

Porchester Junior School Newsletter

Autumn term 2018

September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year. We do hope you have enjoyed the summer holidays and that your children are refreshed and prepared for a fabulous year. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the children and families new to our school, we look forward to getting to know you in the coming weeks and months.

There have been some new additions to the Porchester staff and I would like to welcome Mrs Sawyer, our new Year 3 / 4 teacher and Miss Barrett who will be working alongside our teachers as she completes her teacher training.

At the start of every new academic year there are various matters that need to be addressed, some of which form part of everyday school life but for which we need your specific consent or agreement. Please would you therefore read, complete and return the forms which are included with this letter.

1. Photo consent form
2. School trips blanket consent form
3. Home-school agreement
4. Free school meal application (please read this form carefully)

Any documentation copied onto coloured paper needs signing and returning to the school as soon as possible.

A copy of your child's data collection form will be sent out to you later this week in a sealed envelope. This form contains your emergency contact details which we'd like you to check carefully and return to us with any changes.

INSET days

Our next INSET day is Friday 5th October 2018.

The INSET days for the rest of the year are as follows:

- Monday 25th February 2019
- Monday 3rd June 2019
- Wednesday 24th July 2019

School holidays

Attached to this letter are the school holiday dates for the next two academic years. **Term dates for 2019-2020** will be in line with the Nottinghamshire County Council dates and other local schools. INSET dates and terms start and end dates will be confirmed later this term.

Please note instead of the longer 6 weeks, from the academic year 2019-20 the summer holiday will be 5 weeks long and the October half term holiday will be longer than before and will extend to 2 weeks. At Easter, the spring break will be fixed as the first 2 full weeks in April.

Year 6 SATs tests 2019

The 2019 Key Stage 2 tests will take place during the week commencing 13th May 2019. If you have a child who is in Year 6 please refrain from taking any holidays during this period.

Tuck shop

School tuck shop will open for business on Monday 10th September. The shop will be selling a selection of healthy snacks such as fruit and vegetable sticks.

School planner

All children have been given a personal planner which they need to take care of and bring to school daily. This planner also functions as a reading diary. All children in Years 3 and 4 will already have or have just been given a Porchester book bag, please can you ensure that this bag comes to school everyday with the planner and their reading book inside. We suggest you check in here regularly for school newsletters and other communications.

School dogs

For a number of months we have been discussing the benefits of a school dog and are hoping to introduce Toby, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and Ollie, a Patterdale Terrier very soon. There are a number of school dogs already in post locally and around the country, I am sure you will agree that this is an exciting opportunity for the school. The benefits of school dogs are significant and we will write to you more fully about this in the next few days.

Guinea pigs

Our lovely guinea pigs Butterscotch and Toffee are looking for carers each weekend! If you would like to have the opportunity to look after our lovely school pets please send an email to the school office with the words 'Guinea Pigs' in the subject bar. You will need a car to transport them and we will supply an indoor cage along with food, bedding and instructions for their care. We anticipate a high level of interest so this will be offered on a rota basis.

After school clubs

We have two after school clubs starting on **Wednesday 12th September**, both clubs are open to all children and will run for seven weeks up until half term. The cost is £21.00 for a block of **7 sessions**. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. We will be offering more clubs over the coming weeks.

Battle of the Bands, Wednesday, 3:15pm – 4:30pm

This club will give children the opportunity to expand their knowledge of music through a variety of methods and performance. Children will sing songs, play musical instruments and learn performance skills.

Multi Sports, Wednesday, 3:15pm – 4:30pm

Each week children will play a variety of different sports such as handball, ultimate frisbee, soft archery, gymnastics, dodgeball, hockey and cricket.

You should have received a sign-up form for these clubs last week.

Breakfast club

Our breakfast club runs daily between 8:00am-8:45am at a bargain cost of £2:50 per session. The menu includes toast, cereal and yoghurt. If you'd like your child to attend please pop into the office for a registration form.

Diary dates

14th September, Roald Dahl book swap
26th September, Jeans for Genes day
28th September, Grandparents' day (Lower school)
28th September, Macmillan coffee morning, 2:00pm
1st October, grandparents' day (Upper School)
5th October, INSET day
9th October, parents' evening
11th October, parents' evening
12th October, Year 6 Science day at The Carlton Academy
18th October, Harvest service

More information about the above events and more diary dates will follow later this term.