



Junior News

THE PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

I would like to take the opportunity in this first official Newsletter of the term to wish you all a very Happy New Year; one that brings you health, happiness and good fortune! Undoubtedly, because of the extraordinary events of last week and the inspection of this week, it is going to be a start of term that none of us will ever forget. As I said to you in the email that I sent last Wednesday, as I sat alone in the eerie silence of my office (how grateful I was of the fact I lived in snow-trudging distance from the school!), it was the first time in the school's history that an enforced school closure has taken place. Although we enjoyed the fun, excitement and beauty that is associated with such heavy snowfall we were all disappointed that the term, which had got off to such a good start, came to such an abrupt halt. And it all coincided with being informed that the school was going to be inspected the following week! Thank goodness that the fear of a swine 'flu epidemic had compelled us to set in place measures for managing a school closure; primarily by having set up the group email parent contact. We were most relieved that we were able to communicate with you and that once we realised that the school was going to have to remain closed on the third day, we were able to set work for the children to do. We thank you heartily for the support you gave us throughout the experience, largely by directing your children to complete the homework tasks set but also by understanding that the situation created circumstances beyond our control. I was so grateful for the fact that, because of email, we were able to keep in touch and would like to thank in particular those pupils who sent me personal messages to cheer me up!

A number of pupils took on the challenge to produce paintings, pictures, poems, stories and photographs motivated by the snowy experience which we have greatly enjoyed reading and looking at. It is hoped to exhibit these items along with the contributions of Senior School pupils later this term. Another 'plus' in relation to the school closure was that it gave those of us who were within striking distance of the school, time to collect ourselves and ensure that we were fully prepared for the ISI Inspection that took place on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. However, you can imagine the anxiety we were feeling due to the uncertainty as to when the school would be open, what condition the outdoor areas would be in, how quickly we could get back into routine in time for the inspectors' visit, whether indeed the inspection would be on and what impact the unusual conditions would have on the day to day running of the school. I am pleased to say that the inspection did happen and largely speaking the curriculum was able to operate as normal though there was not the usual opportunity for any outdoor activities. However, the inspection resumes in three weeks time on February 8th, 9th and 10th when the inspection team will hopefully be able to get a full and more accurate picture of normal school life in the Junior School—we look forward to it!

You would have thought Mrs Dean had enough access to snowy conditions here without needing to jet off to do a ski trip visit. However, as ski trip leader, and as it is a new location, Mrs Dean was most anxious to gain a full understanding of the ski resort and do a full risk assessment of

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the hotel and all the ski runs. Mrs Dean returned to school on Tuesday afternoon extremely pleased with all that she had seen and is now looking forward excitedly to the ski trip that takes place over the February half term.

Hardly surprisingly, the start of this term now seems a life time away but on reflection I can report that both the staff INSET day on the Monday and the return to school day on the Tuesday went very well. The focus of the INSET day was developing the children's ability to think creatively and philosophically, encouraging them to be highly analytical and thoughtful when presented with stimuli. Follow up INSET sessions are now planned for some staff twilight INSET meetings later this term.

It is traditional for the first day of term to be a form based day with special activities designed to enable the children to settle very happily back to school. While Year Six were experiencing activities in preparation for the 11+ Year Four pupils took part in a 'Fashion Show'. The children split into groups and designed an outfit for a pupil to wear from recycled materials. The fun and messy part of the day was making the outfits—not always exactly to their plan. Pupils wrote a commentary to explain about the finished article of clothing and recycled fashion. The pupils then created a poster to advertise the fashion show and that recycled clothes were great to wear. At the end of the day all the Year Four classes joined together to join in and watch the fashion show. Some of the pupils were amazing models and many pupils enjoyed being designers for the day. Perhaps we have some budding clothes designers of the future, watch out Alexander McQueen, John Galliano and Calvin Klein!

Year Three pupils enjoyed an exciting trudge through the snow to Portsmouth Museum on Wednesday 13th to take part in an Educational Workshop. Last term the children had drawn and handled four skulls lent by the Museum service, the workshop introduced them to a wider variety of teeth and skulls in a fun session which taught them how to apply their knowledge in identifying prey and predators. The highlight of the session was undoubtedly a fossilised mammoth or elephant tooth which weighed as much as one of our pupils!

The 4+ entrance assessments began yesterday; Mrs Shoebridge and I have spent two splendid days in the company of delightful children who will hopefully be joining the Junior School in September. We look forward to next week when we will be continuing the interviewing.

