



Porchester Junior School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2017 September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been a busy but exciting start to the new term and it's lovely to see all the children looking so smart and enthusiastic. I want to extend a 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 we would like to welcome Miss Mintey, our new Year 3 / 4 teacher and Mr Pearce, our new maths teacher.

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)

INSET days

Our next INSET day is *Friday 6th October 2017*. This has been set to coincide with Standhill Infants School INSET.

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

- Friday 6th October 2017
- Monday 26th February 2018
- Monday 4th June 2018

School visits, outings and sporting fixtures

Over the course of an academic year, your child will have the opportunity to go on school trips. Any trip that requires pupils to be away from the school site needs your permission. When a member of staff is organising a trip, they will send you a letter outlining the details, the cost and information about how payment can be made. There will be a reply slip on the letter that must be completed in full and returned to school by the specified date. By signing the slip you are agreeing to your child going on the trip.

For local outings such as PE activities at Standhill park, services at St John's church and sporting fixtures against other local schools separate individual permission will not be required as long as a blanket consent form has been completed. Please therefore complete and return the blanket consent form as soon as possible.

On occasions, particularly for sporting fixtures staff cars may be used to transport pupils. If a member of staff uses their car to transport pupils, they will have presented their driving licence, current insurance certificate and MOT certificate to the office for approval.

School holidays

Attached to this letter are the school holiday dates for this year. The next two years school holiday dates can be found on the school's website.

Values-based education

Values-based education will continue to be delivered this year as we strongly believe it creates a strong learning environment that enhances academic attainment, and develops pupils' social and relationship skills. The values we will be learning about this term are responsibility, aspiration, perseverance and pride.

Year 6 SATs tests 2018

The 2018 Key Stage 2 tests will take place on the week commencing 14th May 2018. If you have a child who is in Year 6 please refrain from taking any holidays during this period.

Online safety workshops for parents

The NSPCC will be running a free online safety workshop for parents at 2:15pm on 27th November 2017. A letter will follow later this week.

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.

Parents' evening

You will have received a letter about parents' evening last week. If you haven't done so already, please return the slip as soon as possible.

Finally if you have any questions or are worried about anything please contact us as soon as possible and we'll do all we can to help.

Jeans for Genes day

Thank you for supporting this charitable activity. Children managed to completely cover two pairs of adult jeans whilst raising money for this worthwhile charity.

Grandparents' day

We have been totally blown away with the response to this event so are now having to run it over two days. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused. Please see separate letter.

Harvest festival

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival at St John's Methodist Church on 17th October. As always, donations of non-perishable harvest produce would be much appreciated.

International Literacy Day

This was a great success and children loved swapping their books.

Themed school dinners

Please see school noticeboard for the full menus for a special themed menus.

Diary dates

Specific details about some of these events will follow separately.

3 Oct	Year 6 science day at The Carlton Academy
6 Oct	INSET day
9 and 11 Oct	Parents' evening
12 or 13 Oct	Year 6 Enterprise day at The Carlton Academy
17 Oct	Harvest service, St John's, 9:30am (pupils only due to limited seating in the church)
19 Oct	Diwali assembly
20 Oct	Non uniform day for Athletics
23-27 Oct	Half term
3 Nov	Bonfire night special themed lunch
9 Nov	Flu immunisations for Year 3 and Year 4 (nasal spray)
9 Nov	Remembrance day assembly
10 Nov	Remembrance day special themed lunch
13-17 Nov	Anti bullying week
17 Nov	Children in Need
27 Nov	NSPCC eSafety workshop, 2:15pm
1 Dec	Christmas shopping event
5 Dec	Lower school Christmas performance, 6:00pm
7 Dec	Lower school Christmas performance, 1:30pm
8 Dec	Christmas disco
20 Dec	Christmas dinner for pupils
14 Dec	Lower school Christmas party
13 Dec	Christmas service, St Johns
11 Dec	Upper school Christmas party
21 Dec	Christmas jumper day
21 Dec	Carol concert, 2:15pm
22 Dec	Christmas break

Photo Consent Form 2017-18

At Porchester Junior School we sometimes wish to take photographs or videos of pupils for a variety of reasons such as archive records, school display boards, website or press coverage of achievements.

Listed below are the types of images that we may wish to take of your child during their school career:

- Individual/group photographs for display in classrooms and other areas around the school
- General photographs of pupils working in classrooms or around the school for our archives
- (which could be published at some time in the future as a record of an era)
- Photographs of school events (eg educational visits, sports day, dance, drama and music performances)
- Photographs of achievements/school events for the website
- Press photos (of awards ceremonies, individual achievers, school events, etc)

Photo portraits by commercial photographers to be offered for sale to parents as a school fundraising activity.

