



Junior News

THE PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

I feel like breathing a huge sigh of relief now that we have experienced a nice and normal week of the term with everything well and truly back to routine and all going very well.

This time of year is traditionally the new entry assessment period with our Year Six pupils sitting the 11+ assessment for entry into the Senior School, the Nursery children experiencing the 4+ assessment interviews and all the pupils who are hoping to join the school in the other year groups attending intermediate assessments. Last week and this week Mrs Shoebridge and I have spent a truly enjoyable time interviewing the 3 and 4 year olds who we hope we will be welcoming into the Reception classes in September. We have been hugely impressed by their performances and delightful personalities and, all in all, it has been a hugely encouraging experience. We are particularly pleased that we have interviewed an equal number of boys and girls this year and look forward to truly co-educational classes in Reception next year! The Year Six pupils have impressed us all with their attitude and performance leading up to the 11+ assessment which is being held tomorrow; there has been a great atmosphere of purposeful study and commitment tinged with excitement and anticipation. Over the last two weeks all the Year Six pupils have been going to the Senior School to attend the 11+ interviews with the Senior School senior staff. Every pupil has returned to school in a very happy state of mind saying how much they have enjoyed the experience. Mrs Kent has played an all important role in the process, making sure that the children are well prepared and looking presentable, and reassuring them that they will be fine and that they will have a good time. I am most grateful to her for being such a super 'mother hen'! I would like to wish all the Year Six pupils a very successful time at the assessment tomorrow morning and hope it all goes really well for them all.

There can be no teaching staff quite like PGS Junior School teaching staff and I mean this in a very positive way! You could wish for no greater enthusiasm or willingness to embrace new challenges than that which is demonstrated by the staff of PGJS. This week this was very evident when all the Key Stage Two teachers who take part in the Games programme (which is well nigh all of them!) attended a Hockey coaching and umpiring INSET after school on Tuesday. Run by Mr Faulconbridge and Mrs Evans it was a very informative and fun occasion. We were informed of strategies, rules, techniques, practices, game plans, drills and umpiring skills and are now very keen to put our new found knowledge into practice during the weekly and Saturday Games sessions as well as in matches.

This week has seen our first hockey matches and, considering the fact that the teaching of hockey at PGJS is in its infancy, I feel we have achieved much to be proud of. The U11 'A' team boys were placed 3rd out of 16 teams at the Sherbourne House tournament, the U10 'A' team girls drew their first match and although both the U10 'B' and 'C' teams lost their matches they played with enthusiasm and conviction demonstrating great potential. We were particularly pleased that by fielding A, B and C teams, every girl in Year Five was selected to play for their school. While many pupils were wielding sticks round courts, teams from Year Six, Year

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Five and Year Four took part in the girls' inter schools' cross country meet that was held at Westbourne House. This was the first time we have entered teams into an inter schools Prep School cross country challenge so you can imagine how delighted we were when the U11 team won as well as with the fact that Georgina McTear came first thus winning the whole competition. Huge congratulations go to Georgie and her fellow U11 team mates, Alice Cheshire, Kira Walker and Katerina Sillett, we are very proud of them. The U10 and U9 girls represented themselves very well indeed and now look forward to further opportunities for developing their cross country running skills.

The snowy weather of the first week meant we had to cancel our start of term, New Year, service in the Cathedral. We felt this was a great pity as many children were to be involved and many special preparations had been set in place. We were delighted therefore when we were able to hold the service this week in the David Russell Theatre. The theme was numbers and special dates. We thought about special events such as the Winter Olympics and the World Cup that will be taking place in 2010 and special mention was made of the fact that the Junior School will be celebrating its 10th birthday this year. Several children shared their aspirations with us as to what they would like to be doing by the time they are 25. Georgina McTear said how much she would like to be a world class athlete; well after her performance yesterday I certainly feel that this is a very realistic ambition!

I believe strongly that every pupil at PGS has at least one special talent and some are very lucky and have several talents. One pupil, Aelfred Hillman, has an exceptional talent at art and this week he applied this talent in a very special way by creating a greetings card that he is now selling to raise money in support of the Haiti disaster fund. The cards are quite amazing, featuring all the special landmarks of Southsea and Old Portsmouth. In one day he has raised over £100—a remarkable achievement. Further details about the card are on the next page of this newsletter.

