



HEADLINES

Thursday 19th October 2017

SEPTEMBER'S VALUE	WINNING HOUSE	BEST ATTENDANCE
FRIENDSHIP	To follow	Kingfisher Class

Dear Parents/Carers,

Headlines comes to you a day early this week due to our **INSET Day tomorrow** when we will be closed for staff training.

Parking on Longfield Road

You may have seen the signs up on Longfield Road about proposed changes to parking regulations. These changes, which are currently under consultation, will directly affect access to school and parking for pick-up/drop-off times, as well as parking for those of you who are local residents, so please do take a look and use this opportunity to have your voice heard. Further information can be found on the Surrey County Council website, 'Roads and Transport' page. Feedback is required by 16th November.

Harvest Assemblies

Thank you to everyone who came to watch our Harvest Festivals today - it was lovely to see so many parents in school and we hope you enjoyed the wonderful singing! Well done especially to the choir for learning their beautiful harmonies. Thank you also for your kind donations of food, which will be sent to the Dorking Food Bank to be shared with the local community.



Stars of the Week

A huge congratulations to the following mathematicians: Isla (Y1) for being enthusiastic when we sing our number songs; Stacey (Y3) for excellent work with pictograms; Matilda (Panda) for being brilliant at partitioning and place value; Erica (Y6) for a fantastic attitude to her maths work since joining us in Year 6 and Keira (Y5) for working independently on her decimal number tasks.

Inclusion News

It was lovely to see so many of you at parents' evenings this week. If you would like ideas on how to help your child's literacy and numeracy skills using technology, there will be a talk on 'Using IT to support study skills' hosted by SESDA on 7th November at St Joseph's Church Centre, Redhill, RH1 1LF from 8.00pm. Non members £6.00.

Year 5/6 Football

A huge well done to our Boys and Girls Football teams who competed in the Dorking Schools' tournaments this week against the other seven local schools. Our boys showed a huge improvement from last year, winning two of their games comfortably to finish sixth overall. Our girls won two and drew one of their matches to finish an excellent fourth in their tournament. Well done to everyone who represented our school with a fantastic sporting attitude, and thank you to parents who provided transport, volunteered their time to help staff the gate, and for their very vocal support of our teams!

Parents Evening

It was great to see so many parents attending parent teacher appointments on Monday and Wednesday this week. Many thanks to the governors who gave up their time to provide refreshments and a warm welcome! If you were unable to make it, please do contact your child's class teacher to arrange to see them at another time.

Thank you for all of the comments and suggestions which you left on our feedback board. Here are the messages we received, all of which will be taken on board and considered as we continue to plan for our school's future...

What are we doing well?	What could we do better this year?	What could we do better in the next 3-5 years?
<p>My child is extremely happy to come to school every day - how about boarding?!</p> <p>Lovely school, I will be sad when my child leaves. Friendly, supportive.</p> <p>Lovely, supportive environment. Passionate teaching staff - actually, <u>all</u> staff - who clearly care about their jobs and their pupils, despite a difficult financial climate.</p> <p>Creating a happy, warm environment for my child.</p> <p>EVERYTHING!</p> <p>Our son loves assemblies!</p> <p>The support provided by Miss Mitchell for all children is very good. <i>(We are 90% sure Miss Mitchell didn't write this one...)</i></p> <p>Create a nurturing environment. Very open school - good communication and reassurance.</p> <p>Brilliant staff! Happy, caring environment for learning. Children caring for each other through the years. <i>We were so chuffed to read this one as we are really proud of the way our</i></p>	<p>Improve communication about changes to staffing arrangements / improve communication about interventions / improve communication... <i>We hear you! See comments below...</i></p> <p>Reintroducing Parent Council is a good idea... <i>Again - see below!</i></p> <p>Later parents' evening meetings, as in previous years, would be helpful for working parents. <i>If you are unable to make the parents' evening times, please do speak to your child's class teacher - they would be very happy to make an appointment at a different time to see you, or even to do a parent consultation over the phone if that is more convenient. We have tried to finish parents' evenings a little earlier this year, as we have a real concern for teachers' work/life balance, especially those with young families to care for at home. We also found that two late nights for staff - many of whom have long commutes - really impacted the quality of teaching by the end of the week. We will continue to review the arrangements and try to ensure we have a good balance which suits as many people as possible.</i></p> <p>More sport <i>We'll absolutely keep looking for more</i></p>	<p>Become an 'Outstanding' school! <i>We're trying!</i></p> <p>If parents could have a space to organise their own informal creche, that would enable at least one of them to help in class... <i>We LOVE this idea! Whoever wrote it, please get in touch - we'd love to discuss further!</i></p>



Powell Corderoy Primary School, Longfield Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 3DF



Tel: 01306 883373 Email: info@pcps.uk Web: www.powellcorderoy.co.uk



Co-Head Teachers: Mrs McLaughlin and Mrs Joanna Wilson

<i>children care for each other - thank you!</i>	<i>opportunities for sports!</i>	
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Communication is obviously coming up as a key priority! With regard to staffing changes, any permanent changes are always announced in Headlines, however you have also told us it would be useful to know if your child is having a different teacher one day, so you can tell them in advance. Although this isn't always possible in advance (*even teachers get ill you know!*) we can certainly pledge to let you know in Headlines each week of any *planned* cover teachers each class will have, for example if a teacher is out on a training course or at a meeting. This does happen from time to time - it is just part and parcel of busy school life - and we're happy to let you know in advance when we can. Thank you for the suggestion.

