



# HEADLINES

Friday 24th November 2017

NOVEMBER'S VALUE	WINNING HOUSE	BEST ATTENDANCE
PEACE	Larch	Ducklings & Goldfinch

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Spellings

The National Curriculum puts a strong emphasis on the importance of accurate spelling and it is one of our current key priorities in school. However, learning how to spell can be tricky! Some children find spelling very easy and have no problems learning their weekly spellings. However, quite a few children find spelling very difficult and it is important that we can give the children a range of strategies to help with this.

Some children find memorising mnemonics helpful (for example, using the mnemonic *Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants* to help them spell "because") whilst others find Rainbow Writing a better strategy (writing the words out in different colours and in different shapes). We would also like to recommend an app called *Squeebles* that allows you to set up personalised lists of spelling words for your child and the app will then tailor lots of games for your child to play with those specific words in. The app costs £2.99 and is available from the App Store. It can be downloaded onto both Apple and Android devices. One parent who we recommended it to last week said: *"This app has revolutionised how my daughter learns her spellings. She now enjoys learning them whereas before we had tears and she was very down on herself. For the first time ever this week, she got all her spellings right in the spelling test!"*



Your child should receive new spellings to learn each week but it is also important to keep revisiting and consolidating previous spelling words. If you are unsure of the words that your child needs to know please refer to your child's spelling book. If you have any questions, please see your child's class teacher.

<http://keystagefun.co.uk/literacy-apps/squeebles-spelling-test/>

## Christmas Fair poster competition

Last week the FOPCS ran a poster competition to advertise our up and coming Christmas fair. We were inundated with creative, imaginative, festive entries and it was a struggle to find only 2 winners. However, we are proud to announce that Freddie W from Year 2 won first place, and Cayla A from Year 5 came second. A huge well done and thank you to everyone that took part.

## Absence

As germs multiply at this time of year, can we remind parents of the need to notify the school of any absence **every day** your child is ill. Ensuring all children are accounted for every day is part of our strict safeguarding procedure so please support us in this. You can email the school at [info@pcps.uk](mailto:info@pcps.uk) or phone 01306 883373 by 9.30am, if we are unable to answer, please do leave a message.

### **Medicine in School**

Also, because of the number of children needing medication at this time of year we just want to clarify what we can and can't administer in school. We can only administer **prescribed** medicines in the original container labelled with the child's name and dosage. In the case of antibiotics, only those prescribed four times a day or more may be administered at the school (three or less doses can be given outside of school hours). All medicines must be brought to the school office by an adult (not given to the child to hand in) and a *Medicine in School Form* must be completed before staff can administer any medication. We are sorry but we are unable to give children paracetamol, ibuprofen or other over-the-counter medications without a prescription.



### **Maths Stars of the Week**

Well done to the following maths stars for this week: Grace (Y6) for an amazing attitude and working so quickly, finishing all the challenges!; Olivia (Pandas) for brilliant inverse understanding; Stacey (Y3) for great work with measuring; Evie P (Y2) for fantastic work subtracting 2-digit numbers and Issy W (Y1) for counting in 2s confidently

### **Inclusion News**

Week 3 on areas of need we support in our school: **ADHD - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.**

The symptoms of ADHD can be categorised into two types of behavioural problems. These categories are inattentiveness; hyperactivity and impulsiveness. Most children with ADHD have problems that fall into both these categories, but this isn't always the case. For example, some people with the condition may have problems with inattentiveness, but not with hyperactivity or impulsiveness. This form of ADHD is also known as attention deficit disorder (ADD). In our school we have trained staff in how best to help children with these difficulties. We use visuals, movement breaks, positive praise and emotional support through our ELSA and Home School Link Worker. It can take up to two years to receive a diagnosis of ADHD, and this can be stressful. We are here to help and Miss Mitchell can be emailed directly on [senco@pcps.uk](mailto:senco@pcps.uk). Additional support groups and advice can be found at the 'UK adhd' website: <https://www.ukadhd.com/support-groups.htm>, and also through 'living with ADHD' <http://livingwithadhd.co.uk/>.

### **School Photos**

A query was raised on Facebook as to whether school photos were airbrushed. We have been in touch with the photographer who confirms that photos are in no way edited or enhanced, but that different lighting was used this year which created a slightly more dramatic effect than the year before. Please see the response to the original query on Facebook for further details. Thank you for your feedback, which we have passed on to the company.

### **Childcare on INSET days**

Thank you to those of you who responded to our brief poll on whether or not you'd like the school to offer childcare on INSET days. The response was around 50% Yes/No, so we are currently looking into the possibility of running a day of childcare on our April INSET day this year as a trial. We will provide you with further details in due course.

### **Religious Education in a non-church school**

From time to time, parents ask questions about how and why we teach R.E., especially given that we are not a church school. As we approach Christmas and the infants begin to learn their nativity play, this often prompts people to ask why we don't opt for a more secular production (as we do in Years 1 and 2.) We thought it would be helpful to explain how and why we do things at Powell...



