



Junior News

THE PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

This has been a rather unusual first half of term; at its beginning we experienced the almost unheard of situation of having to close the school because of the severe weather conditions and at either end of the six weeks we have been involved in an ISI inspection. I do not think I will ever be able to look at snow again without thinking of the inspection.

At this stage I am unable to report on the findings of the inspection; the report-back which was given to the Governors and senior staff at the end of the second inspection visit has to remain entirely confidential until the report is published in six weeks time. However, I can honestly say that we welcomed the experience and derived enjoyment and benefit from it. The only staff who have expressed any element of disappointment are those who were not seen delivering a lesson though I have to say that over the two visits I believe almost everyone, including myself, was observed either teaching or running an activity and, as such, a good representation of the teaching was made. We were most impressed with our inspection team who were both experienced and professional and we were grateful to the supportive and encouraging manner in which they went about their tasks. The team comprised a former Head who is now an education and music consultant, two very experienced retired head teachers and two serving independent school head teachers. Their subject knowledge and expertise spanned all the subjects of our curriculum and all three educational phases: EYFS, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. We couldn't have been better served. We now look forward to sending the inspection report to you when it is published in six weeks time.

As you can imagine, we are now all looking forward to the rest that half term is going to provide us with. Hopefully, the five staff who are involved in the ski trip over half term will, although very much on duty and active throughout the half term break, derive great benefit from the holiday. I wish them all, Mr and Mrs Dean, Mr Rowley, Mrs Giles and Mrs Townsend, as well as the 37 pupils attending the trip, a very happy time indeed.

Looking back over the past seven days, putting the inspection experience to one side, we have had another eventful week. Last Thursday evening we welcomed all the Year Five parents to an information evening about the 11+ assessment and procedure that their children will be involved with next January. A powerpoint presentation was delivered, explaining the process and giving guidance as to how parents can support their children in the run-up to this all important time in their school life. A copy of the powerpoint and a letter giving an overview of the information that was shared with parents was emailed to all Year Five parents last Friday—if anyone failed to receive this information please could you contact Mrs Bull in the Junior School Office and she will be happy to forward the details on to you.

I am delighted to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate the Year Six pupils for their performances in the 11+ assessment this year which once again was hugely impressive equalling the outstanding success rate of the past five years. We were particularly proud and pleased to learn

Spring Newsletter 5 — 12 February 2010

that a significant number of our pupils received academic scholarships, awards and exhibitions either for an outstanding all round performance or for an outstanding performance in either maths or English. Many parents have been in contact with me to express both their delight and gratitude to the school for their child's achievements mentioning in particular how very grateful they are to all the staff who have taken a part in the education of their children. I too would like to say how grateful I am to my staff!

Last Friday, our U11 'A' hockey boys team took part in the South of England Prep Schools Regional Hockey Tournament which was held at Clifton College School, Bristol. 32 teams took part and we were very pleased with the boys' performance; the outcome of which placed them in 9th position overall—a highly commendable achievement. This week has also seen successes for the U10 'A' netball team who were thrilled to win the PGJS U10 Netball Tournament competing against an impressive selection of teams from across central southern England. The U10 'A' football team has also done very well this week as they have qualified for the semi-final of the Portsmouth School's U10 Football Knock-Out Cup. We wish them luck in the semis that take place next half of term, hoping they are able to emulate the success of our U11 'A' team and 'battle' their way to the finals.

Last Friday evening our Head of Strings, Jane Ingamells, held a concert in the music school Rotunda to raise money for the charity 'Musequality' which creates the opportunity for disadvantaged children in Africa to learn a musical instrument. Mrs Ingamells was joined by fellow string scheme teacher, Ruth McGibben and two guest string players to form a string quartet of considerable accomplishment and expertise. The music was wonderful and I was proud to be able to say that I knew two of the players personally. Concert pianist, and PGS piano teacher, Karen Kingsley amazed us all with a performance of Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata' after which she joined the string quartet for the final performance of the evening. Not only did I derive pleasure from the quality music I was treated to but also from seeing so many Junior School pupils in attendance and responding so enthusiastically to the experience.

