



Junior News

THE PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

We have had an excellent start to the Summer Term, enhanced by the glorious weather and the very evident enthusiasm of refreshed pupils and staff. We look forward to the many exciting events that the Summer Term offers us: KS2

French Day, the JSA Murder Mystery event, Sports Days, Activities Day, Year Four Sailing Week, the Independent Learning Project, Thank You Assembly, Sports Assembly, Year Six residential visit to Nettlecombe Court, the Year Two and the Year Six productions, House picnics, Music Competition Finals, Portsmouth Festivities, The Junior School Fête, The Strawberry and Cream Concert, Year Six Leavers' events and our special Prize Giving Service and Ceremony—to mention only the key events of the term! We certainly have a lot to look forward to.

This being the first letter of the new term you would imagine that I have very little to write about, however, because of some of the very interesting events that have taken place during the holidays I have lots to report.

Three residential visits took place over the holidays involving 129 pupils and 14 members of staff as well as a number of enthusiastic and very supportive parents. The visits involved pupils from Year Three going on the York Trip, pupils from Year Four having an activity week in Ross-on-Wye and pupils from Years Five and Six travelling to South Africa for a cultural and sporting experience. Full reports of these trips follow in this Newsletter. All three trips were tremendously successful and greatly enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents. An overriding impression that relates to each of the trips was how brilliantly the pupils behaved; various members of the public went out of their way to say how very impressed they were with the behaviour of our pupils and with the manner in which they conducted themselves and related to each other as well as how polite they were with any one they came into contact with. Certainly, in each of the groups, there was a tremendous sense of community spirit with everyone looking out for, and looking after, each other; valuing and respecting the social structure of the group. It was also impressive to note how responsive the pupils were to all the more educational experiences when they displayed a great appetite for learning and for having new experiences. There is no doubt that, which ever of the trips the children went on, each pupil came back enriched by the experience. I am, indeed, sincerely grateful to all those members of staff who, so generously, gave of their free time to support and assist with these visits—as indeed I am to those parents who added additional support; most especially on the York Trip.

Summer Newsletter 1 — 24th April 2009

This first week has gone very well with pupils settling down very quickly to routine. We have welcomed a number of new pupils across the School and hope that they feel welcome and are happy with all their new experiences.

This week began for the staff with an INSET day. KS2 had a session on the teaching of Maths and attended a very interesting lecture on Emotional Intelligence. The Foundation Stage and KS1 staff underwent training in Food Hygiene, a compulsory element when staff and pupils in any capacity, are required to handle food. The day was valued by everyone.

Wednesday began with a whole school Cathedral Service to mark the start of the term. The theme was 'perseverance'; several pupils from across the School had some special roles: acting and telling the story of The Hare and the Tortoise, sharing poetry and prayers that the pupils themselves had written, and performing on instruments. The message that perseverance leads to success was very clearly conveyed when the skills of the Year Three brass ensemble were compared with those of the Year Six brass ensemble.

Next week sees the commencement of all the clubs; it is particularly pleasing to see the introduction of even more new clubs: Girls' Football (for Years One and Two), Chelsea Football Club (for Years Three and Four), Mandarin, Rounders, Athletics, Cheerleading, Girls' Cricket, Fun Maths and Sailing. With the new additions last term of Karate, Judo and Double Club (Football and German) we certainly have an outstanding range of activities on offer.

In closing I would like to mention how very smart the children look in their summer uniform, most especially the girls in their summer dresses. I am very grateful to parents for supporting us in ensuring that the children adhere to the school uniform regulations and the dress code in general; it makes a great statement—thank you!

Tomorrow sees the start of the summer season of sports at the Saturday morning games session at Hilsea. All KS2 pupils are most warmly invited to attend when the boys will be experiencing cricket and the girls rounders.

I wish you all a very happy weekend.