We haven't yet had any offers from people willing to help reinstate the **Parent Council**, though have had some parents say they would like a Parent Council if someone else were to run it. The Parent Council is an invaluable discussion group which puts forward the issues you as parents want to raise with the school, and ensures we have your honest feedback on how things are going. We have therefore decided to organise a **Parent Council meeting on Wednesday 29th November** at 2:15pm, to which you are all invited. On the agenda so far are the following topics:

- Online homework - recent changes and e-safety
- Communication, including social media
- Parking and access via Longfield Road
- Payments and bookings - proposed changes to current systems
- Staffing - recruitment, retention and management of transitions

If there is anything else you would like added to the agenda, please email the school office. If you are unable to make the meeting, you can also send in any views/comments in advance, to be read out at the meeting. We hope that in due course we may be able to persuade some of you to help run future meetings (it's only one a term!) to ensure the Parent Council can continue to run and - more importantly - be a true representation of your views and priorities as our parent body. We hope to see you there!

We also know that for many, today's most powerful form of communication is Social Media. We may be a bit behind the times in this respect, but we are aiming to launch the official **Powell Corderoy School Facebook and Twitter** sites shortly after half term! We hope this will provide a more real-time way for you to keep up to date with what's going on in school, and communicate with us as part of an online community. Further details to follow!

Staff update

After half term Mrs Harber will be teaching Year 1 for four days a week (instead of three) and Mrs Hutchison will be teaching on Thursdays only, but supporting elsewhere in the school on other days. After Christmas, Mrs Harber will take Year 1 full time for the remainder of the Year and Mrs Hutchison will continue to support learning across the school in other year groups (mainly Year 5). Thank you to both ladies for their flexibility and commitment to supporting children at Powell in different roles, as needed.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Walton (currently TA in Year 2) will be replacing Mrs Maccarone as the new manager of After School Club after half term, and that Mrs Costello will be moving to work in Year 1 as their main class TA.



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Is your child in Year 6?

If so, you need to apply online for a secondary school place by 31 October 2017. Applying on time gives you a better chance of getting one of your preferred schools. If you live in Surrey, you can find out all you need to know about school admissions and apply online at: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions> or you can call us on 0300 200 1004. Attached is a leaflet for your information.

Coming up after half term.....

School Photos

The school photographer will be in on Monday 30th October to take individual pupil photos. Please see the letter attached to this week's Headlines.

Open Days

We are proudly opening our doors to prospective parents who are looking for Reception places in September 2018 on Tuesday 7th November (9.30am - 11.00am) and Wednesday 8th November (1.45pm - 3.15pm). Please spread the word so we get lots of interest!

Staffing next week (as promised!)

There are currently no supply teachers planned for the week after half term.

Have a lovely half term, see you on Monday 30th October!

Mrs McLaughlin and Mrs Wilson

Co-Head Teachers

OFFICE REMINDERS

Dates for the year are now available in our [online calendar](#), via the school website. Any changes to dates will also be announced via Headlines throughout the year.

School Meals/KS2 - Autumn Term 2 2017

The cost of a school meal is £2.25 per day/ £11.25 per week. For the remainder of the Autumn Term the cost is £87.75 up until the end of term. All meals must be paid for in advance at the start of each week/term. Surrey County Council has a zero tolerance of debt and school meals will not be provided without upfront payment.

North Holmwood 1st Brownies

North Holmwood 1st Brownies has just had a huge number of Brownies move up to Guides, and has eight places they would like to offer to interested young people at Powell Corderoy.

They meet at North Holmwood village hall on Spook Hill, tuesdays, 6 - 7.30pm.

Brownies are aged 7 - 9 years old.

Both boys and girls can join Guiding.



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Anyone interested please contact Brown Owl at the email kingfishbrownowl@aol.co.uk



Some parents have asked if there is anything the school 'needs' in light of our ever-diminishing budget. We are finding it increasingly difficult to fund the 'extra' resources that really enhance our lessons and the children's learning. For this reason we have set up an *Amazon Wish List* - a list of items we would like to have, to use with the children. If you would like to purchase something from our *Wish List* please search for 'Powell Corderoy' in the

Amazon Wish List search (under 'Your Friends'), and you'll find a wide range of useful educational resources, starting from just £2.99, that could be used across the school.

FRIENDS OF POWELL NEWS

Thanks to everyone who helped organise and run the uniform sale on Wednesday.

The beautiful Christmas cards designed by the children should have come home this week in book bags. Please return the order forms together with the correct money to the school office by Wednesday 1st November. If paying by cheque, please could you make it payable to the "Friends of Powell Corderoy School". Thank you!

Bags2School sacks have also been sent home. If you are having a clear out over half term please do think about donating your old clothing, paired shoes, hats, belts, handbags and ties. The school receives money for every kilograms we send in. Bags can either be brought to school on the afternoon of Tuesday 14th November or the morning of Wednesday 15th November.

There are two open days coming up after half term on the morning of Tuesday 7th November (9.30am - 11.00am) and Wednesday 8th November (1.45pm - 3.15pm). If anyone is child free and able to serve tea and coffee or help look after the creche please can you let me know.

Have a lovely half term!

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Powell Corderoy Governors
Breakfast & After School Club
Friends of Powell
Parent Council
Surrey County Council: *Hotline to report concerns about a child*
Child Line
Family Line

01306 868165 chairofgovernors@pcps.uk
07518 697751
fopcs@pcps.uk
01306 883373
0300 123 1620
0800 1111
0808 800 5678



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