



Junior News

THE PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

It would be easy to think that because half term has punctuated the period between the last newsletter and this one that there would not be much for me to write about. This most certainly is not the case!

I will begin by relating the events of the Friday afternoon, just prior to the half term week, when the Pancake Race took place. I believe I am right in saying that this was the 16th race of this annual event and I am delighted to say that it was very well supported with a record number of parents taking part; 14 mums and 8 dads. The challenge was to run the length of the sports hall pausing briefly to toss a pancake on three separate occasions while one foot is placed in the middle of a hoop. What amazing techniques there were to behold with pancakes being flipped deftly and feet remaining in the hoops for barely a fraction of a second. As you can imagine, it was a close fought thing but in the end, by no more than a millimetre's length the proud winner of the women's race was Mrs Lloyd, mother of Martin (RY) and the exultant winner of the men's race was Mr Hartridge, father of William (1M). All the pupils in Reception, Year One and Year Two watched the races, adopting a partisan approach—loudly cheering on any parents of class mates! It was good to see a large number of parent and grandparent spectators supporting husbands, wives and friends as they raced.

Early the next morning, 37 children and 5 staff (Mr and Mrs Dean, Mr Rowley, Mrs Giles and Mrs Townsend) set off for Montgenevre in the French Alps for the biennial ski trip. And what a successful trip it proved to be with every child, regardless of their ski ability, making significant progress. The resort was perfect for a school party, with the entrance of the hotel literally a stone's throw from the ski lifts, and with a super range of slopes that presented perfect challenges for all the different levels of ability. The conditions were also excellent with regular falls of fresh snow to make the runs perfect! Following the day's skiing the children were presented with a variety of evening entertainments that included: a town treasure hunt, ice skating (on the outdoor rink next to the hotel), a general knowledge quiz, bum boarding, a DVD night and a final night disco. Both on and off the slopes every single child was a credit to their parents and to the Junior School. I was delighted when Mrs Dean reported that in the Gatwick baggage reclaim zone, an airport porter commented that the group was the best school group he had seen at the airport during his 25 years of working there which restored his faith in the youth of today. (How very proud I am to hear this!). A full report of the ski trip follows in this Newsletter.

A large number of our pupils were busily involved in the Portsmouth Music Festival (PMF) over half term week performing in various individual music classes (guitar, piano, recorder and strings). As the brass classes and sting orchestral and ensemble classes are yet to take place I will report the string and brass performances in subsequent Newsletters.

34 of our Key Stage Two pupils entered the speech and drama section of the PMF performing verse speaking, prose reading, character studies, bible readings and duologues. In total, 13 different classes were entered and I am delighted to say that 9 of these were won by our pupils. The highest accolade awarded is the grade of Honours for a performance; the standard required to gain this prestigious award is so high that it is seldom awarded. Huge congratulations therefore are richly deserved by Iman Alayyan from Year Five who gained Honours for her verse speaking performance. In addition to this pupils gained 16 Distinctions, 12 Highly Commended and 5 Merits—a fantastic achievement!

Over the half term period we also received very pleasing news with regard to a

Spring Newsletter 6 — 26 February 2010

fine sporting achievement. You may remember that our U11 mixed rounders team became National Champions last summer and as such they were entered into The News 'Young Team of the Year' competition which is voted for by the readers of The News. You can imagine Mrs Evans' and the team's delight when they received the Runner-up award at the awards ceremony last Tuesday. How very proud of them we are!

We have also celebrated a significant sporting success this week. The U11 'A' rugby team won the inaugural Hampshire Collegiate School rugby 7's tournament beating, by significant margins, Pilgrim's, Hampshire Collegiate School and Durlston Court. Our warmest congratulations go to the boys: James Cunningham, James Harper, Ben Nash, Luke Robins, Joe Stirrup, James Woodward, Jake Ellard, James Northey, Oakley Murphy and James Lilley.

