



Petersgate Post—15th March 2024

Mrs Mitchell's 'Message of the Week'

Phew what a busy few weeks it has been here! I want to thank you for your continued support over the last few weeks with the World Book Day event and fundraising we have undertaken. Over the last few weeks of the term, there is still lots of learning and Easter events to look forward to. There is an Easter Fayre coming up next Thursday 21st March and if we could have some volunteers to help the PoPS team, please let the team know.



World Down Syndrome Day - 'Wear Odd Socks'

Please see the attached poster for World Down Syndrome "Rock Your Socks" Day and Awareness Week (next week) see poster. On **Thursday 21st March** children and staff can come to school wearing 'colourful', 'funky', 'bright', 'spotty' or any other unique, individual "SOCKS" to highlight the tolerance and acceptance and to celebrate the differences which make us all unique and also spread awareness about Down Syndrome and the charity Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association (Portsmouth DSA).

Normal school uniform **MUST** be worn and on this occasion and we **will not** be asking for a donation.

We look forward to seeing the children and staff in their "unique & individual socks"!

Current Vacancies at Petersgate

SEN Learning Support Assistants—please [click here](#) for more details

Role 1 - 8:40am – 3:20pm, Monday to Friday, term time only
(or this can be split into 2 roles, AM and PM)

Role 2 – 12:00-3:20pm Monday to Friday, term time only

Closing date 22nd March at 12pm

Parent Forum—

Tuesday 26th March 2-3pm

The theme of the forum this month will be the Behaviour Policy.

This will help inform updates to the Behaviour Policy. We look forward to seeing you.



Attendance and Punctuality from 4th – 15th March

Whole School Attendance: **95.8%**
(National Average: 94.3%)

Best Attendance: **Turtle class**
Best Timekeepers: **Turtle/Whale classes**

Forthcoming Events

March 2024

Thursday 21st

World Down Syndrome Day 'Wear Odd Socks'

PoPS Easter Fayre

Monday 25th

Rocksteady Concert*

Tuesday 26th

Parent Forum 2-3pm

Wednesday 27th

Turtle class assembly 2.30-3pm

Thursday 28th

Octopus class assembly 2.30-3pm

Last day of Spring term

April 2024

Monday 15th

Inset day—school closed

Tuesday 16th

School open at 8:40am

May 2024

Thursday 2nd

Games Event for Families—see poster

Monday 6th

Bank holiday—school closed

w/b Monday 20th

Walk to School Week*

Tuesday 22nd

Year 1 Trip to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens*

Monday 27th—Friday 31st

Half term

**details to follow*

Health & Wellbeing Tip

Create scenes or pieces of artwork after reading a story to bring to life. You just need a story, some art materials, natural materials and any recycled materials.

Choose a location that best suits the feel of your story. e.g. a garden area for The Hungry Caterpillar, or Peter Rabbit Read your story at that location. Bring it to life with sound effects, puppets, or even act it out. Talk about the characters, locations and items that appear within it. Which parts are the most memorable, and what is it about them that helps you remember? Recreate scenes from the story or inspired artwork utilising a variety of materials for small or large scale creations. It may be that you recreate individual characters or choose to follow a theme from the story instead.



INSET Dates

for next academic year 2024/2025

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

Monday 6th January 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

The Role of the Governing Body

Governors are strategic leaders within schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education.

A governing body have a strong focus on the 3 core strategic functions:

- ◆ Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- ◆ Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance of the staff
- ◆ Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Over the next couple of newsletters, we will be introducing our governors to our parents and families

Introducing our Governing Body

In each newsletter, we have asked each Governor to introduce themselves and write a short snippet about themselves.

This week we are introducing **Hayley Brook, Co-opted Governor**

I am extremely proud to be a Co-opted Governor at Petersgate Infant School. I have lived in Clanfield for over 10 years and I am a Mum to three boys! Two of my boys have journeyed through Petersgate and one will hopefully be joining soon.

