



 Mr. Gary Spracklen - Headteacher (@Nelkcarps)
 Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2HH
 01305 257120  office@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk
 <http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk>

...where we are all inspired to learn

Newsletter and Spring 2 - Parent Forum Meeting Notes

Wednesday 21st February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I trust you all had a good half term?

The Spring Term has been jam packed so far with engaging learning opportunities for our children. We had all sorts going on from the formal opening of our 'Writing Hall of Fame' with the visit of celebrated children's author David Solomons right through to the **MOST AMAZING** Science Week! Thank you to everyone who got involved.

We also had the miraculous transformation of our Reception Classroom ([THANK YOU POWSA](#)) and the launch of an exciting new programme of extra-curricular activities (Junior Fitness, Badminton and the return of Brownies and Guides as an external letting).

Staffing Updates -

Mrs Gardener will be leaving The Prince of Wales School at the end of this month to spend more time with her family. We thank Mrs Gardener for her 1:1 work with children at The Prince of Wales School and wish her well for the future.

Mrs Howell will be joining the Year 1 team from next week and is excited to be working alongside children she is already very familiar with from last year. This change will result in some further internal reorganisation of teaching assistants in the coming days, further information about this will be provided in due course.

Also in Year 1, Mrs Entwistle is expecting her third child and we congratulate her on this exciting news. Details about Mrs Entwistle's cover while on maternity leave are currently being confirmed and will be shared in due course.

Parent Forum -

Today, we held our third 'Parent Forum' in the Staff Room at 08:45am. The Prince of Wales School Parent Forum is a half-termly opportunity to meet Headteacher Mr. Spracklen and other members of the Senior Leadership Team. It provides an informal platform to share concerns, discuss ideas and ask questions.

All members of our community are welcome.

At the meeting, I reminded everyone of our school's goals for this academic year, namely to -

- 🔄 **Raise attainment and accelerate progress**
- 🔄 **Improve the quality of teaching and learning**
- 🔄 **Improve the conditions for learning**
- 🔄 **Develop the school as a professional learning community**

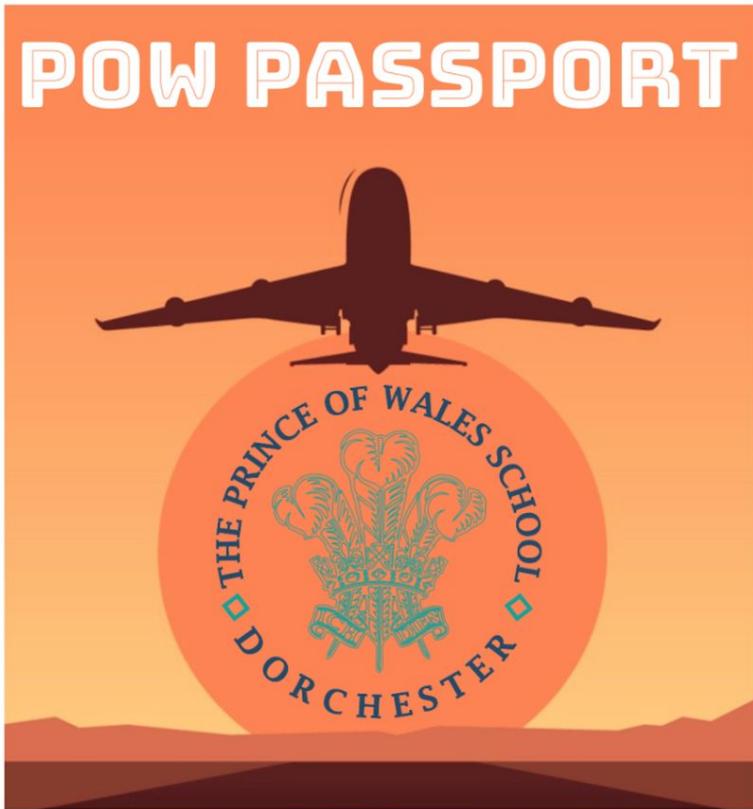
I am delighted that we made significant progress against all four of these goals last term, this is just the beginning though of a long journey and we must continue to all strive for the very best.