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



Tel: 01306 883373 Email: [info@pcps.uk](mailto:info@pcps.uk) Web: [www.powellcorderoy.co.uk](http://www.powellcorderoy.co.uk)



Co-Head Teachers: Mrs Emma McLaughlin and Mrs Joanna Wilson

The national curriculum and collective worship (assemblies) are both still heavily weighted towards Christianity in this country - this isn't the school's choice and it applies whether you are a church school or not. Although we don't promote one religious group over others, we are required to spend at least 50% of our R.E. time on Christianity in both assemblies and RE, and the remaining 50% covers other world religions and non-religious worship. Our R.E. lessons, nativity play and some assemblies - including 'Open the Book' sessions which tell dramatised Bible Stories each week to our infant classes - teach the children *about* religions, rather than promoting or practising them. In an increasingly multicultural society, we think it's more important than ever that children understand one another's beliefs and backgrounds, and through this understanding learn respect and tolerance of different views.

The law also states that "...each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship." - "The majority of acts of collective worship in any given school term should still be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. In foundation and voluntary schools not of religious character this daily act of worship is to be in accordance with the trust deeds of the school, and arrangements made by the governors after consulting the head teacher." As we are not a school of religious character, we base our teaching on our School Values, which we designed to transcend different religions and bring us all together. We acknowledge and learn about a wide range of celebrations and festivals throughout the year, and we do provide opportunities for children to take part in acts of worship, as we know they are important to many members of our cosmopolitan school community and we aim to be inclusive. It is lovely to be able to share these things together, however it is *always* made clear to children that they are invited to take part *if they wish*, and they would never be made to do so.

With this in mind, parents do have the right to have their children excused from worship in any state-funded school. If you would prefer your child to be excluded from such experiences, please write to the school office and let us know.

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### Coming up next week .....

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**Parent Council Meeting - Wednesday 29th November at 2.15pm.** We hope to see you there!

### Mufti Day - Friday 1st December

Children can come into school in their own clothes in return for donations for the Christmas Fair. This year we are asking for the following donations from each year group:



<b>Reception</b>	Lucky Dip prizes for Boys (value approx £1)
<b>Year 1</b>	Lucky Dip prizes for Girls (value approx £1)
<b>Year 2</b>	Small gifts for women – <i>Presents for Parents</i> stand
<b>Year 3</b>	Lucky Dip prizes (value approx £1)
<b>Year 4</b>	Bottles for the bottle tombola
<b>Year 5</b>	Small gifts for men – <i>Presents for Parents</i> stand
<b>Year 6</b>	Bottles for the bottle tombola



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### Staffing next week

Year 2 had an unplanned supply teacher on Monday as Mr Darke was unwell and Year 5 also had a supply teacher today and yesterday morning as Mr White has been unwell. There are currently no supply teachers planned for next week.

Have a lovely weekend, see you next week!

*Mrs McLaughlin and Mrs Wilson*

Co-Head Teachers



OFFICE REMINDERS - The school office is open from 8.40am until 3.30pm

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.

### Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 20th December

The menu for this years Christmas Lunch is below. Children who already have school meals (on a Wednesday) will be served a Christmas Lunch automatically. If your child usually brings a packed lunch to school but would like a Christmas Lunch please send £2.25 in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and 'Christmas Lunch' (please also let us know if your child requires a vegetarian meal or has any allergies on the envelope). Payment is required only for all junior children. **The absolute deadline for ordering Christmas Lunch is 8th December.**



### Christmas Lunch Menu

Roast British Turkey with a Chipolata Sausage

Or

Quorn Cracker

served with

Sage & Onion Stuffing, Seasonal Vegetables, Roast Potatoes & Gravy

followed by

Festive Biscuit

### Change to School Dinners Menu

Please note that on the following days the vegetarian option will be a Jacket Potato with Beans and NOT a Jacket Potato with Quorn Veggie Chilli; 11th December, 8th & 29th January 2018, 26th February and 19th March.



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### Monies Owing

An increasing amount of time is being spent chasing up outstanding payments. Please could I remind parents that school meals must be paid for in advance at the beginning of each week. If we do not receive a payment and the debt is more than £10.00 then your child will not be served with a school meal.

Similarly, if payments are not up to date with Breakfast Club and After School Club, then we will ask you to make alternative childcare arrangements for your child/children until the debt is cleared and will not be able to accept any further bookings.

### Lost Property Box

The lost property box is overflowing with clothing items. The lost property box is kept in the Medical Room, so please do take the time to have a look through it if your child has any missing items. All uniform items that have not been claimed by Friday 1st December will be donated to the Friends to sell at their next pre-loved uniform sale, donated to local charity shops or disposed of. Thank you.



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

Thank you to those who brought bags in for bag2school - we raised £112.00!!

All Christmas Tree orders must be in by 28th November 2017.

We still need volunteers to help with the stalls at the Christmas Fair. Please sign up via the Doodle Poll or Facebook page.

Donations needed! The Friends are seeking donations of Christmas wrapping paper and gold Christmas decorations and tinsel please.

Many thanks

Sam, Katy & Elese

## 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  
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