



Portesham C of E VA Primary School

'Putting children first'

www.Portesham.dorset.sch.uk

Classroom Placements and Sports Week Information

Dear Parents

RESIDENTIAL 2018

Well I finally feel like I've recovered from the residential weekend, it was so good and the weather was amazing. I have to pass on my thanks to all the children. They were so well behaved they were a credit to you all. The KS2 children have received a letter about next years residential already. We need responses back as soon as possible so we can hopefully book the site on a sole occupancy basis next year.

CLASSROOM PLACEMENTS

I can finally announce the teacher classroom placements for next year:

Reception : Miss Mileham
Class 1: Mrs Aldridge
Class 2: Mrs Brignell
Class 3: Miss Whisker

As you will see there is no change to the current set up. However, as a part of her continuing career development Miss Mileham will be teaching the Yr 1 children at some points during the week. There will be adequate cover provided for the Reception class in her absence. I will also be supporting Class 1 for 4 mornings a week to ensure the Read Write Inc phonics scheme is undertaken correctly. This will allow Mrs Aldridge to deliver the more demanding Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar curriculum elements to the Yr 1 and Yr 2 children.

RAFFLE UPDATE:

Many thanks to everyone who has returned their tickets already. There's still over a week to go so keep on selling if you have spare tickets. If you've exhausted all selling options then please can you return your unsold tickets to the office so we can reissue them. We are so grateful for all the generous prizes the school has received, many, many thanks to all our sponsors.

SPORTS WEEK

Next week is our annual sports week w/c 10th July. This year due to several other events, trips and enhanced transitions taking place it will be a scaled down affair. However, every child will be placed in a team and will take part in multiple sporting activities all week with the aim to hold aloft the cup of Awesome Coolness! Sports day on Wednesday, 12.7.17 will be the usual line up of serious and the not so serious races. We're hoping to get the races underway by 9:30am. Then there will be a shared lunch where you will be able to order BBQ food in advance around midday ish. The afternoon session will be a mix of sporting activities and games for all to participate in. At 2:30pm we will all settle down for a cream tea and the drawing of the raffle. The day will end at 3:00pm. Your child will be told which team they are in this week as well as choose their preferred races for sports day.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Many thanks for all the parents who returned their questionnaires. The information you've provided has already helped us shape the curriculum for next year. The full set of results, graphs and comments will be made available on the school website shortly. One change we are currently investigating is establishing swimming lessons for the Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 children. This is a direct result of several parent comments. Your feedback and suggestions really can shape the way the school operates. However, I would like to add we will not be getting a school pet crocodile, but thank you for the suggestion.

The winner of the bottle of wine and the box of chocolates is Mr and Mrs Spencer-Veale :

FAREWELLS

At the end of this academic year we have several staff leaving us as well as several children. We also have our amazing Year 6 children continuing their learning journeys as they move on to Secondary education. I would like to pass on my best wishes to Ms Crawford and Mrs White who have been with school proving expert 1 to 1 supervision. We wish all the best for the future and I hope our paths cross again, it's a small world. It's also with great sadness we say goodbye to my right hand lady, Mrs Cottingham. Jayne has been instrumental in helping me settle in to life as a head teacher. Her wise words and support over the past two years has been vital to the success of the school. As for those non Year 6 children leaving us we also wish them the very best and I hope the memories that they take with them brings them happiness for years to come, they will be greatly missed.

As for the Year 6 pupils well this is their time to shine. Their SATS results were released this morning and they've done really well we're very proud of them, no pressure Year 5!. To a child they have been an exceptional bunch of individuals. Their leadership this year has been exemplary and they have given so much to the school. Some have been with us for their whole primary term other joined only this year. But it's credit to how mature they are that you wouldn't know which child had been with us the longest. It saddens me greatly to see them leave but I'm so proud of what they have achieved and I'm certain they will all go on to greatness.

This year their leavers day trip out is to the Dorset water park at Corfe castle followed by a 3 course meal at Zizzi's in Dorchester. They have been very busy selling ice creams after school to help raise the funds needed. Thankfully they have almost made it. It's not been easy being on a diet with a freezer full of ice creams just outside my office.

MAT UPDATE

The school application for academy status has been delayed by the recent general election. However, we are expecting good news over the summer vacation. The Governing body will inform you of any updates in September.

PUPIL NUMBERS

Come September we are expecting the school to be at capacity for the first time in several years. This is very beneficial as an increase in pupils brings an increase in funding. This increase offsets the actual loss in designated government funding we had planned for this year. Though it doesn't mean more money it does mean we can still maintain our existing high standards.

Kind Regards

Mr Brown