Success of a very different kind was experienced by four Year Six pupils when they represented the school at the annual Bryanston Mathematics Challenge. They competed three challenges: 'The Mental Test' - 20 questions with only 5 seconds to answer each question, 'Counting Down' - Carol Vordeman would have been proud and 'The Big Event' - where the children had to solve tricky problems in record time. The competition was incredibly tough, with 55 pairs of children from a variety of independent and primary schools running with their answers to the set of markers. After 2 hours of gruelling maths, we nervously awaited the result. Could we do the double and win two years in a row? Finally the scores were in and Jack Silver and Christian Thomas were awarded first prize with 195 points! They had scored 20/20 in The Mental Test, 60 points in The Big Event and an amazing 115 points in Countdown. They were awarded with a maths set and calculator. Our other pair, Grace Goodfellow and Holly Baker, also scored a magnificent 134 points and were placed 11th in their group. They scored 19/20 in The Mental Test, 55 points in The Big Event and 60 points in Countdown. Both couples were a true credit to the school. They worked hard, were extremely polite and great company on the journey to and from the venue.

You may recall that last term pupils from across the Junior School entered an art competition designing pictures to go on the hoardings surrounding the building for the new science block. On Wednesday the four winners, Ashwin Elanchcheliyan (Yr 1), Erik Hillman (Yr 2), Ben Brooks (Yr 5) and Aelfred Hillman (Yr 4) were taken on a tour of the building site by the site manager and had their photographs taken with their winning pictures that are proudly on display on the barriers placed all round the site. They all greatly enjoyed the experience and are now not only inspired to be future artists but also scientists and can not wait to be in the Senior School having science lessons.

The week has ended heralding in our book week with well known children's author, Pippa Goodhart, creator of the popular Winnie the Witch series visiting the classes in Reception, Year One, Year Two and Year Three. We look forward to welcoming children's author, Andrew Norris on Monday when he will be holding workshops for the pupils in Years Four, Five and Six. Andrew has written many popular books, some of his more popular titles include, 'Aquila', 'Bernard's Watch' and the 'Woof' series of novels. With such well loved authors, there is no doubt that our pupils will not only gain a lot from the experience but also have a very enjoyable time.

With this to look forward to, I wish you all a very happy weekend.

Philippa Foster

The High Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2LN

Tel 023 9236 4219 Fax 023 9236 4263 Email juniorschool@pgs.org.uk Website www.pgs.org.uk

www.pgs.org.uk

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.

MARY ROSE APPEAL

Mary Rose activity sheets are available from the Junior School Office and Mrs Kent at a charge of £2.00. Competition entries are due in by 12th March.

VISITING MUSIC TEACHERS PARENTS' EVENING

Wednesday 10th March in the Rotunda.

We are delighted that this term we have a special Parents' Evening for Visiting Music Teachers to meet parents on Wed 10 March. Letters are being sent home by Visiting Music Teachers and parents are asked to complete the slip at the bottom of the letter and return it to the music teacher, who will then confirm the appointment time in writing after half term. A small number of these teachers are not available on this evening and Mrs Fretwell in the Music Department will be contacting parents to let them know of alternative arrangements for these families.

START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

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.

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.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

The Junior School will have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant from 19th April 2010. The hours would be 0800-1330 5 days per week, a total of 27.5 hours per week. NVQ3 training or willingness to undertake the NVQ3 qualification would be preferred. The post is to work within Years Five and Six on the UJS site. Please apply in writing including the names of two referees to Mrs Day by Monday 15th March.

RAFFLE PRIZES FOR PUB QUIZ

Any donations for raffle prizes for the pub quiz next Thursday night would be greatly appreciated at the Junior School Office by Wednesday at the latest.

MENU WEEK 3

PUPILS' ACHIEVEMENTS

★ Congratulations to **Naeve Molho** (5G) who has recently gained her Stage 3 ASA National Plan Award in swimming.

★ Congratulations to **Max Gumm** (4P) who has passed his Grade 1 Piano exam.

★ Congratulations to **Clemmie Gumm** (5S) who has passed her dance examinations in Social Once Dance for Disco/Freestyle and Modern Ballroom, achieving honours in both.

