



# Portesham C of E VA Primary School

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome back, I hope you are all well and had an amazing summer break. By now, hopefully, you've all seen the little added addition to the playground. It has taken a whole year of planning but it really is a dream come true. I really need to pay a massive thank you to the school's Governing body who have worked tirelessly to ensure financially we could afford the project and also all the staff who have generated so many fund raising events over the past few years. What a team! For any competitive souls out there, the best time around the circuit is currently 42 seconds. There is second phase of the project which is on hold until we raise enough money. To help us with this can I direct those of you who shop in Tesco, Dorchester to pop your blue plastic till tokens in the Portesham playground project box. This will remain in place until the end of October.

*New things happening this academic year.*

### KS1 and Reception swimming instruction

Thank you to all the parents who returned the parent questionnaire before the summer break. As a result of a repeated suggestion we have arranged swimming lessons for the KS1 and Reception children for this academic year. Year 2 are going for the Autumn term and started this week. Lessons are taking place at Moonfleet Manor.

### Enrichment Afternoon

This is a new and very exciting introduction to the KS2 curriculum. Every Friday afternoon the children will be provided with the opportunity to learn skills which are not a part of the National Curriculum. The skills have been broken down into practical, physical and mental attributes. Class 3 have kicked off with survival skills and have so far studied map reading. This week we'll be creating water traps and with what we collect we will purify and refresh ourselves. Over the next few weeks we will explore shelter building and of course how to make a fire. Class 2 will be learning first aid skills and then will be exploring ways of ensuring personal well being through mental enrichment.

I've managed to speak to several parents and grandparents over the past week and through discussion about the enrichment programme have uncovered some hidden talents. Talents such as bird spotting / identification, bat box construction and hedgehog home design. If you've got a skill you would like to share please let me know as I'm always looking for ways to enrich Friday afternoons.

### Dates - Autumn Term

We've very nearly completed the diary dates for this term and by the end of the week we will post online a handy diary date sheet. We are also exploring ways to integrate our email/calendar system with a public calendar which will be embedded into the school website.



Acting Headteacher: Mr C. Brown B.Ed

Winters Close: Portesham: Weymouth: DT3 4HP

Telephone/ Fax: 01305 871283

General enquiries Email : [office@portesham.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@portesham.dorset.sch.uk)

Parents Email : [parents@portesham.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:parents@portesham.dorset.sch.uk)

Please reuse or recycle this paper.

### **Communication**

Traditionally we've always sent letters home via home communication books and school diaries. This method is very labour intensive and there just isn't the staff in school to manage this process any more. All letters are distributed via the school website and parents are informed of this by text message. However, I'm aware that method hasn't been 100% successful plus some Apple Mac users are finding it hard to download the PDF files from the school site. So we will be tweaking the process once more. The office team and myself will be adding an email list to the system and all relevant letters will now be emailed out to all parents who have provided the school with their email address. If you haven't please do so as soon as possible. Letters will always be found on the school site and we will continue to text out when new letters are posted. As a complete back up and fail safe to this new process you will find in the school entrance hall a handy folder with your child's class number on it. Inside that you'll find copies of all the newsletters sent out for that term so far. All I ask is please don't take the last one, just ask a member of staff to make a copy. Sometimes the old ways are the best ways.

### **Welcome**

I would like to welcome Mrs Dawn Eccles to the school. Dawn has joined the Busy Bee team and has brought us a wealth of knowledge and experience.

I also like to welcome all the new families to the school. One thing that makes Portesham a very special place is how great the parents are. Your support and smiles contribute greatly to the feel of the school. I'm sure you will all introduce yourselves to our new parents and grandparents and welcome them into the fold.

### **Reminder**

After school clubs start this week.

### **Finally**

Last year was such an amazing year it will be hard to top but that's the mission. I'm proud of how the Year 6 children have risen to the challenge and are already showing signs of being great leaders. They do pose one dilemma though - I've got to write in a whole lot more roles in to the Christmas performance as there's double the amount of children. Talking of which this years performance is titled 'The Wizard Of Doz'. It's still in the early phases of writing but expect the unexpected as always. Lets have a great term !

Many thanks

Mr Brown.



**easyfundraising**  
org.uk

**Acting Headteacher: Mr C. Brown B.Ed**

Winters Close, Portesham, Weymouth, DT3 4HP

Telephone/ Fax: 01305 871283

General enquiries Email : [office@portesham.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@portesham.dorset.sch.uk)

Parents Email : [parents@portesham.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:parents@portesham.dorset.sch.uk)

Please reuse or recycle this paper.