From music to maths—Tuesday saw the finals of the House multiplication tables competition which took place in the David Russell Theatre during House meeting time. 48 eager pupils took part, 3 from each House in each year group, all proving themselves to be super proficient with their times tables. Our congratulations go to the winners: Rufus Hornsey (H) and Cameron Clark (H) (Year Three), Matthew Cheung (N) and Chi-Yung Lim (N) (Year Four), Alastair Cunningham (J) (Year Five) and James Woodward (H) (Year Six). Further details accompany this Newsletter.

In closing I would like to wish you all a very happy and restful half term.

Philippa Foster

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INFORMATION AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 **19th March**. Both swimming galas are from 9.00-12.00 at HMS Temeaire.

JSA PUB QUIZ

Come and test your knowledge—the JSA pub quiz takes place at 7.30pm on Thursday 4th March in the Dining Hall. Ticket price includes either fish and chips, chicken and chips or a vegetarian option. Real ales and raffle on the night as well as a celebrity compère. Tickets are £8 each and are available from the Junior School Office.

IEP REVIEW EVENING

Thank you to all the parents who attended the IEP (Individual Education Plan) review evening. This is the first time we have formally put aside time at the end of the day to review IEPs and the feedback we had from parents was very positive and encouraging. Please look out for the date in next term's red book when there will be an opportunity to review present IEP's.

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.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF OFCOM, ED RICHARDS, GIVES TALK AT PGS

At the invitation of the OP Club, Ed Richards OP (1974 -1984) comes to PGS to speak about his career in telecommunications, broadcasting and politics. Ed was appointed Chief Executive of Ofcom, the communications regulator, in 2006. Business leaders have hailed him as the most important figure in the UK TV and radio sectors, as well as in the fixed line telecoms and mobile industries. Fellow CEO's describe him as 'clear, focused and willing to listen'. Most recently he has secured legally-binding undertakings from Phones-4U after a high profile investigation of mis-selling. Ed will be speaking at PGS in the **DRT on Friday 26 February at 7.30pm**. Free admission and refreshments, but booking essential by e-mail to Gareth Perry, Social Secretary OP Club, at gareth.perry1@ntlworld.com

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.

PUPILS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to **Tom Phillips (4P)**, **Jack Norton (4J)** and **Tom Coyle (4P)** who were part of the winning Havant RFC under 9's team in the Plate final of the Winchester Rugby Festival.



Congratulations to **Cameron Clarke (3J)** who is one of only 15 boys from the South West of England to go to the LTA Regional ID day at Bath University and hopes to be selected for the regional training programme for promising young tennis players.

BADGES

GOLD BADGE

Congratulations to **Henry Percival** for gaining his Gold Badge.

BLUE BADGE

Congratulations to **Yasmin Deter** for gaining her Blue Badge.

SPOKEN ENGLISH HEATS

The Spoken English heats will take place after half term. Please can pupils practice over half term for when they come back.

SOCIETY OF YOUNG MATHEMATICIANS

The Society of Young Mathematicians is for all young people interested in Maths. Membership is £9.99 per year and SYMS members will receive two journals (Symmetry Plus and Mathematical Pie), both published three times a year. SYMS has its own website and there are fortnightly problems accessible to all. Visit www.syms.org.uk to print off a SYMS application form.

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.

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.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We understand that the children at Portsmouth Grammar Junior School achieve a range of awards and accolades outside of the school environment and we are always keen to celebrate their successes. If you would like to share your child's achievements in the newsletter, please email Mr Ashcroft (j.ashcroft@pgs.org.uk) who will ensure that these are recognised in this way.