★ Congratulations to **Joseph Gowers** (6J) and **Marcus Gowers** (4J) who have gained the ESF (French ski school) highest honour—Gold Star; the first English children to achieve this honour so far this season in La Rosiere.

★ Congratulations to **Dan Sherburn** (1Y) for achieving his first skiing badge reaching the 'Flocon' level in French ski school.

★ Congratulations to **Dominic Page** (5G) who has achieved his brown belt in Taekwondo.

★ Congratulations to **Jonathan Yang** (4S) who has been awarded two cups in the Portsmouth Music Festival. Jonathan took home the Edith Fitzjohn Memorial Cup for piano solo in the Romantic category (9 years and under) and the Secretary's Cup for piano solo in the Swing, Jazz and Blues category (8-9



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.

11+ ACCEPTANCE LETTERS—POLITE REMINDER

All 11+ acceptance letters should be returned by Monday 1st March. Any places not accepted by this date will automatically be allocated to those on the waiting list.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS—FRI 19 MARCH AND MON 22 MARCH

There will be no teacher led after school clubs on Friday 19th March and Monday 22nd March due to Grandparents' Day. External provider clubs will continue as normal on both days.

THE JSA INVITE YOU TO A...

PUB QUIZ!

THURSDAY 4TH MARCH AT 7.30PM
IN THE DINING HALL



real ale

MAXIMUM TEAM SIZE OF 3
PRIZE FOR THE WINNERS,
PRIZE FOR THE BEST TEAM NAME
& A BOOBY PRIZE!



fish & chips

ENJOY A PINT OF REAL ALE, A
GLASS OF WINE OR SOFT DRINKS

DINE ON FISH OR CHICKEN AND CHIPS
OR VEGETARIAN OPTION,
THEN CHOOSE FROM A SELECTION
OF DELICIOUS DESSERTS.

TICKETS: £8

AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL OFFICE



HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS



The following Head Teacher's Awards were awarded: **William Moore** and **Omar Al-Rahim** for super independent writing using adjectives and similes to describe a toy, **Nikhila Behari**, **Rufus Hornsey**, **Samara Materna**, **Robert Mitchell** and **Louise Shannon** for their end of unit test on teeth and eating, **Thomas Coyle**, **Harry Davis-Marks**, **Charlotte Dean** and **Thomas Groves** for excellent work in Drama, **Charlotte Webb** and **Eleanor Wilson** for their end of unit test on keeping warm, **Loren Dean** for stating the meaning of items on a Seder plate, **Will Donworth** for continued hard work in Maths, **Harry Hoolahan** for superb puzzle work in Maths, **Joseph Kooner-Evans** for excellent English poetry stimulus, **Thomas Lockyer** for great progress with his writing, **Joseph McAuley** for excellent leaflet writing, **Dominic Page** for an excellent Earth, Sun and Moon powerpoint, **Helena Pearce** for lovely poetry work in English, **Oliver Taylor** for continued effort in Maths, **George Whelan** for excellent 3D shape homework, **Joshua Titley** for writing an outstanding acrostic about prayer

ROLL OF HONOUR KS2

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week:

English: Lotte Hayward (x2), Reuben Hogg (x2), Callum Percival (x2), Adam Boxall, Max Burlein, Alexander Butler, Imogen Davies, Roame Leaver, Joseph McAuley, Antonia Phillips, Molly Renton, James Ross, Alexandre Sautreau, Jack Silver, Emily Whitehead

Maths: Benjamin Brooks, Rumaanah Cassamo, Joshua Ellard, Fergus Gibson, Mia Glover, Georgia Grant, Isobel Gumm, Ethan Hoddle, Naeve Molho, Emma Priory, George Sinden, Oliver Wisbey, Merlin Wright

Science: Lillie Simons (x2), Alexander Butler, Theodore Hornsey, Callum Percival, Emma Priory, James Ross, Holly White