I am a Primary School Class Teacher and therefore recognise the importance of children receiving first quality teaching to not only academically thrive but also to feel emotionally secure. I knew I wanted to be a school governor when my middle child was in Year 2. I wanted to give something back to the school, which had given my boys so much. With my professional background, I knew that I had the skill set to work with the team to provide the best education for the Petersgate children. I recognise the importance of a outstanding primary education which lays the foundations for the rest of a child's learning journey and for their future.



Young Governors

This week we have appointed Young Governor's from each class based on a class voting system.

The children used democracy to be able to decide on who would be most suitable. The children will attend meetings with Mrs Atkinson and some of the school Governors.

They will need to work as a team to make sure that everyone's voice is heard, ideas are shared and decisions are made to make sure that the school can be the best it can be.



Ofsted Update

It has been a busy term, so far but I wanted to give you an update following our Ofsted visit in October. We continue to work with the Hampshire Advisory and Inspection Service (HIAS) teams at the Local Authority, for key subject areas—English and Maths to continue to refine and develop task design and variation in writing and maths. We had a visit from the HIAS team last week, which was really positive and shows that the school continues to make rapid progress with the school improvement priorities and response to the Ofsted report.



Parking

Unfortunately we have received a complaint about inconsiderate parking on Green Lane.

Please can we ask when parking you park considerately and refrain from using private parking bays or blocking resident's driveways.

Please also be mindful that there are children and adults walking along the footpaths and ask you to be careful when opening your car doors on to the pavements.

It is vital that we maintain a good relationship with the local community and our neighbours and we do not wish to cause bad feeling.

If you have a complaint about inconsiderate parking then we would ask you to contact the Police on 101 or the parish/district council as we do not have control of the roads/pathways around the school.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Outside Learning Environment Development Update

We have been really lucky to be working really closely with one of our parents with our outside learning environment development.

A long term plan has been developed and we will be looking to source grants from various sources to improve our environment outside. This ties in nicely with our future plans in developing all staff through their professional development in outdoor learning and using the environment to enrich and enhance the learning experience. We will keep you posted in our newsletter of any future updates.

As part of our outside environment project, one of our parents will be working closely with the year 2 children in the coming weeks to plant bulbs in their outside learning environment as part of 'leaving a legacy for the future'. We cannot wait to see the growth in our bulbs as well as the growth and development of our year 2 children as they move to year 3.

We are now hoping for some drier days, so we can set a date for our pond clearance. Once the date has been set, we will send further information out to parents to see if anyone can support our Ground Force team. Thank you for the offer of help, so far.

I would like to thank the PoPS Team for their continued support with supporting our gardening projects.

Loose Parts Kit

We have been lucky enough to win a Loose Parts Kit from Learning Through Landscapes.

The kit has den building, bungees, tarpaulins, gutters, pipes, construction bricks and planks along with pulley systems, worth £500.

The children will be able to use this to enhance their curriculum learning and build a love for the outdoors!



Library Development



I met with the School Library Service (SLS) in the last few weeks regarding our library development.

The team will be coming in on 20th March to look at all of our books and check which books we will need to keep. Please can we ask all school books are returned to school by Monday 18th March.

In the coming weeks, we will be looking at the books we have and the books we will need to order for our library. We will also be looking at any furniture we have in school to use to make our library an exciting and inviting place to me.

If we have any artistic parents, who may be able to help with a mural for our library, please contact the admin office account.



Continues until Thursday 28th March

We are taking part in 'Eat Them to Defeat Them'.

Each week a family favourite vegetable will be featured.

Children can collect stickers and learn catchphrases to go with the vegetables.

We want to encourage children to try each vegetable three times so that they become part of their daily diet.

We'll be encouraging children to get those gnashers to work defeating those veg one big bite at a time, and we are planning some great chomp visuals and fun. Chomping on raw veg is also excellent for dental health – so double win!

There are

175 days

a year not spent in school.

Let's make the most of the

190 days

in school!



PoPS—Dates Coming Up 2024!