On Wednesday evening, the JSA held its Spring Term meeting. We reflected on the very successful events of last term: the barn dance, Halloween disco, fashion show, Christmas parties, the Kings Theatre Panto fundraising tickets and the Christmas present stall, which have enabled us to raise a significant amount of money. Some of this money will be used to pay for the scooter shed and the play house; both of which are in the small quad. We will also be using money to pay for the visit of Caribbean author and performer, Alex Pascall, who will be visiting the school next term. Events planned for later this year are: a quiz evening (in the DRT), a fun 10th anniversary birthday party and barbecue (to be held at Hilsea playing fields), a Mothers' Day present stall for pupils in Reception and KS1, a Summer fête and a Winter Ball on board the Warrior. Hopefully something for everyone!

I wish you all a very happy weekend.

Philippa Foster

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INFORMATION AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Now we seem to have gone through the worst of the disruptive weather we are delighted that the school is back to our full normal timetable with regard to the school day and co-curricular activities and clubs. Please can I ask all parents to continue to support us in trying to ensure that all pupils are on site at 0825 for the start of school so that class registration and the start of the day can be as smooth as possible for all. Please note that if you do arrive later than 0840, pupils in Year R -4 must report to the Junior School Office to register and then go to their normal classroom. In Year 5 and 6 pupils who arrive after 0840 should report to Mrs Kent to register and then directly to their Form Room. Thank you for your ongoing support with this key aspect of our school day.

HOUSE SWIMMING GALAS—date changes to Red Book

The Year 3/4 House swimming gala will now take place on Friday 5th March and the Year 5/6 House swimming gala will now take place on Friday 12th March. Both swimming galas are from 9.00-12.00 at HMS Temeaire.

PARENT ALERT

Please would all parents be extremely vigilant as we have had cases of head lice reported to us recently. Children's hair needs to be inspected regularly. If you find head lice then you should speak to the local pharmacist who will recommend one of the preparations currently being used. However advice from our medical centre is that for a period of two weeks after treatment hair should be washed and conditioned daily and combed through using a nit comb to comb out any newly hatched eggs. This ongoing treatment is an important part of the process of ensuring the hair is free from head lice.

GAMES KIT

Now that the weather has changed and it is colder please will parents make sure that, on games days, your child has their full games kit in school i.e. tracksuit top and bottoms, plus a waterproof.

SCOOTER STORAGE

A storage box for pupils' scooters is now in full operation and is in the main quad. It is super to see so many using it. As the door is quite heavy please can parents ensure that they open and close the door on this storage unit and not the pupils.

STRING TEACHERS' CONCERT

Mrs Ingamells, Miss McGibben and friends are giving a concert on Friday, 5th February at 1930 in the Rotunda. The concert will include music for strings and piano and is in aid of the charity Musequality (www.musequality.org). Tickets for adults are £5.00 and are available from Mrs Nicky Fretwell in the Senior School music department. Entry for pupils is free (although they will require a ticket as numbers are limited) and there will be refreshments available during the interval.

BABYSITTING

Sammy, aged 16, a student, is available for babysitting evenings, weekends and during school holidays. Sammy enjoys the company of children and hopes to become a junior school teacher after University. If interested please contact Sammy at Samantha.gingell11@pgs.org.uk.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENT

Please can parents ensure that their children are made aware that they need to keep their jumpers on in preparation for play time.

PUPILS' ACHIEVEMENTS

★ Congratulations to **Dominic Page (5G)** for gaining his advanced blue belt in Taekwondo.

★ Congratulations to **Matthew Holloway (4P)** who has successfully passed both his Grade 4 Trumpet Exam and his Grade 2 Piano Exam.

