



The Portsmouth Grammar School Nursery,
High Street,
Portsmouth, PO1 2LN
www.pgs.org.uk

Head of Nursery
Mrs. L. Johnson
8 January 2010

Dear Parents,

On the behalf of all the Nursery Staff, may I take this opportunity to say a very big 'Thank You' for all the wonderful cards and gifts we received at Christmas. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to a number of new families who are joining the nursery over the next few days. Arrangements are being made for start dates despite the weather doing its best to hold us back!

The theme for this term is 'People who help us'. This week the children considered the 'Police'. Mrs Jennings talked to some of the children about being a police woman. A 'police station' developed in the imagination room. Much of the talk this week has been recollections of Christmas adventures and presents. The children have talked and talked about all the excitement they had!

Next week some activities will revolve around 'Fire'. The imagination room may develop into a fire station, and hopefully some walkie talkies and fire hoses will be made. Activities will include the fire drill and remembering how to contact the emergency services using a phone. Everyone knows that fire fighters have to act as quickly as possible, so the children may try to repeat an action as many times as possible within a short space of time using a sand timer. In the craft area the children will be encouraged to have a go at mixing red and yellow to make a range of shades. At home please help your child by ensuring they know their own address, or telephone number, which they could use in the case of an emergency. Thank you.

The letter of the week is 'e'. Please bring items with the initial sound 'e' for display on the sound table clearly labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

Mrs Jennings has also very kindly agreed to be a volunteer helper in the nursery – all of the staff and children are really enjoying her company – at the moment she is getting to know the children and reading lots and lots of stories and then signing them out for you to enjoy with your child at home. Happy reading!

Boogie Mites – music workshops will take place again this term, each Thursday morning until half term. All children attending nursery on Thursday morning will take part.

Dropping off early

As you know 'Early Care' is available between 8 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. The nursery is very flexible in allowing children attending the core hours to arrive at any time between 8.45 a.m and 9.15 a.m. It has come to my attention that many children are arriving in nursery well before 8.45 a.m. Whilst we are happy to accommodate you, there is a charge for attendance between 8 – 8.45 a.m. Please let me know if you would like to book for 'Early Care'. Thank you.

Parent / staff social event – Bowling at Bowlplex in Gunwharf on Friday 29 January at 7 p.m. –£14.99 for 2 games and meal. Wendy has a list at reception – please sign up, it should be great fun! This booking has to be paid in advance so money and numbers attending by Friday 22nd January at the latest. PLEASE COME.

Richard the Lion

For those of you who do not know about 'Richard the Lion' and his Diary – a soft toy lion comes to visit each of you at home for a sleepover, and asks that you record his adventure briefly in his diary. The story is read to the rest of the children each day at group time. The resulting record of the year is wonderful – there are several in the Reception Area if you would like to read about 'Richard the Lions' adventures!

For your information – these are the contact telephone numbers for the Nursery. If your child is ill please inform us on the first day of any absence. Thank you for your help in this matter.
Normal daytime direct line contact telephone number for the nursery: 02392 681337
Daytime contact number for PGS: 02392 360036

The Nursery has a rather large file of '**Policy Documents**' many of which have been recently updated. If you would like to look at any of these – the file can be found in the bookcase in the Reception Area of the Nursery.

Blue Reef Aquarium

I hope to arrange an outing to the **Blue Reef Aquarium on 17 March 2010 during the morning.** The children will be split into three groups and travel in a PGS minibus. In order to take all of the children I do need quite a lot of adult help. Please would you let me know as soon as possible if you are able to come on this trip. Thank you very much.

Spring Walks

Also, I would like to take the children for two short '**Spring Walks**' to the post office at Gunwharf Co-op and to the museum and museum garden. Dates for these are **3 February and 5 March 2010.** Again quite a lot of adult help is needed to make this possible. Please let me know if you are able to come with us.

Nursery Education Grant forms are on the Reception Desk again for all children aged three and four years – please make sure you sign it as the return for this term has to be completed by Thursday 21 January. Thank you.

Outdoor clothing

A quick reminder – please can you help us by making sure outdoor coats, hats, gloves, etc., are clearly labelled. Thank you.

Please find attached a list of dates for this term.

Have a restful weekend.

Lois Johnson

Term Dates – Spring Term 2010

Monday 4 January – Spring Term begins (packed lunch)

Tuesday 5 January – hot lunches available.

Thursday 7 January – Boogie Mites begins for 6 weeks.

W/C 11 January & 18 January – 4+ Assessments for Portsmouth Grammar Junior School

Tuesday 19 January – visit to school nurse.

Wednesday 27 January – visit to Senior School library.

Friday 29 January – Parent / staff social event at 7 p.m.

Wednesday 3 February – Spring Walk to Gunwharf Post Office

W/C 8 February – Chinese New Year in nursery.

Friday 12 February – **PACKED LUNCH!**

W/C Monday 15 February – Holiday Care – packed lunch needed this week – book a space as soon as possible.

Monday 22 February – second half term begins.

Friday 5 March – Spring Walk to Museum

Tuesday 9 March – Games Morning – fund raising for nursery sensory room.

Wednesday 17 March – Blue Reef Aquarium outing.

Tuesday 23 March – Easter Bonnet Parade and coffee morning. The children will parade and sing to you at 9.30 a.m. (refreshments available from 8.30 a.m.)

Monday 29 March – Thursday 1 April – **PACKED LUNCHES FOR 4 DAYS.**

Friday 2 April – **NURSERY CLOSED** – Good Friday.

Monday 5 April – **NURSERY CLOSED** – Easter Monday

Tuesday 6 April – Friday 16 April – Easter Holiday Care

Monday 19 April – **NURSERY CLOSED** – Staff training day

Tuesday 20 April – Summer Term begins.