MENU WEEK 2

HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

The following Head Teacher's Awards were awarded: Harvey Hill, Giordano Avondo and Quinn Sinton-Gerry for super work on the big bad wolf using excellent similes, Amelie Parker for always being very responsive in carpet time, Erik Hillman for super, neat joined handwriting, Julien Schouler, Miles Webb, Lucinda Hawdon and Monty Wingham for writing a super beginning for the story of the Three Bears, Oliver Fraser Harris for very careful and independent ordering by size, Emma Dorricott for excellent contributions to History lessons, Grace Goodfellow for excellent work on Victorians, Solomon Haba for fantastic name writing, Harry Hellyer for fantastic recall of high frequency words, William Lewis for a great attitude in Maths lessons and being very helpful, Edward Lovatt for reading 18 books in the month of January, Jaden McCoy for fantastic progress with reading, Matthew Roberts for making a model of the Aztec temple in his own time for History at school, Alice Robertson for super improvement with cursive script, Alexandre Sautreau for always being ready to help in Maths with an excellent attitude, Lana Watt for superb Science homework, 1Y for super achievement in music, Jozef Wrapp for an excellent written description of a haunted house, Omar Talaat for fantastic progress with reading, Emma Watkins for learning all numbers 1-100 in French at home, Charlotte Webb for excellent effort in French this term, Jai Thakrar for an excellent Earth, Sun and Moon PowerPoint, Harry Hoolahan and Eliza Sharp for fast and accurate decimal addition work, Poppy Herbert for achieving an outstanding assessment on Kenya, showing that she has gained significant knowledge and understanding, Evie Chapman and Dougie Henderson for excellent progress with independent writing, Thomas Lockyer for being exceptionally creative

ROLL OF HONOUR KS2

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week:

English: Mia Glover (x2), Joseph Allen, Bhooshitha Balaji, Imogen Davies, Meg Dennis, Sophie Dennis, Emma Holmes, Roame Leaver, Sabrina Leung, Edward Moger, Henry Percival, Antonia Phillips, Gregory Porter, Louise Shannon, Guy Sharp, Jack Silver, Adam Stokely

English Homework: Honor Appleby-Mell, Jonathan Brook, Sophie Dennis, Maxim Greenfield, Emily Pereira, Thomas Robertson

Maths: Lotte Hayward (x2), Joseph McAuley (x2), Katy Courtnell, Emma Dorricott, Jonathon Easton, Nancy Fenton, Isobel Gumm, Georgia Henderson, Cameron Manson, Georgina McTear, Thomas Miller, Jasmine Thornell, Katrina Trim

Maths Homework: Joseph Allen, Holly Baker, Yasmin Deter, Lana Watt, Sasha Wells

Science: Emma Dorricott, Josh Leigh, Adam Stokely, Alistair Wilson

RS: Isobel Fraser-Harris, Ajay Patel, Antonia Phillips

Geography: Isobel Gumm (x2), Georgia Henderson (x2), William Lewis (x2), Joseph Allen, Honor Appleby-Mell, Rory Bell, Michaela Clancy, James Clare, Lotte Hayward, Sabrina Leung, Georgina McTear, Jasmine Nash, James Northey, Jack Silver, Emma Watkins, Lana Watt

History: Grace Acklam (x2), Joe Stirrup (x2), Christian Thomas (x2), Thomas Austin, Hermione Barrick, Archie Bennett, Michaela Clancy, Maxwell Gumm, Rebecca Hawdon, Thomas Miller, Peter Millett, Oliver Nash, Rebecca Pascoe, Mani Spencer, Callum Trimmer, Kira Walker, Ryan Webb

French: Joseph Allen, Honor Appleby-Mell, Emma Dorricott

Reading: Holly Baker, Katy Courtnell, Emma Dorricott

Spelling: Honor Appleby-Mell, Bhooshitha Balaji, Rory Bell, Alice Cheshire, Mia Glover, Maxim Greenfield, Josh Leigh, Edward Moger, Emily Pereira, Lana Watt, Oliver Wisbey

3D Shape: Benjamin Hunter

Capacity: Kian Henderson-Cowley

Music: Rumaanah Cassamo, Peter Millett, Jozef Wrapp

Dance: Emma Watkins (x2), Joseph Allen, Max Burlein, Yasmin Deter, Isobel Fraser-Harris, Josh Leigh, Alice Leonard, Peter Millett, Henry Percival, George Sinden

KS1 HONOURS

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week: Hans Miles Deter (x2), Emma Hale, Lucinda Hawdon, Chi-Yiing Lim, Mei-Ling Reader, Christian Sim, Christopher Yang, Omar Al-Rahim, Ahthini Aranan, Xavier Barfoot, Lucy Budgen, Jacob Bund, Taariq Cassamo, Joshua Chipper, Amir Choudhury, Emily Clark, Rebecca Cleary, Tamara Crocker, William Davis, Ashwin Elanchchelian, Samuel Head, Harry Hellyer, Adam Heyes, Erik Hillman, Charlotte Howard, Murray McLeod, Hannah Millerchip, William Moore, Benjamin Nash, Maddy Oliver, Isaac Platts, Lauren-Lilly Prentice, Hannah Rayner, Joseph Russell, Tom Shahran, Daisy Summerskill, Harry Tolcher