Philippa Foster

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HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

The following Head Teacher's Awards were awarded: **Sam Bayco** for an excellent observational drawing of a daffodil, **Harry Hellyer** and **Erik Hillman** for excellent independent writing, **Tilly Bell** and **Freddie Fenton** for excellent Cathedral readings, **Marcus Gowers** for consistent effort in maths, **Charles Elliott** for fantastic guitar playing, **Alastair Cunningham**, **Patrick Caldwell**, **Tom Crundwell**, **Febe Campbell-Collins**, **Thomas Atkinson** and **Ethan Hoddle** for fantastic circuit work in science, **Meha Patel** for wonderful observant drawing and painting of spring flowers, **Nico Karayakaylar** for an excellent humorous poem, **Kalvin Cheung** and **Ben Stainton** for fantastic holiday reading, **Florence Bishop** and **Henry Doyle** for a super write up of their Book Week activities, **Nick Goodall** for a wonderful description in Geography of land use change, **Joe Hunter** for a fantastic description of urbanisation, **Charlotte Amenta Lynch** for a brilliant description in geography of urbanisation, **Ajay Patel** for a super description of urbanisation in geography, **Caroline Clayton** for an excellent description of the process of urbanisation, **Ava Hooper** for beautiful writing about the fun she had with her Class toy Panda Manda, **Devlin Stigant** for outstanding behaviour and excellent community spirit on the South Africa trip

ROLL OF HONOUR KS2

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week:

English: Matthew Roberts (x2), Max Bird, Harry Minall, Raunak Mukherjee, Sophie Parekh, Ajay Patel, Oliver Saunders, James Woodward,

English Homework: Joshua Atkins, Emily Tandy

Maths: Jai Thakrar (x2), Holly White (x2), Max Bird, Charles Galliver-Cooper, James Harper, Philip Macanovic, Kristian Masters, Evie McAuley, Callum Penry, David Richardson, Oliver Saunders, Merlin Wright

Geography: Isabella Barrington-Clark, Rory Bell, Nicholas Goodall, Georgia Henderson

History: Charlotte Amenta-Lynch, Callum Trimmer

Science: Emma Priory, Zackary Toh

RS: Charles Galliver-Cooper, Lotte Hayward, Callum Trimmer

Reading: Samuel Burlein, Marek Canavan, Ned Davies, Kimiya Erfanmanesh, Venetia Law, Jamie Matheson, Sophie Parekh, Ellie Prosser, Matthew Roberts, Thomas Row, Amy Stokely, Francesca Strongitharm-Cornell, Emily Tandy

Spelling: Matthew Roberts

Games: Lillie Simons

Conduct: Madeleine de Vere

Connectives Work: Caroline Clayton

KS1 HONOURS

The following pupils signed the Honours Book this week: Frederick Ansell-Virco, Sofia Goodale, William Hartridge, Adam Heyes, George Hodell, Ava Hooper, Nathan McBride, Noah Stocker, Nikhila Behari, Claudia Bishop, Ryan Buckley, Edward Campkin, Cameron Clarke, Emily Curwood, Hans Miles Deter, Thomas Gibb, Emma Holmes, Rufus Hornsey, Charlotte Howard, Sophie Jennings, Frazer Mackenzie, Murray McLeod, Jack Pearce, Ollie Tinson, Oliver Wisbey



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 cricket for the boys and rounders for the girls as well as tennis for both boys and girls if numbers permit.

FIXTURES—Saturday

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

Monday 27 April—1600
U11 Tennis v Highfield (away)

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**

Cameron Manson spent most of her Easter holidays training and competing in the French Alps. She spent 10 days at the British Ski Academy in Les Houches followed by a week of coaching and racing in Meribel. Although she was disappointed with her performance in the British Ski Championships in Meribel, in the face of strong competition she finished in a very respectable 14th position. As the snow in the Alps melts, Cameron is looking forward to a summer season of indoor snow and dry slope competitions.



