



22nd December 2017

What a busy but exciting half term!

Attendance

We are currently at 95.4% This is a positive start and we hope that it continues along this track for the rest of the year. Class 4 have been our first class this year to have 100% attendance all week. They chose to have a non-uniform day as their treat - let's hope we have lots more classes in non-uniform next half term!

Values

At Porchester we are proud to be a Values-based school. Every half term we look at different values and explore what they mean to the children and how they are a positive influence on their lives. This half term we looked at **Aspiration** - where we explored what they want to do when they get older and how they are going to get there; **Perseverance** - how we fail 19 times to succeed the 20th time, whether in learning or hobbies; and **Pride** - how we all have skills, talents and qualities that we should be proud of, or being proud of other.

Welcome to Porchester

We are pleased to welcome our newest member of staff, Miss O'Neill, who will be working with Class 1.

Jack and the Beanstalk

Lower School shone with their production of Jack and the Beanstalk. The children sang beautifully and performed to their very best; the costumes were perfect; and the acting was Oscar worthy! I certainly wouldn't want to be Jack, with his mother nagging and chasing him! A highlight was the Giant smelling his way through the audience bravely and in character the whole time - not easy for someone so young. All of the children made the performance perfect. A huge thank you to everyone involved, especially all those at home who ensured the children knew every word.

Halloween Treat Sale

At the spookiest time of the year, Mrs Bradshaw organised a spooky sale of cakes, sweets and treats. A huge thank you to all you talented bakers (and buyers) out there who generously supported the event with your cakes and treats. We raised an impressive £148.30 which will be spent on enrichment activities for the children throughout the year.

Book Fair

A firm favourite with everybody, the book fair gives us the chance to get children reading more. Every pound you spend gives the school money to buy books for school too. This year, thanks to you, we were able to spend £161.40 on new books. Thank you!

World Science Day

To celebrate World Science Day our children dressed as scientists, researched a scientist or a branch of science. We were blown away by the children's costumes and research that the children did. We even had a famous female, Polish scientist! We felt that it was important to raise awareness of science - and our Lower School and Upper School topics are Science based this half term.

Remembrance Day

We were very impressed by how respectful the children were when making and planting their poppies to mark Remembrance Day. Our school has done this for years and the tradition is noted by the whole community. Well done children for being a part of something so important.

Anti-bullying week

We linked this with our value of kindness to celebrate all that is good about Friendship and how their actions can make all the difference. We have amazing children at Porchester who support and look out for each other so well that, although children fall out, our children are generally happy and kind to each other. They made posters and pledges to bring this to the forefront. To mark the importance of 'Everyone Different' we took to wearing odd socks for the day. Who knew there were so many different socks!

Children In Need

Again, we were blown away by the generosity of the Porchester family. Children looked amazing dressing up, dressing down and dressing fancy! Even staff got involved and joined in. You also baked - and bought - again and we sold cakes, raising £166.85 for Children In Need! That money will go towards helping so many and Porchester was again part of something bigger.

Friends of Porchester Junior Present Sale

How lovely to walk into the hall and see such an array of gifts, wrapped and ready for the children to buy. The Friends of Porchester Junior School worked really hard, donating hours of their time (and Sellotape) to make this event happen. The children bought hundreds of gifts, which are hopefully under the tree ready for the big day.

Parties

Thank you for all your help with the Christmas parties, we really couldn't do them without you. Some of you brave souls even came in to help set up the food and serve the drinks. The children looked fabulous in their finest clothes and partied hard! They enjoyed the games, music and especially the food. Although it is always hard work, noisy and busy, the children have a great time and it really gets them into the Christmas Spirit (although I am not sure that the teachers feel the same!).

Recorder Assembly

A huge congratulations to Amy, Emily, Lucy, Aaron, Aisha, Ewan, Darwin, Belle, Greta, Olivia and Sophia for performing fantastically in the recorder assembly. They played the carols beautifully and confidently, especially Darwin who played a solo!

Carol Concert

Well done Upper School for their entertaining Carol Concert. The singing was loud, enthusiastic and tuneful; the readers were clear and confident; and - most importantly - the behaviour was impeccable. It was great to hear your New Years' Resolutions. We look forward to finding out how many of you stick to them all year. Thank you also for bringing the children back for their 6.00 performance. We know it was dark and cold, but much appreciated, so that more people could see their children shine.

Governor Awards

Nigel Best presented the Governor awards to Sophie, Laura, Isla, Freya, Amelia, and Millie. Congratulations for standing out and being outstanding! You are doing yourselves and Porchester proud.