SPORT

SATURDAY SPORT



NO HILSEA GAMES

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 24 February—1430

U11B Rugby v Pilgrims (home)
U10A & B Rugby v Pilgrims & Haslemere (home)
U11A Hampshire Collegiate Tournament (away)
U11A & B, U10A & B Netball v Twyford (away)

Thursday 25 February—1430

U9A & B Rugby v Haslemere (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**

Sports Results

Boys Rugby:

Team	Opposition	Result:
U11A	Highfield	Lost 14-21
U11B	Highfield	Lost 14-56
U10A	Highfield	Lost 5-15
U10B	Highfield	Won 45-20
U9A	Highfield	Lost 20-25
U9B	Highfield	Won 50-15
U9A	Pilgrims	Drew 10-10
U9B	Pilgrims	Drew 20-20

Girls Netball:

Team	Opposition	Result:
U11A	U11 PGS Tournament	Won the tournament
U11B	U11 PGS Tournament	Played well
U10A	U10 PGS Tournament	Won the tournament
U10B	U10 PGS Tournament	3 rd in group

Girls Hockey:

Team	Opposition	Result:
U9A	Edgeborough	Lost 1-2
U9B	Edgeborough	Won 6-0

Boys Hockey:

Team	Opposition	Result:
U11A	IAPS Regional Hockey Tournament Clifton College	Came 9 th out of 32 teams

Mixed Hockey:

Team	Opposition	Result:
U10A	Won League 'A' - all other teams were year 6 children	
U10B	Won League 'B' - all other teams were year 6 children	

INTER-HOUSE TIMES TABLES COMPETITION 2010



The learning of times tables is promoted and encouraged in the Junior School and it has been fantastic to see how seriously the pupils take this aspect of their learning.

The first round of the competition involved the children in completing grids, where numbers need to be multiplied together in the fastest time possible. The most successful three pupils from each year group, in each House then became our finalists.

Twelve Year Three pupils had to find as many multiplication facts from the 3 times table as they could, hidden in a grid, in two minutes. Year Four children tackled a number search, involving them in finding solutions to tables problems in all directions. Year Five finalists were given the answers and had to provide the questions and Year Six pupils had to crack a code to discover what the mystery times tables were.

As each group completed their task, pupils in the audience were given the opportunity to solve on the spot challenges and the winners of these were: - Abigail Brader (H), Sophie Dennis (J), George Campkin (H) and Alex Butler (H)

Competition winners were:-

Year 3- Joint 1st place -Rufus Hornsey (H) and Cameron Clarke (H)
Joint 3rd place- Mia Glover (G) Georgina Lewis (J) and Bhooshitha Balaji (H)

Year 4- Joint 1st place- Matthew Cheung (N)and Chi-Yung Lim (N)
3rd place- Mani Noor- Spencer (P)

Year 5- 1st place Alastair Cunningham (J)
2nd place Thomas Atkinson (J)
3rd place Thomas Ross (H)

Year 6- 1st place-James Woodward (H)
2nd place Joseph Allen (H)
3rd place Raunak Mukherjee (J)



BOYS' SUCCESS AT NATIONAL RUGBY COMPETITION

Last week the United Services U11 Rugby team reached the final of a national competition in Reading. The Landrover Premiership U11's trophy is a competition sponsored by all the professional rugby clubs.

Congratulations to James Lilley, James Cunningham, Oakley Murphy, Devlin Stigant, and James Ross who all played fantastically. United Services came through a tough pool before beating local rivals Alton 10-0 in the semi finals. The boys put up a tremendous performance in the final against the London Irish Academy, a team coached by professionals and attracting the cream of local U11 talent. They lost narrowly in a highly entertaining game 15-5. To quote one of the United Services children , "If United Services had their coaching staff and not you (Mr Lilley, Mr Cunningham, and Mr Ross) it may have been a different result!". The day was capped off with a visit to the Madejski Stadium to watch London Irish against Harlequins. Well done boys!