RS: Georgina Lewis (x2), Nikhila Behari, Reuben Hogg, Callum Percival, George Sinden

Geography: Louise Askew, Benjamin Brooks, Samuel Burlein, Alexander Butler, Annabel Cunningham, Sophie Dennis, Callum Percival, Antonia Phillips, Emma Priory, George Sinden

French: George Sinden

ICT: Callum Percival (x2)

Reading: Adam Boxall, Alexander Dassow, Henry Doyle

Spelling: Callum Percival (x2), Benjamin Brooks

Games: Louise Askew, Joshua McCoy, Callum Percival, Merlin Wright

KS1 HONOURS

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week: Lucy Albuery (x2), James Christensen (x2), Ashwin Elanchcheliyan (x2), Lily Gibbs (x2), Ethan Hards (x2), Samuel Head (x2), Milla Macanovic (x2), Maddy Oliver (x2), Alia Alayyan, Giordano Avondo, Priya Badial, Giselle Barfoot, Brynmor Bidwell-Richards, Claudia Bishop, Susannah Boydell, Henry Buckle, Adam Buckley, Louis Crocker, Tamara Crocker, Poppy Davenport, Yasmin Dyer, Holly Fisher, Jon Garcia Tarifa, Thomas Gibb, Jevon Hannah, Harry Hellyer, Harvey Hill, George Hodell, Ava Hooper, Sakina Khaja, Sophie Matheson, Tess Matheson, Nathan McBride, Isabelle Pearce, Quinn Sinton-Gerry, Kian Souhani, Grace Taylor, Oliver Thomas, Miles Toh, Matthew Walton, Frederick Williams Brown, Isabella Devereux, Oliver Fraser-Harris, Elsa Hares, Edward James, Thomas Lockyer



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 27 February

U11A & B, U10A & B, U9A & B Rugby v Twyford (away) - 1430
U9A & B Girls' Hockey v Twyford (away) - 1430
U11A Netball v Westbourne House & Windlesham House (away) - 1400

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 3 March—1430

U11 West Hill Park Boys' Hockey Tournament (away)
U11 Rugby 7's Tournament, Norman Court (away)
U10A, B & C Girls' Hockey v Cranleigh (away)
U9 Westbourne House Netball Tournament (away)

Thursday 4 March

IAPS Netball Regionals (away) - 2.30
U8 Netball v Westbourne House (away) - 1.30

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:
U8	Tag Rugby Tournament Norman Court	Won 2 Lost 1 Drew 1
U8B	Haslemere	Lost 35-45

Boys Hockey:

Team	Opposition	Result:
U11A	West Hill Park	CANCELLED

Girls Hockey:

Team	Opposition	Result:
U8A	Twyford	Lost 1-5
U8B	Twyford	Drew 2-2

Girls Netball:

Team	Opposition	Result:
U10A	St John's Rowlands Castle	Won 14-13

DOUBLE MEDAL SUCCESS FOR CAMERON



During half term, Cameron achieved her best performance to date in a major alpine competition. Cairngorm Mountain in Scotland provided the location for the Hilton Open Championships where two day's racing were completed in excellent weather and snow conditions. Cameron's efforts were rewarded as she made the podium twice, taking first place in the Giant Slalom and second place in the Slalom competitions. She was very pleased with her performance and is now looking forward to her training camp with the English School's Junior Squad in Austria in March.

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL SKI TRIP

Montgenevre, French Alps
February Half Term 2010

On Saturday 13th February 37 children and 5 staff set off to Montgenevre in the French Alps. The party flew from Gatwick to Grenoble with out a hitch. Unfortunately, there was a multiple car crash high on the mountain pass and the route was closed for a couple of hours. After an extra long transfer we eventually arrived at resort and were welcomed with a hot buffet meal and ski fit before tumbling into bed.

