensuring that the pupils are receiving the care, support and education they so rightly deserve. The parental questionnaire will provide the inspectors with a very valuable insight into the school and, as such, is regarded as a very important source of evidence. If you have not yet completed the questionnaire by accessing the ISI website as described in the letter emailed to you on Tuesday, I urge you most strongly to do so as I am very keen for the inspectors to be enabled to make as accurate a judgement as to how well the school is performing as possible. I will attach another copy of the explanatory letter to this email.

The school was asked to oversee the pupils completing a pupils' questionnaire during the course of this week; however because of the school's closure, the lead inspector has now requested that we should ask parents to supervise their children in doing this. I attach a letter from the ISI that gives a full explanation of what needs to be done ( please note that the code for accessing the pupils' questionnaire is different from the code for accessing the parental questionnaire ).

For parents' questionnaire please visit <http://surveys.isi.net> and use code ONOB-ZDYL-WVBT For pupils' questionnaire please visit <http://surveys.isi.net> and use code LCFQ-AIKL-QNVI

I must stress that the only assistance that should be given to the pupils when completing the questionnaire is ensuring that they understand what the questions are asking the children and what is meant by them strongly agreeing/agreeing/disagreeing/having no opinion etc., and also that they click on the correct places. I thank you in anticipation for your assistance with this.

On a lighter note, the Headmaster is encouraging pupils to capture as creatively as possible their experience of the snow and winter conditions. I am therefore inviting pupils of all ages to submit a creative response - such as a photograph, drawing, poem or short story - which could be included in a special exhibition on our return to school. Items can be handed in to form teachers when the school reopens, please could the pupil's name be attached.

Hopefully I will see you all tomorrow or Monday at the very latest and that you will not experience any difficulties in travelling to school.

With best wishes,

Pippa Foster

Details re questionnaires for pupils and parents are listed below.

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE  
SEEKING THE VIEWS OF PARENTS**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Inspection of The Portsmouth Grammar Junior School on 12 Jan 2010 to 13 Jan 2010 Your child's school is soon to be inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate as part of the programme of regular inspections required by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The inspection team, which will be led by Mr D. Bunkell, invites all parents to complete a confidential questionnaire as part of the process. The questionnaire is available for you to complete online at <http://surveys.isi.net>. The unique code for your school's inspection is ONOB-ZDYL-WVBT and you will need to enter this to begin. The online questionnaire closes on the Sunday night before the inspection begins to allow the results to be collated, so please complete the questionnaire as soon as possible.

The completed questionnaires provide a valuable source of information for the inspection team and are designed to allow you to make detailed comments for the reporting inspector should you wish. Using the online system ensures that we are able to analyse and process feedback from parents quickly so that inspectors are aware of the parents' views before the inspection begins. If however, you are unable to access the online version then you may request a copy of the questionnaire from the school and return it to the school in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Reporting Inspector.

The school will not see the completed questionnaires or know of any individual responses, though general findings will be shared.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE  
SEEKING THE VIEWS OF PUPILS

Inspection of The Portsmouth Grammar Junior School on 12 Jan 2010 to 13 Jan 2010

Your school will soon be having an inspection, which will be led by Mr D. Bunkell, and the inspectors are interested in hearing your views. If you would like to take part then we ask you to complete a questionnaire so that inspectors know your views before the inspection starts. The school will not see the completed questionnaires. Your answers are private and only the inspectors will read what you have written. They will read all of the questionnaires and use the information to help them plan their work in your school.

If you wish to complete the questionnaire then go to <http://surveys.isi.net> . You will be asked to enter the code for your school, which is LCFQ-AIKL-QNVI, and then you can begin. The questionnaire closes on the Sunday night before the inspection begins to allow the results to be looked at by the inspectors before they come to the school, so please complete the questionnaire as soon as possible.

Thank you for taking part.

Thank you for your contribution to the forthcoming inspection.

Yours sincerely,

Durell Barnes  
Independent Schools Inspectorate