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOLS HOCKEY LEAGUE

After a long hard winter the Portsmouth Schools U11 Hockey League reached its thrilling climax on the evening of Thursday 4th February at the Mountbatten Centre. The style of hockey played by the majority has been a fiercely competitive blend of rudimentary skill and enthusiastic hacking. The PGJS U10 Hockey players found it difficult to adapt at the outset as they were used to playing a more traditionally stylish Hockey which relies more on finesse than fierceness. However, the ever eager and dedicated boys and girls of PGJS finally took on board the concepts of "Ugly Hockey" and from this moment forward they went from strength to strength. By the time finals night arrived they were in a good position to qualify for the semi finals. With convincing wins in their final two group matches both the A and B teams qualified, with the A team finishing in first place in their group and the B team finishing in fourth place in their group. The two teams comprised of: Ethan Hoddle, Adam Brown, Edward Donnelly, Harry Minall, George Wilcockson, Harry Hoolahan, George Campkin, Tom Baker and Jai Thakrar for the boys and Eve Stainton, Sophie Forrest, Charlotte Amenta-Lynch, Serena Graham, Amy Stokely, Loren Dean, Elizabeth Jones, Eliza Sharp and Sabrina Leung for the girls.

The A team comfortably won their semi final imposing themselves early on and commanding the game from start to finish. The B team who had to play the winners of their group fought hard to force the game into sudden death extra time and then finally penalty flicks. The B team players held their nerve superbly to win 3 - 2 on penalty flicks to qualify for the final. In the respective final it was the B team who this time controlled the game from start to finish never looking in any danger, running out 2 - 0 winners. The A team however had a mountain to climb after conceding an early goal in their final. With the finals only lasting 8 minutes this was a potentially devastating blow. However, the A team had by this time perfected " ugly hockey" and they came back with an irresistible flow of powerful attacks that saw first an equaliser and then with only seconds remaining a wonderfully flowing move that culminated in a wonderfully finished winning goal. It was a fitting finale as after weeks of playing "ugly hockey" the final blow was struck with "beautiful hockey" the type of hockey that PGJS are renowned for.

This achievement is one born out of dedication and determination. The children were playing against children a year older and in an intimidating and intense atmosphere. All of the children deserve an enormous amount of credit for how they behaved both on and off the pitch. A hugely deserved well done, to all of the children involved.



Book Week

2010



Monday 1st March - Friday 5th March

Following the successes of last year, the preparations for Book Week are well underway. We are pleased to announce that we have been able to book some well known authors who will be doing presentations and workshops with the children. The children at PGS will be given the wonderful opportunity to experience them first hand and encourage them to be stimulated in their own writing.

Here are some dates for your diary:

Thursday 25th February and Friday 26th February: **Pippa Goodhart** is a well known children's author. She has also written under the pen name of Laura Owen to write the popular Winnie the Witch stories . You can visit her website at www.pippagoodhart.co.uk.

Pippa will be working with KS1 and Year 3

Monday 1st March: **Andrew Norris** is a well known children's author and some popular titles of his include "Aquila", 'Bernard's Watch' and the 'Woof' series of novels to name a few.

You can visit his website www.andrewnorriss.co.uk.

Andrew will be working with KS2

Friday 5th March: **PGS Book Character Day**- The children will come to school dressed up as their favourite book character! They will also be asked to bring in a copy of a book that their character comes from.

Due to the Year 3 and 4 Swimming Gala that is also taking place on this day, may we ask that Pupils in Year 3 and Year 4 come to school in their normal uniform but they may bring a mask or hat to illustrate a chosen character

Thursday 25th February - Friday 5th March: **Visiting Book Fair** -Books from our visiting Authors will be on sale after school for you to go and visit with the children. Many other titles and authors will also be available.

On the days that the authors are visiting they will also be available at the Book Fair to sign copies of their books.

If there are any parents who may be able to help with the running of the Book Fair then please come and see Mrs Millward in Year 1.

More details will be included in future Newsletters, but until then please enjoy the websites or visit bookshops and libraries to find out more about all these wonderful authors.

We are sure you will agree it promises to be an exciting and enriching experience for all the children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs JL Millward
KS1 English Co-ordinator