



Mr. Gary Spracklen - Headteacher (@Nelkcarps)



Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2HH



01305 257120



office@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk



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Newsletter and Summer 2 - Parent Forum Meeting Notes

Wednesday 5th June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

STAFFING UPDATE -

Following a thorough process, we have now concluded our restructure and redundancy situation at The Prince of Wales School. As I stated in my letter on Thursday 21st March 2019, the restructure was necessary due to continued financial restraints faced by the school, caused by ongoing austerity and rising costs.

As I have stated previously, The Prince of Wales School is funded in the same way as any other Local Authority controlled school. In real-terms, the amount of money we receive per pupil has been decreasing for the last eight years.

Funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities has always been challenging and for a long time our main school budget has heavily subsidised our unit roll budget.

To date, we have off-set decreasing funding by generating additional income. That additional income comes from lettings, our breakfast and after-school programme (CAPOW) and Pre-School provision. Since September 2017, our budget has also been heavily subsidised by increases in lettings and by:

Tesco Bags for Help Scheme - £4,000 Grant

- Sugar Tax - £14,000 Grant

Big Lottery Fund - £10,000 Grant

- POWSA - £24,000 Donations

While funding for our main school budget continues to decrease in real-terms and costs for essential services rise, we have become increasingly challenged to deliver a balanced budget. Without changes, the school did face a deficit budget in the order of £110,000 (approximately 15% of 2019/2020 funding).

The Department for Education (2018) states that, 'staffing costs over 80% of total income are considered high'. Without changes, The Prince of Wales School faces staff costs of over 90% of total income. This is despite having already significantly reduced costs in leadership, admin and facility services over the past twenty-four months.

In addition to this, Dorset County Council cuts to the funding of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities has only made things more challenging.

As Governors wrote in their newsletter to parents and carers in December 2018 -

The Governing Body is committed to -

- Using the budget provided by DCC to deliver a high quality experience for current pupils neither creating large future reserves nor licenced deficits.
- Maintaining our fundraising, and hopefully goodwill and voluntary efforts, to continually upgrade our environment and renew our resources so that current and future pupils receive an excellent learning experience.
- Reviewing practices in a timely manner so that we remain efficient and effective.

The Governing Body remains committed to these statements.

When I wrote to you on Thursday 21st March 2019, I promised you that the process would be used to create a stronger, more efficient school that further inspires all children to learn.

I am confident this has been achieved.

From September 2019, our new teams will be the following -

Reception Class



Mrs. S. Johnson
Reception Class Teacher / **Assistant Headteacher**
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. N. Smith
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)

Year One Class



Mr. C. Gibson
Year One Class Teacher
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. S. Cura
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. R. Rogers
1:1 Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)

Year Two Class



Mr. D. MacBean
Year Two Class Teacher
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. T. Brooker
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)

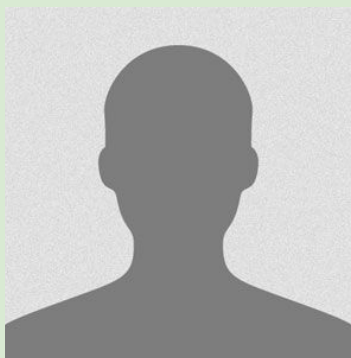


Mrs. P. Thompson
Senior 1:1 Teaching Assistant - Physical
(Monday - Friday)

Year Three Class



Mrs. B. Thorpe
Year Three Class Teacher
(Monday - Wednesday)



TBC*
Year Three Class Teacher
(Thursday - Friday)



Mrs. D. Bernard
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. B. Thomas
1:1 Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Wednesday)



Mrs. K. Hall
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Thursday-Friday)



Mrs. E. Hibberd
Senior 1:1 Teaching Assistant - Medical
(Monday - Friday)

*We are currently advertising for this position.

Year Four Class



Miss. A. Johnson
Year Four Class Teacher / **Deputy Headteacher**
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. L. Scott
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. K. Hall
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Tuesday)



Mrs. S. Howell
1:1 Teaching Assistant
(Wednesday - Friday)



Mrs. S. Long
1:1 Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)

Transition work will now begin to prepare children (and staff) for September. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please feel free to catch me anytime to discuss.

I am usually standing at the front of the school at the beginning and end of the school day. If you would like a more confidential chat, the school office holds my diary and can book an appointment for you.

COMMUNITY MAKEOVER DAY -

Please note, we will be holding a special 'Community Makeover Weekend' **THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**. We will be focusing on the Pre-School Outside Are. All are welcome to attend, 10am-5pm.



ONLINE REPORTING TOOL -

Reminder, all parents and carers of children in Year 1 through to Year 4 *should have* login details for our new 'Online Reporting Tool - SPTO'.

If anyone is having problems logging into this system or would like further information about what the data is showing them, please feel free to catch me or your child's class teacher any time. We will always do our best to help you and provide supporting resources where available.

PARKING -



Parents and Carers are politely reminded not to park in the Pre-School or Staff car parks.

It causes problems when people do not follow our clear signage and policy, we appreciate your support on this matter.

ATTENDANCE -

It is important at this time of the year to remember the importance of good attendance. All DASP (Dorchester Area Schools Partnership) schools are working hard this term to promote good attendance and have put common systems in place to work with families when attendance drops below an acceptable level.

As a reminder, if your child has a medical appointment GP/hospital, etc you are required to bring in medical evidence for the office (slip from GP surgery etc) to prove this.

At The Prince of Wales School, we celebrate good attendance and we have made some fantastic progress over the past term with our school attendance rate currently standing at 96.9% (top 10% of schools nationally).

If a child has an attendance level of 90%, they will have missed one day a fortnight in school. Over a school year, this will represent four weeks of absence. If this level of absence was maintained for a five-year period, it would mean half a school year would have been missed.

Here at The Prince of Wales School, we are determined to ensure that all our children have the opportunity to achieve success and have an excellent record of attendance. If we are concerned about a child's attendance, we will talk to parents and write to them to explain our concerns. The school will then monitor the child's attendance expecting to see an improvement. DASP and the Dorset County Council (DCC) School Attendance Service will be made aware of the school's concerns.

If attendance does not improve sufficiently, you will be invited to a DASP Attendance Panel. This meeting is an opportunity for the school, family and a representative from DCC's School Attendance Service to meet together to discuss why your child has such a high absence rate and seek solutions to any problems.

The Panel can recommend several outcomes, which can include: a further period of close monitoring with specified targets for attendance; issuing a £60 Penalty Notice, a Parenting Order or seeking prosecution which could result in a fine of up to £1000.

The attendance process is designed to identify children with poor attendance quickly and address the issues that are affecting their attendance. When attendance improves, monitoring will continue and, if it falls, the Attendance Process will be resumed.

All DASP schools hope that the Attendance Panel will not be needed and that all pupils will have a good record of attendance, are happy and successful and benefit from their time in school.

I am sure I will see many of you at Happy's Circus next Thursday (13th June). POWSA still have a small number of tickets still available - available from the school office and online at - <http://tinyurl.com/POWCircus>.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or if there is anything I can do to help and support you with your child's learning and school life.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Spracklen', with a small horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr. Gary Spracklen
Headteacher