

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year!

All being well, I send out one newsletter a month to give some general reminders and updates on school as well as reminders of key dates. Most of our day-to-day communication is done via text or through letters sent home. We put all copies of letters on the website so do check there if you think your child might have lost it or forgotten it or has somehow disappeared in the dark and gloomy recesses of the book bag.

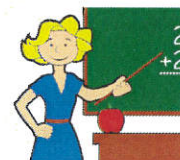
We will also put copies of this newsletter on the website – everything is in pdf format so should download to tablets, laptops, mobile devices or probably your washing machine given the way technology is going....

*Iain C. Gilmore*

### STAFF NEWS

We have welcomed some new staff this year. Bekki Ayling, Emily Stocker and Chloe Wooden have joined us as classteachers in Years 5, 4 and 5 respectively. I hope you will join me in wishing them well as they join the Brunel team.

In other staff news, Miss Hitchings is back from maternity leave working four days a week and Mrs Godwin is now a School Direct Teacher working in 4HG. Miss Pearson and Mrs Toghill are due to go on maternity leave in the new few weeks (I know – I can hardly keep up myself!) and Mrs Paine is spending every Tuesday and Wednesday working with a Trust school in Kent.



We are going to say a few goodbyes as well. Mrs Ratcliff, Mrs Gibb and Mrs Willis have all resigned as lunchtime supervisory assistants after many years of loyal service. Mr Wrightson has also resigned as caretaker as his family moves out of the city. We wish everyone the best of luck in the future and thank them for their time at Brunel.

Finally I'm sorry to say that Ms 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 find either me or Mrs Paine or Mrs Cope and we will help you.

### BUILDING NEWS

Thank you for all the positive comments about our new reception area which brings a new level of professionalism to the school as well as adding a couple of extra secure doors. We are still working through the finishing touches and so far I've only locked myself out of my office seven times....Unbeknownst to many, a large number of windows were replaced during the summer term the majority of which are on the north side of the building. My thanks as always to the Academy Trust for supporting these capital works financially.



## PORTSMOUTH ACADEMY OPEN EVENING



The Portsmouth Academy used to be called Portsmouth Academy for Girls and long before that, the City of Portsmouth Girls' School. From September 2017, it will be accepting boys as well as girls which is terrific news for children here for several reasons. Firstly as a member of the same academy trust, children here get first allocation for secondary school places which means if you apply there, you will get a place. Secondly, The Portsmouth Academy is a fully accredited Thinking School which means children from Brunel have a distinct advantage having already been exposed to the Thinking Curriculum. Finally with incredible results this year, the school is one of the best performing in the city.

The Portsmouth Academy Open Evening for new parents is on **Wednesday 12 October** from **6pm – 8pm** and I look forward to seeing you there!

## ROAD SAFETY

So far my comment on road safety on our Facebook page has attracted over 760 views! Let me start by saying yet another thank you to the huge number of you who have supported what I am trying to do which is simply keep the children here safe. I really do appreciate what you have said particularly when the reaction from some drivers is, how can I put it, less than polite. I will continue to remind drivers where they can legally stop and will continue to use our own parking tickets when our friendly traffic warden is elsewhere. The next step is to involve our Junior Road Safety Officers to help publicise the message.

In the meantime as I said on Facebook, there will never be enough parking places outside school so please park a few streets away and walk.



## SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE

Our school Facebook page has been set up as a "broadcast" account. This means that it is one-way: we can put things on it but alas, nobody else can. Think of it as "anti-social" media. The reason for this is practical: fully interactive social media pages need constant monitoring – sometimes censoring – and we simply don't have the time or resources to do that. Therefore all comments and other posts are blocked and not published on the page (although your "friends" might still see them). I hope you understand why it has been set up this way.



If you do need to contact us, please write or email or better still, come and have a chat before or after school. I'm usually hovering around illegally parked cars desperately hoping the threat of running me over is nothing more than that....

## YEAR 3 NASAL 'FLU VACCINE

A quick reminder for Year 3 that Friday 21 October is the date for the nasal 'flu vaccines. Your child's infant school should have already given you information about this and we will send out a further letter closer to the time.

## 2016-17 DATES

**Autumn Term 2016** – Tuesday 6 September - Friday 16 December Half Term: Monday 24 - Friday 28 October

**Spring Term 2017** - Tuesday 3 January - Friday 7 April - Half Term: Monday 20 - Friday 24 February

**Summer Term 2017** - Monday 24 April - Tuesday 25 July - Half Term: Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June

**INSET days:** 31 October, 3 January, 27 February, 5 June