BADGES

BLUE BADGE

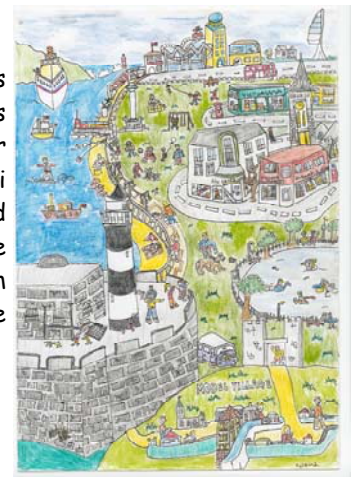
Congratulations to **Dominic Chew** and **Jack Norton** for gaining their Blue Badge.

GREEN BADGE

Congratulations to **Jonathan Yang** and **Edward Campkin** for gaining their Green Badge.

DEC HAITI EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Aelfred Hillman (4J) has designed a card and is selling it for 50 pence or 5 for £2.00 in aid of the Haiti Earthquake appeal. The card comes with an envelope. These can be purchased from Aelfred direct or from the Junior School Office.



POLITE REMINDER - end of school collection and waiting in Senior School Quad

Please could I ask that all parents and pupils who wait for Senior School children in the Senior School Quad at the end of our Junior school day, do ensure that they wait quietly on the benches and that no children play in the Senior School playground or run around the walkways until the end of senior school lessons which will be signalled by the bell ringing at 3.50pm. This is for safety but also to ensure that Senior School lessons and examinations are not disturbed unnecessarily.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Year 4 play photographs are now online at www.rossyoung.co.uk/pgs09 and the Year 1 Nativity photographs are at www.rossyoung.co.uk/yr1nativity.

MENU WEEK 2

HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

The following Head Teacher's Awards were awarded: **Alice Acklam** and **Victoria Toh** for their images of Jesus on the cross, **Patrick Caldwell** and **Alastair Cunningham** for their well researched and carefully presented History projects, **Charlotte Amenta-Lynch** for great work on producing her History project on Explorers, **Mia Austin** for excellent co-ordination in the History project on Explorers, **Serena Graham** for an interesting and descriptive English homework, **Jamie Mellor** and **Ajay Patel** for excellent work for their History Books on Explorers, **Amy Stokely** for great commitment to her History research and book on Explorers, **Zackary Toh** for excellent work on co-ordinates in reflection and rotation, **Jake Austin** for consistently high effort in Maths, **Alastair Cunningham** and **Zackary Toh** for an outstanding Science assessment, **Will Donworth** for an excellent drawing and description of a dragon, **Amun Laly** and **Toby Wingham** for improved handwriting, **Evie McAuley** for an excellent descriptive setting for English, **Joshua McCoy** for excellent behaviour and effort in Maths, **Oliver Swales-Green** for an excellent recount of a snowy experience, **Lewis Walsh** for Science homework questions, **Jason Shiu** for super cursive handwriting, **Avi Sengupta** and **Louie Howe-Walsh** for super topic work on toys, **Mei-Ling Reader** for speaking confidently to our visitor about healthy eating, **Judith Jellicoe** for being able to tell Mrs Ellis the story of the Gingerbread Man, **Christopher Yang** for independent writing of speech bubbles to match his storyboard of the Gingerbread Man, **George Summerskill**, **Theo Roseblade**, **Seth Maxwell**, **Daisy Crane**, **Adam Robinson** and **Bea Oliver** for fantastic writing about The Little Red Hen, **Harry Tyacke**, **Meg Dennis**, **Joe McAuley**, **Lotte Hayward** and **Izzy Boden** for consistently excellent spelling, **Clemmie Gumm** and **Ray Leach** for outstanding effort and achievement in Maths, **Robert Mitchell** for a superb re-telling of Cinderella, **Dan Sherburn** for super addition work in Maths using 1 and 2 digit numbers

ROLL OF HONOUR KS2

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week:

English: Edward Donnelly (x3), Ray Leach (x2), Thomas Atkinson, Jake Austin, Florence Bishop, Adam Boxall, Benjamin Brooks, Adam Brown, Thomas Crundwell, Alexander Dassow, Henry Doyle, Ethan Huddle, Jack Hussey, Sabrina Leung, Thomas Matthews, Shree Patel, Luke Robins, Eliza Sharp, Katerina Sillett, Zackary Toh, George Wilcockson