What Can I Change?

Upper School have learned all about change this half term - from fairy tales to time, to light and mindsets. They have worked really hard all half term and have planned and delivered some great science experiments. We had some great BINGO homework in, although we think that more of you could do it next half term. We hope you enjoy your Four Seasons calendar for the upcoming year, and that you enjoyed their irreversible change treats of Rocky Road and Peppermint Creams.

Light and Sound

Lower School have focused on Light and Sound for this half term. They have explored sound and even made a string telephone - who needs an iPhone X? Your children are so incredible that they even debated whether they would rather lose their sight or their hearing. To help the children imagine what this must be like, the children watched part of a video of their production without sound, and then listened to a different part without pictures. There were some thoughtful and interesting opinions based on their experience. What maturity they showed, well done!

200 merit treat

As part of our new merit system, children are awarded merits for going 'above and beyond.' This might be for their work, their behaviour or their general conduct. All children who have earned over 200 merits this term have had a treat - watching a film in the hall, with hot chocolate and sweets!

For those who just missed out this time, there is always next term to shine and go that extra mile - by volunteering answers in the class, trying to do the stretch and challenge activities or going out of your way to help someone.

Pantomime

We couldn't have Christmas without a pantomime. Oh no! we couldn't! This year we had Scroogical to visit us on our final day to get us in the Christmas Spirit, ready for two weeks of holiday fun.

Reverse Advent Calendar

At this most wonderful time of the year, you have exceeded all imaginings. Who knew that you would be so thoughtful and generous? We have taken a box full of food EVERYDAY to the food bank. We expected to be able to take one a week, but one a day is astounding. The food and toiletries will be invaluable to families over this Christmas period and you should be so proud of yourselves for making a difference. Thank you!

Porchester Pupil Paper

Talking about Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride, we are very proud to release our first edition of the Porchester Pupil Paper! A group of 12 budding reporters, editor and photographers have worked together to produce our first paper.

This edition had articles about our Super School Pets, Mrs. Foster, History of Porchester, an interview with Mrs. Parr, merits and role models, Change topic in Upper School and a festive wordsearch, where you could win a tuck shop voucher! Copies have been flying off the shelves and will be added to the website for you all to see.

We can't wait to see what they produce next time.

Well done to Annie, Darwin, Jake, Fin, Greta, Lillie, Millie, Brooke, Noah, Tom, Isabelle, Olivia and, of course, Mrs Watts.

Singers in the Community

Ms Spencer, Mr Cullen, Mrs Ward and Mrs Owen selected 12 fabulous children to sing at the Nottinghamshire Hospice on Woodborough Road. They entertained the patients with their voices and personalities as they sang, shared mince pies and chatted. We were very proud of how well they presented themselves brilliantly and represented Porchester with maturity and excellence. Thank you to those children who volunteered - and we are only sorry that we couldn't take all of you.

And finally...

May we take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support for everything we do at Porchester. We know that we organise lots of fun activities and enrichment events throughout the year and these often require volunteers, resources and money. Without you, we would not be able to have these events and offer such enrichments to the children.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday and a prosperous New Year.

Dates for next half term

| Date | Event |
|---|--|
| Fri 22 nd December | Break up for Christmas holidays |
| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS | |
| Mon 8 th January 2018 | Welcome back |
| | Value of the half term - Hope |
| Mon 15 th January | Martin Luther King's Birthday |
| Thurs 18 th January | Year 6 meeting re SATs* |
| Wed 24 th January or Thurs 25 th January | Year 6 Gifted and Talented to TCA* |
| Fri 26 th January | Holocaust Memorial Day - The Power of Words* |
| Mon 27 th January to Fri 3 rd February | National Story Telling Week* |
| Tue 6 th February | Safer internet day* |
| Wed 7 th February | Charles Dickens' Birthday |
| Wed 14 th February | Valentine's Day* |
| Thurs 15 th February | 2.00 - Upper School reflection* |
| | 2.30 - Lower School reflection* |
| Fri 16 th February | Chinese New Year - Year of the Dog* |
| | Break up for half term |
| HALF TERM HOLIDAYS | |
| Mon 26 th February | INSET day - school closed to children |
| Tues 27 th February | Welcome back |
| | World Kindness Day* |

* more information to follow

Key dates for the coming year

Mon 26th February and **Mon 4th June** - INSET days

Wed 25th April - **Fri 27th April** - Year 6 residential

Mon 14th May - **Thurs 17th May** - Year 6 SATS week