Please read the list carefully and complete and return this form to school to give your consent. If no form is received we will assume that consent has not been given.

This form is valid for the academic year 2017/18.

I give permission for Porchester Junior School to take and use images of my child.

Child's name:

Parent's signature:

Date:

Blanket consent form for local trips and visits 2017-18

I give my consent for the above child to participate in local and regular out of school activities (such as church visits, visits to local schools, sports fixtures, educational walks in the local area etc). I understand I will receive written details of each trip/visit from the member of staff involved in its organisation.

This form is valid for the academic year 2017/18.

Child's name:

Parent's signature:

Date:

Free School Meals

As your child has just moved up to Porchester from an infant school your child would have received (or been entitled to) a school dinner. However, in junior schools (Years 3 to 6) children are only entitled to a free school meal if they fulfil certain criteria. The Government has recently adjusted its criteria for free school meals meaning that more children are now eligible. So even if you have tried and not qualified in the past, it is in your interest to register again.

If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also receive other benefits, for example, free school trips.

How does it work?

1. First, check to see if you qualify. You can be in employment and still qualify, so please look at the list below.
2. Registering is really quick and easy. If you think you might qualify, you can contact the school office who will help you to register.
3. Your child could receive a free healthy meal at lunchtime **saving you £40 a month** for each child.
4. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal – but by registering, the school may still qualify for added funding, all helping towards the running and increased opportunities the school can offer to pupils.

***No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.
Please talk to us about registering your child today.***

Do you qualify?

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of state Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credits and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

A lot of people don't claim free school meals even though they're entitled. To apply go to <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk> or simply type Nottinghamshire Free School Meals into Google and fill in the form. Or you can ask the school office for a form.

If you would like the school to help you to apply for free school meals, please leave your contact details below, and one of our office team will contact you.

Name:.....

Phone number or email address:.....

Porchester Junior School Home School Agreement, 2017-18

Our Home School Agreement is an important statement of what we stand for as a school and is a legal requirement. Please would you read this with your child, sign it and return it to school.

Our Vision

- We provide a safe, happy and caring environment.
- We work hard, enjoy learning and have high expectations of ourselves and others.
- This is achieved through positive attitudes, creative approaches to learning and teaching, and high standards of behaviour.
- Pupils leave us equipped with the life skills needed to become well-balanced, respectful citizens.

Our Aims

- To promote and encourage independent learning. We recognise that everyone learns differently and that positivity, resilience, goal setting, self-awareness, cooperation and making mistakes are all part of learning.
- To teach in an innovative way that encourages passion and motivation in children and staff. Quality teaching is based on strong relationships, high expectations, an exciting curriculum and, where appropriate, the imaginative use of new technologies.
- To have a school ethos where staff, pupils, parents and governors work together to create a safe, healthy, fair and caring environment that encourages kindness, enhanced self-esteem and respect for others.
- To encourage pupils to appreciate and understand the world in which we live (home, school, local community and beyond) and become responsible global citizens.

Agreement for the school

The school will do its best to:

- encourage children to do their best at all times
- expect the best from children in behaviour and work
- inform parents and carers regularly how their children are progressing
- inform children, parents and carers what the teachers aim to teach the children each term
- take reasonable steps to ensure the safety, happiness and self-confidence of all children
- be open and welcoming at all reasonable times
- set, mark and monitor home tasks in keeping with the school’s homework policy
- contact parents and carers as soon as possible if we are concerned about your child’s work or behaviour
- contact parents and carers if there is a persistent problem concerning your child’s attendance or punctuality
- offer a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of children

Agreement for parents

To help my child at school, I will do my best to:

- make sure that my child arrives in school on time and is collected on time
- make sure that my child attends school regularly and inform the school of the reason for any absence (this includes holidays in term time)
- support the school in maintaining good behaviour and discipline
- support my child with homework and other home learning opportunities and listen to my child read
- attend parents’ evenings
- ensure that my child wears the school colours and follows the school dress code
- let you know if there are any problems that may affect my child’s ability to learn

Agreement for children

I will do my best to:

- work hard and listen carefully to instructions
- come to school regularly and be on time
- keep the school rules and behave well
- be polite and helpful to other children and all adults
- do my homework regularly and bring it back to school
- wear the school colours and follow the dress code
- bring all the equipment I need everyday
- take good care of the school environment

Name of pupil:

Signature of pupil:

Signature of parent:.....