At the end of this letter, I have included our meeting notes and actions following our third meeting and **updates in red** from our first three meetings. Please feel free to catch me anytime to discuss these notes or any other matter. 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.

POW Passport -

A key focus in the Parent Forum today was the sharing of a new concept we are seeking to launch at The Prince of Wales School, 'The POW Passport'.

The purpose of The POW Passport is shown in the below slide -



The slide has an orange-to-yellow gradient background. At the top, the words 'POW PASSPORT' are written in large, white, outlined letters. Below this is a black silhouette of an airplane in flight. Underneath the airplane is a circular logo with a blue border containing the text 'THE PRINCE OF WALES SCHOOL' at the top and 'DORCHESTER' at the bottom. In the center of the logo is a green heraldic crest. The bottom of the slide shows a dark brown silhouette of a landscape with hills.

Purpose -

- To provide clarity in -
 - Vision and Ethos
 - Organisation Values and Mindset (BLP)
 - Curriculum Organisation
 - School Specialisms

- To celebrate progress -
 - Marking significant milestones
 - Inspiring goal setting
 - Increasing aspiration

The POW Passport has been inspired by the National Trust's '50 Things To Do Before You're 11 and ¾' which is a checklist of experiences and activities children are encouraged to complete in relation to the outdoor environment.

The National Trust's work encouraged us to think about the 'Milestones' we want to create for YOUR CHILDREN through THEIR JOURNEY at The Prince of Wales School.

These might be -

- Putting their coat on independently?
- Writing their name?
- Sleeping under canvas?
- Riding a bike?
- Catching a fish?

The list could go on...

HOWEVER, we don't want these to just be what we perceive as important milestones, we want to hear the views of everyone to help inform our practice.

Therefore, if you have an idea of what one of our milestones should be, please email me at - headteacher@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk. No ideas will be considered too small or too silly to be considered for inclusion. Ultimately, the children will decide what makes it into 'The POW Passport' with help from their teachers. They too will have the opportunity to contribute through their student councillors (pupil voice) and class discussion.

We look forward to hearing your suggestions.

Totaliser

Have you seen POWSA's new totaliser?



We are excited to be working with POWSA (The Prince of Wales School Association) to raise £35,000 to transform our Outdoor Provision for our Reception Classroom. To get us started, we will be setting aside...

£5,000

Towards the POWSA BIG PROJECT. We hope this figure will get the ball rolling and encourage other to donate. Please see members of the POWSA Team, or the POWSA Facebook Page for further information.

POWSA's email address is - powsa@hotmail.co.uk

Reminder

As shared in my letter to you on Wednesday 6th December 2017, from January, we have adjusted the timings within our school day slightly to maximise our learning time.

Our new timings of the day are shown below -

Reception and Year 1		Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4	
08:45-09:00	MORNING ACTIVITIES	08:45-09:00	MORNING ACTIVITIES
08:50-09:00	REGISTRATION	08:50-09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00-09:50	SESSION ONE	09:00-09:50	SESSION ONE
09:50-10:40	SESSION TWO	09:50-10:40	SESSION TWO
10:40-11:00	BREAK	10:40-11:00	BREAK
11:00-11:40	SESSION THREE	11:00-11:50	SESSION THREE
11:40-12:20	SESSION FOUR	11:50-12:40	SESSION FOUR
12:20-13:10	LUNCH	12:40-13:30	LUNCH
13:10-14:10	SESSION FIVE	13:30-14:20	SESSION FIVE
14:10-15:10	SESSION SIX	14:20-15:10	SESSION SIX
15:10-15:30	ASSEMBLY	15:10-15:30	ASSEMBLY

These changes have added approximately thirty minutes of high-quality learning time to our daily routine by reducing transitions and 'dropped' time. This is the equivalent of ninety hours of learning a year or **eighteen extra school days**.

We are already starting to see how these changes are further supporting the development of our children and helping to ensure stronger learning outcomes over time.

Polite Reminder



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.

We will be starting to issue notices to those cars not following our clear signage and policy.

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 97.1% (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 the next POWSA meeting on Tuesday 13th March (7:30pm).