On Sunday morning, blue sky and perfect piste conditions greeted the party. The ski instructors came to the hotel to meet the children and take them to the slopes. The beginners were introduced to the magic carpet, which is a flat escalator travelling up the side of the nursery slopes and the experienced skiers did a test to see which group they would ski with. After a full day skiing, the children had a chance to unpack their cases. Each room was given a diary to record their experiences throughout the week and a door poster competition was set up before tea. After a delicious 3 course meal our evening entertainment was a town treasure hunt helping the children to orientate themselves with their new surroundings. The winning team was Toby Scandling, Matthew Llewellyn and Jonathan Brook.

Monday's challenge for the beginners was to negotiate a button lift taking them higher up the nursery slopes. The novices went up the chair lift to the mid-way station and the other groups explored the top of the mountain. The staff thoroughly enjoyed skiing with the children and seeing their progress after just two days. Before tea there was time to look at the souvenir shops in the town. The evening activity was ice skating on the outdoor rink next to the hotel. The children skated as snow flakes danced around them. The most improved skater prize was awarded to Olivia Smitherman.

Tuesday saw the children explore more runs, jumps, bumps and off-piste skiing. Before lunch the resort photographer took a group photo and individual action shots of all of the skiers. Mr Rowley won the biggest poser prize. After the afternoon lesson we had afternoon tea comprising of hot chocolate and cake. The evening entertainment was a quiz compared by our rep Matt, groups enjoyed working together and faired especially well in the final round which was to make something which symbolised France out of tin foil. We were amazed at the children's creativity and imagination. The year five girls won the quiz - Loren Dean, Charlotte Amenta Lynch, Bella Barrington Clark and Oliva Smitherman.

Wednesday morning saw the beginners travel up to the mid station in the bubble lift, the intermediates hit more blue and red runs and the advanced group tackle the steepest black run in the resort and zoom all over mountain. In the afternoon the beginners were shown how to use a chair lift and the instructor was so impressed with their progress he asked them to get poles for Thursday's lesson. After lessons was a chance for the intermediates and advanced skiers to free ski with Mr Rowley, Mrs and Mr Dean on the blue run out side the hotel. The children had the opportunity to race down over the jumps and show off their new moves. The evening entertainment was bum-boarding; the whole party hit the slopes under the blanket of darkness. Five teams assembled half way up the slalom piste for a variety of races and activities. Ellie Seebold won the main race and even beat the ski technician, Ryan and Joe Stirup won the long distance challenge.

Thursday saw the beginners travel to the top of the mountain. The intermediates found the "border cross" and the advanced tackled the natural "half-pipe" valley followed by more off piste skiing. After afternoon lessons, hot chocolate and freshly baked cookies were gobbled before a last chance to visit the shops to buy gifts and souvenirs. It was DVD night and we all settled down to a family film "RV" with drinks and snacks.

We woke on Friday morning to heavy snow and blizzard conditions which meant visibility was poor. We stayed on the lower slopes and learnt how to ski in powder - what a fantastic experience. By lunch time the clouds had lifted and in the afternoon good visibility enabled all groups to enjoy one last blast around the mountain. We returned all the ski equipment and changed out of our ski clothes one last time. After a quick shower we returned downstairs for a presentation by the ski instructors, they complimented the children for their hard work and progress during the week. Every child was given a medal and booklet explaining all the different ski levels. The last night disco was great fun with all the children joining in.



During the week there were daily presentations to the children, and they won prizes for a plethora of reasons. On the last night, Louie Duncan received the "Off-Piste" Award for being the best off-piste skier and Georgia Wright and Harry Harrison received the Queen and King of the Mountains T-shirts for being the best skiers during the week.

Each and every one of the children made significant progress during the week, both on and off the slopes and were a credit to their parents and PGJS. In the Gatwick baggage reclaim zone, an airport porter commented that we were the best group he had seen at the airport during his 25 years of working there and had restored his faith in the youth of today!



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 and the Year 5 play rehearsal that is also taking place on this day, may we ask that all pupils in Year3 to Year 6 come to school in their normal uniform but they may bring a mask or hat to illustrate a chosen character. Please note that this is slightly different to what has gone out on the flyer this week.

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