I wish you all a very happy, warmer weekend!

Philippa Foster



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HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS



The following Head Teacher's Awards were awarded: Thomas Baker, Edward Campkin, George Campkin and Cameron Manson for excellent reading in the Carol Service, Patrick Caldwell, Alexander Dassow, Joshua Ellard, Georgia Henderson, Ethan Hoddle, Thomas Ross, Jack Shahrar and Amy Stokely for excellent acting in the Carol Service, Finley Howe-Walsh for excellent work in Maths, Ben Priory for an excellent prayer in the Carol Service, Merlin Wright for being very kind in the playground

ROLL OF HONOUR KS2

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week:

English: Lewis Walsh (x4), Honor Appleby-Mell (x2), Jonathan Brook (x2), Tobias Scandling (x2), Alistair Wilson (x2), Rebecca Alcaraz, Hermione Barrick, Sam Caldera, James Crundwell, Rebecca Hawdon, Marcus Horton, Cameron Manson, Edward Moger, Joe Stirrup, Christian Thomas, Ollie Tinson, Ruby Turner, Harry Tyacke

English Homework: Megan Fisher, Daniel Hill, Edward Lovatt

Maths: Naeve Molho (x3), Eliza Sharp (x2), Rebecca Alcaraz, Meg Dennis, Kirsten Goves, Lotte Hayward, Aelfred Hillman, Harry Hoolahan, Ajay Patel, Shree Patel, Emma Priory

Science: Marcus Horton (x2), Meg Dennis, Emma Dorricott, Molly Gibb, Kirsten Goves, Harry Hoolahan, Roame Leaver, Cameron Manson, Rebecca Pascoe, Shree Patel, Ella Povey, Frederike Rademacher, Ruby Turner, Georgia Wright

Geography: Georgina McTear, Shree Patel

French: Abigail Brader (x2), Annabel Cunningham, Daniel Hill, Emma Holmes, Roame Leaver, Georgina Lewis, Robert Mitchell, Edward Moger, Jack Pearce

Reading: Rebecca Alcaraz, Louise Askew, Adam Boxall, Katie Green, Naeve Molho, Emily Pereira, Gregory Porter, Grace Rafferty, Eliza Sharp, Jak Waktare, James Woodward

Spelling: Robert Quinn, Charlie Pereira

ICT: Ruby Turner

RS: Milly Henderson (x2), Devlin Stigant (x2), Nikhila Behari, Rebecca Hawdon, Georgina Lewis

Drama: Tilly Bell, Robert Quinn

KS1 HONOURS

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week: Oliver Fraser-Harris, Thomas Lockyer, Harry Loveridge, Julien Schouller, Jason Shiu, Miles Webb, Lucy Albuery, Omar Al-Rahim, Frederick Ansell-Virco, Giordano Avondo, Samuel Bayco-Walker, Henry Buckle, Rebecca Cleary, Tamara Crocker, Poppy Davenport, Jevon Hannah, Ethan Hards, William Hartridge, Adam Heyes, Harvey Hill, George Hodell, Sakina Khaja, Sophie Matheson, Tess Matheson, Murray McLeod, Maddy Oliver, Isabelle Pearce, Lauren-Lilly Prentice, Tom Shahrar, Dan Sherburn, Omar Talaat, Oliver Thomas, Miles Toh, Harry Tolcher, Matthew Walton, Frederick Williams-Brown



SPORT



SATURDAY SPORT

PLEASE USE THE ANSWERPHONE SYSTEM TO CHECK WHETHER WE ARE ABLE TO RUN THE SATURDAY MORNING VOLUNTARY SPORTS PROGRAMME

FIXTURES— Saturday 16 January

U11A Windlesham House Netball Tournament (away) - 1300
U11B & C Netball v Farleigh—**CANCELLED**

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 20 January

U11 Sherbourne Hockey Tournament (away) - 1130
U11A & U10A Rugby v Barrow Hills (home) - 1430
U10A, B & C Girls' Hockey v Farleigh (home) - 1430
U11, U10 & U9 Cross Country at Westbourne House—1400

Thursday 21 January

U8A & B Rugby v Barrow Hills (home) - 1430
U9A & B Rugby v Barrow Hills (away) - 1430

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**

Year 5/6 Chess Final

Winner: Ajay Patel