Thursday 21st March—Easter Fayre
Sunday 30th June—Summer Festival*

***details to follow**

PoPS Easter Fayre

It's the PoPS Easter Fayre next **Thursday 21st March**.

All children will be able to visit the Fayre during the school afternoon and there will be stalls, crafts and games for them to enjoy!

Children are able to bring up to £5.00 in loose change in a named purse/wallet.

Please also send in a named bag for your child to bring home their goodies.

We still require helpers for the Easter Fayre from 1pm.

If you are able help please let us know via our Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us raise vital funds for our school and giving the children more opportunities to enjoy.



PoPS NEED YOU!

If you are interested in becoming a committee member or a volunteer to help at events, please contact the PoPS Team on their face book page.

SAVE *the* DATE

SUNDAY 30TH JUNE

11AM - 3PM

@ PETERSGATE INFANT
SCHOOL FIELD



Petersgate Summer Festival



We are looking for stall holders, please
email

meg_ngo@yahoo.co.uk

for more information if you are interested!



Please scan our QR
code for our event
page.



Rock Your Socks for Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association
during Down Syndrome Awareness Week (March 18th– 22nd) or on
World Down Syndrome Day (21st March) and help raise awareness
about Down syndrome

Over the past fourteen years, thousands of our supporters in schools, workplaces and organisations have joined our celebrations during Down Syndrome Awareness Week by supporting Portsmouth DSA's **Rock Your Socks** Campaign. This global initiative raises awareness and promotes inclusion by inviting members of our community to wear colourful socks, the more colourful and individual the better.

Individuals with Down syndrome have an extra copy of chromosome 21, so three instead of the usual two. Therefore, World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated each year on 21st of the third month, March. The shape of a pair of socks mirrors the shape of the chromosomes, hence why we rock our socks!

We are all individuals with our own strengths, and we all deserve the right to experience success and be acknowledged as valued members of our communities. By wearing bright socks, we hope to highlight the importance of tolerance and acceptance, and to celebrate our wonderful differences which make us all so unique. When people with Down syndrome are given opportunities to participate and be fully included, the whole community benefits.

Please could we ask that when you **Rock Your Socks** you avoid language like 'odd', 'mismatched' or anything with a negative connotation. Focus on positive language like 'colourful', 'individual', 'funky' etc.

As individuals look down and comment on your socks, we hope that you will let them know why you are supporting Portsmouth DSA's **Rock Your Socks** initiative, to help celebrate inclusion and diversity, and to help us to spread awareness about Down syndrome and our charity. Some organisations may also like to fundraise for us by asking for a small donation on the day or might like to accompany their event with an awareness assembly celebrating differences. Whatever you decide, we hope that you enjoy your day.

Please join our community by sharing your celebration and sock photos on our social media sites. Our campaign will be running all week, and we'd love to see your contributions. **@PortsmouthDSA #PortsmouthDSA #RockYourSocks #WDS2024**

#InclusionMatters

If you would like to share your celebrations with us, or have any questions about Down Syndrome Awareness Week, please email rachaelross@portsmouthdsa.org

Thank you for your valued support.

Rachael Ross MBE
Chairperson, Portsmouth DSA



The Queen's Award



RAISING AWARENESS 18th– 22nd March 2024

@PortsmouthDSA #RockYourSocks #WDS2024 #RaisingAwareness



**PORTSMOUTH
DOWN SYNDROME
ASSOCIATION**





Funded by
UK Government



Free Games Event



Games Event for Families

Thursday, 2nd May 2024

15.20-17.20 hours

Imagine...no phones, no screens, just having fun as a family. Take a break and share dedicated time with your children to play games.

The Multiply team know that games are a fantastic opportunity to encourage mathematical thinking in so many ways. We are providing a FREE games event to give you that special time with your family whilst enhancing your inner mathematician!

How to Book

Book a place now using the link below

<https://forms.office.com/e/mP3WBBaxcx>



Hampshire
County Council

multiply@hants.gov.uk