SATS TIMETABLE 2009

| PERIOD | MONDAY 11TH MAY | TUESDAY 12TH MAY | WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY |
|--------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | SCIENCE A 45m | | READING 60m* start at 8.45 |
| 2 | | SHORT WRITING 20m & SPELLING 10m | |
| 3 | | LONG WRITING 45m | |
| 4 | SCIENCE B 45m | | |
| 5 | | | |

| PERIOD | THURSDAY 14TH MAY | FRIDAY 15TH MAY |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | *start 8.45* MATHS mental 20m & A 45m | |
| 2 | | MATHS B 45m |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |

South Africa 2009

During the first week of the Easter holiday, 44 Year 5 and 6 children, six staff and thirty parents, brothers and sisters departed for a soccer and netball tour to Cape Town, South Africa. We managed to pack a great deal into the week. All soccer and netball teams were very successful against local school and club sides and the children gained much from integrating with pupils from different social and cultural backgrounds after the games. There is no doubt that the South African's are a well drilled sporting nation - one quote displayed



on a large banner where we played our first match of the tour against a team called Durbanville read "There is only one thing worse than losing and that is quitting." This made my team talks easy for the rest of the tour!

We caught a cable car up Table Mountain and had our breath taken away by the panoramic views. We visited the penguins at Boulders Beach, shopped and ate too much at The Victoria and Albert Waterfront. Another fascinating day was spent touring the Rugby and cricket stadiums at Newlands. We spent a day on Safari and saw the big five. The pinnacle of the tour was probably a trip to Langa township, where we saw just how poor the living conditions are for so many people in our world. We were all able to empathise with these families and it certainly made us all appreciate how lucky we are. A local school sang songs to us and our children danced with the young children as they sang.

We unfortunately picked up a bout of food poisoning, which seemed to spread around the group, but with good teamwork and positive spirits, we didn't let this hold us back. The children behaved extremely well throughout the tour (and the parents were good on the whole too!) and many positive comments were made by members of the public about their excellent behaviour. After a fantastic trip a huge thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Payne for all their hard work in organising the trip. I would also like to thank Mrs Dean, Mrs Evans, Mr Sharkey, Mr Payne and Mrs Payne for their dedication in ensuring outstanding pastoral care for the pupils throughout.

Roland Ainsworth



YORK TRIP

Over the Easter break 44 Year Three children and 7 adults enjoyed a residential trip to York. Having stopped off at Warwick Castle and basked in the sunshine during our picnic lunch we travelled on to York. We made good time and arrived at our hotel at about 6pm. We were surprised to be given a choice of three main courses for each of our evening meals, but having made our big decisions we tucked into some delicious food followed by ice cream...which brought smiles to everyone's faces!

We had fantastic second day. We arrived at Murton Park in the morning to begin our Roman re-enactment and spent the day finding out exactly what life would have been like in the Roman army. We marched, we fought, we learnt to write in Roman script and even made our own oil lamps. The spears may have been made of rubber, but they were certainly put to the test...especially when a rogue Celt tried to invade the fortress. We soon saw him off after showing how organised our fighting skills had become! The excitement continued as we spent an exhilarating hour at Waterworld...first came the water flumes...three daredevil pipes of speed and excitement, where trepidation at the top turned into the biggest grins at the bottom. Then came the wave machine and the lazy river, a wonderful way to relax and enjoy some swimming.

Our day in York centre on Wednesday was great, we took in two museums, an archaeological dig centre and a tremendous Viking education experience. On Thursday we were quite surprised to find ourselves thinking we may be short of sun cream when standing on the North York Moors! On Friday our journey home was punctuated by a short stop for lunch and a canal trip at Stoke Bruerne, where once again we enjoyed pleasant weather as we motored along the water.

At least once every day one member of the staff was told how wonderful the children were by a member of the public. Their behaviour was indeed exemplary, they have been a credit to you and to the School! May I thank Mrs Foster, Sister Wright, Mrs Mills and Mr Elphick Smith who were the staff who accompanied me and also extend my gratitude to Mrs Bown and Mr Gowers who were parent helpers, I could not have managed without them!



PGL TRIP

Miss Vinsen, Miss Charter and Miss Watkins took 15 girls and 26 boys from Year Four to Ross-On-Wye for an action packed adventure holiday. From day one we were kayaking, abseiling, rock climbing, rifle shooting and getting covered in mud in the glorious sunshine! All the children had a fantastic time and really challenged themselves to achieve their goals, be it getting onto the water, shooting a bullseye or jumping off the side of a building! Everyone was totally exhausted by Friday, but didn't want to go home...we were just having too much fun! It was a brilliant week, made even more special by the enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour of all the children involved.