English Homework: Thomas Atkinson, Philip Macanovic

Maths: Sebastian Ansell Virco (x2), Thomas Atkinson, Alexander Dassow, Nancy Fenton, Clemmie Gumm, Lotte Hayward, Harry Hoolahan, Sabrina Leung, Ajay Patel, Gregory Porter, Olivia Smitherman, Katrina Trim, Holly White

Maths Homework: Serena Graham

Science: Emma Dorricott, Cameron Manson, Frederike Rademacher, Holly White

Geography: Isabella Barrington-Clark, James Cunningham, Harry Hoolahan, Sabrina Leung, Ajay Patel, Alexandre Sautreau, Katerina Sillett, Zackary Toh, Holly White, Benny Wong

History: Charlotte Amenta-Lynch, Caroline Clayton, Nancy Fenton, Sophie Forrest, Sabrina Leung, Alexandre Sautreau, Eve Stainton, James Taylor

History Project: Sebastian Hiller, James Taylor

Reading: Sebastian Ansell-Virco, Thomas Atkinson, Jake Austin, Thomas Crundwell, Jack Hussey, Ray Leach, William Lewis, Thomas Matthews, Shree Patel, Eve Stainton

ICT: Alexander Dassow

KS1 HONOURS

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week: Susannah Boydell (x2), George Davis-Marks (x2), Harry Hellyer (x2), Sophie Matheson (x2), Jaden McCoy (x2), Benjamin Nash (x2), Joseph Russell (x2), Amber Bradley, Evan Cole, Erica Currie, Oliver Fraser-Harris, Emma Hale, Elsa Hares, Lucinda Hawdon, Oscar Hung, Judith Jellicoe, Chi-Yiing Lim, Amelie Parker, Max Povey, Mei-Ling Reader, Joshua Scott, Christian Sim, Michael Stylianou, George Tolcher, Sam Tran, William Trise, Alia Alayyan, Lucy Albuery, Omar Al-Rahim, Giselle Barfoot, Alexander Barker, Grace Beardsley, Brynmor Bidwell-Richards, Claudia Bishop, Henry Buckle, Adam Buckley, Lucy Budgen, Jacob Bund, Taariq Cassamo, Joshua Chipper, Amir Choudhury, James Christensen, Emily Clark, Louis Crocker, Poppy Davenport, William Davis, Hans Miles Deter, Yasmin Dyer, Holly Fisher, Jon Garcia Tarifa, Thomas Gibb, Lily Gibbs, Matthew Grandison, Aimon Haba, Jevon Hannah, William Hartridge, Samuel Head, Poppy Herbert, Harvey Hill, Erik Hillman, Ava Hooper, Louie Howe-Walsh, Milla Macanovic, Tess Matheson, Nathan McBride, Hannah Millerchip, William Moore, Isabelle Pearce, Isaac Platts, Lauren-Lilly Prentice, Hannah Rayner, Alice Robertson, Avinandan Sengupta, Tom Shahrhan, Dan Sherburn, Henry Simmons, Quinn Sinton-Gerry, Kian Souhani, Nahum Stocker, Noah Stocker, Omar Talaat, Grace Taylor, Miles Toh, Jessica Werfalli



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 rugby for the boys and hockey for the girls. Girls should bring shin pads and mouth guards.

FIXTURES— Saturday 23 January—1430

U10A & U9A Rugby v West Hill Park (away)
U9A & B Rugby v Westbourne House (away)
U10A & U9A Girls' Hockey v West Hill Park (home)

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—Tuesday 26 January—1425

U11A Football Semi Final Portsmouth Schools (home)

Wednesday 27 January—1430

U10 Westbourne House Rugby Tournament (away)
U11A & B Girls' Hockey v Amesbury (away)
U10 A & B Girls' Hockey 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**

WESTBOURNE HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

Under 11

Georgie McTear 1st
Kira Walker 5th
Alice Cheshire 7th
Katerina Sillett 27th
Overall 1st

Under 10

Loren Dean 11th
Olivia Smitherman 27th
Amy Stokely 29th
Iman Alayyan 30th
Overall 5th

Under 9

Charlotte Ross 12th
Sabrina Choi 26th
Emily Whitehead 27th
Charlie Dean
Overall 5th