



FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

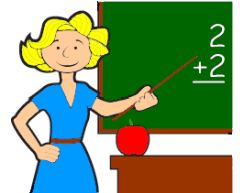
Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. I am delighted to confirm that our 2015 results were not only above the Portsmouth average but also above the national average in the key measures of combined level 4+ and expected progress. This is the second year running that this has happened and is a great start to what I'm sure will be our best year ever. Thank you for all your support so far and I look forward to working with you over the coming months.

Iain C. Gilmour

STAFF NEWS

We have welcomed some new staff this year. Isobel Messer, Chantel Tyler, Shannon McNally and Emma Hamer have joined us as teachers in years 5, 4, 5 and 3 respectively. Evi Janosi, Irena Mason and Leila Millson have joined our excellent band of teaching assistants and Owen Greenaway is working with both trust junior schools to support the pastoral team.

Anne Cope is back full time having been seconded to Newbridge School for half of each week and I'm thrilled to announce that she has been promoted to the position of Assistant Headteacher working on inclusion and pastoral support.



Finally I'm sorry to report that Deb Welling is still very poorly and will not be in school for the next few months. I know you will want to join with me to send her our best wishes. If Ms Welling is the person you usually speak to, please speak to either me or Mrs Paine or Mrs Cope and we will do our best to help you.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you so much for supporting our changes to the uniform. The new jumpers look absolutely terrific and everyone is wearing black shoes which is fantastic to see. Thank you also for the odd note and phone call when something has gone wrong and your child is out of uniform for a day – we really appreciate the courtesy. Our uniform supplier is Simmonds – their website is www.simmonds-ltd.com where you should be able to click on our school logo to go to their online shop.



BUILDING NEWS

There have been several building projects over the summer term that have had a transformative effect on the school. The first is the new ceiling in the Lower Hall that has reduced the echo in there from 2.5 seconds to 0.5 seconds and means the noise level has dropped dramatically. Lunch times are so much better! Secondly we have redecorated the two downstairs classrooms for Year 6 to use this year. We now have eleven classes so needed to find a bit more space for all those teachers. Other work is more hidden such as replacing a flat roof and doing some repointing. Our future plans including making some changes to all the offices in the school and upgrading our wiring – exciting stuff I know! My thanks to our academy trust for supporting these projects financially.



PORTSMOUTH ACADEMY FOR GIRLS OPEN EVENING

Year 6 girls and their parents are invited to join me at PAGS' Open Evening this Wednesday 23rd September from 6-8pm. This is an excellent chance to look around the Trust's only secondary school in the city and see some of the exciting opportunities that they offer.



COOL MILK

If you would like your child to have milk at school, please come and see Mrs Smith in the office. Parents who are entitled to free school meals are entitled to free milk; other parents can pay online at www.coolmilk.com so do have a look.



CYCLING TO SCHOOL

We're pleased to let children cycle to school. However children must wear a helmet and we'd encourage them to have a hi-viz vest as well. Children will need a cycle permit which you can get from the office. Children who have completed their Bikeability training automatically qualify for one but for other children, I will need to have a quick chat to make sure they're safe enough to cope with all the roads around school particularly at the very busy school run times.



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The PTA has organised a hallowe'en disco for Years 3 and 4 on Thursday 15th October and for Years 5 and 6 on Thursday 21st October from 5pm – 6pm. Tickets cost £2 and will include a hot dog. There will be games and tuck on sale at the event and letters will be sent out soon with ticket allocations.



If you would like to join the PTA, please speak to Mrs Ellis in the office!

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 23 September	5VP trip to Chocolate Lounge
Thursday 24 September	5IM trip to Chocolate Lounge Full governors' meeting
Friday 25 September	5SM trip to Chocolate Lounge
Friday 2 October	School photographer for individual photos
Wednesday 7 October	Year 6 trip to Stansted House
Thursday 8 October	Year 6 Girls' STEM workshop @ PAGS 2pm – 3pm
Thursday 15 October	Year 3, 4 Hallowe'en Disco
Thursday 22 October	Year 5, 6 Hallowe'en Disco
Monday 26 October	Half term holiday
Monday 2 November	INSET day
Tuesday 3 November	school re-opens
Wednesday 11 November	Open Day for New Year 2 parents
Tuesday 17 November	Year 5 "Up for It"
Wednesday 18 November	Book Fair arrives
Wednesday 2 December	Good Shepherd Church Assembly
Wednesday 16 December	Carol Service @ St Mary's Church, 2pm



INSET days next year are 2 November, 4 January, 22 February and 6 June

Autumn Term 2015
Tue 1 September - Fri 18 December

Spring Term 2016
Mon 4 January - Thurs 24 March

Summer Term 2016
Mon 11 April - Wed 20 July

Half Term
Mon 26 October - Fri 30 October

Half Term
Mon 15 - Fri 19 February

Half Term
Mon 30 May - Fri 3 June

Christmas
Mon 21 December - Sun 3 January 2016

Easter Holidays
Fri 25 March - Fri 8 April

May Day – Mon 2 May