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,



Mr. Gary Spracklen
Headteacher

Spring 2 - Parent Forum - Notes and Actions -

GSp = Gary Spracklen (Headteacher) MBI = Maddie Biddlecombe (School Business Manager)

1.0 - NEW ITEM - The POW Passport

GSp explained plans for the launch of a new scheme to be known as 'The POW Passport'. The purpose of the passport is -

- To provide clarity in -
 - Vision and Ethos
 - Organisation Values and Mindset (BLP)
 - Curriculum Organisation
 - School Specialisms

- To celebrate progress -
 - Marking significant milestones
 - Inspiring goal setting
 - Increasing aspiration

GSp explained how the POW Passport has been inspired by the National Trust's '50 Things To Do Before You're 11 and ¾' which is a checklist of experiences and activities children are encourage to complete in relation to the outdoor environment.

GSp explained how The National Trust's work encouraged school staff to think about the 'Milestones' they want to create for the children through their journey at The Prince of Wales School.

These might be -

- Putting their coat on independently?
- Writing their name?
- Sleeping under canvas?
- Riding a bike?
- Catching a fish?

The list could go on...

	<p>GSp explained that staff don't want these to just be what staff perceive as important milestones, staff want to hear the views of everyone to help inform our practice.</p> <p>GSp asked that if you have an idea of what one of our milestones should be, please email him at - headteacher@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk.</p> <p>GSp explained how no ideas will be considered too small or too silly to be considered for inclusion. Ultimately, the children will decide what makes it into 'The POW Passport' with the help from their teachers. They too will have the opportunity to contribute through their student councillors (pupil voice) and class discussion.</p> <p>GSp looks forward to hearing suggestions for inclusion.</p>
<p>2.0 - UPDATE - Response to Parent Questionnaire</p>	<p>GSp outlined the recent responses to the Parent Questionnaire (conducted December 2017).</p> <p>Key points -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 Responses - 100% said the school was well led/managed - 100% would recommend our school to another parent - Homework is optional - we seek to inspire children - Read, Write Inc Phonics Scheme - SJo to present at next Parent Forum - Social Media / Use of Images - Parental Choice / Opt Out - Trip Selection - Gender Equality - Attendance - It's Important - Data Protection <p>GSp discussed options and sought feedback on what 'valuable information' parents/carers would like to receive.</p> <p>Parents present felt enough information is already being provided and did not want information sent home that may confuse them.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - GSp will be consulting further will all parents and carers on what 'valuable information' they would like to receive. More information to follow.</p>
<p>3.0 - UPDATE - Guest Speaker - Caroline Morgan (CMo) - Chief Executive of Local Food Links (Hot Meals Provider)</p>	<p>CMo shared Government Food Guidelines and outlined the changes being made to support healthier hot school meals.</p> <p>CMo outlined Local Food Links 'Social Enterprise' status and discussed the importance of local food providers.</p> <p>CMo invited questions and comments from those parents and carers present. Discussion included -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sweet menu choices (50/50 fruit options) - Two puddings a week are fruit options - Pizza base topping (made with seven vegetables) - Allergies and gluten free options - Price of dairy - yogurt may not be on the menu in the future

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sugar in puddings - reducing where possible - The importance of a balanced diet <p>GSp shared Come Dine with Me opportunities which provide parents and carers the chance to come in and eat a hot meal alongside their child.</p> <p>Our next 'Come Dine with Me' event will be for Year 3 parents and carers on Monday 27th November, 2017. Letter to follow.</p> <p>SPRING ONE UPDATE - The 'Come Dine with Me' event happening on 27/11/17 for Year 3 parents/carers. We are currently looking at further dates for other year groups. More information will follow.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - New 'Come Dine with Me' dates -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monday 23rd April 2018 - Reception - Tuesday 24th April 2018 - Year 1 - Wednesday 25th April 2018 - Year 2
<p>4.0 - UPDATE - Concern raised that all Parent Forum dates were on at the same time and day.</p>	<p>GSp recognised concern. As dates have already been communicated for this year, decision has been made to stick with these to avoid confusion. In the summer term, SLT will consider appropriate timings for the 2018/2019 Parent Forum based on parental feedback.</p> <p>SPRING ONE UPDATE - As above. Action closed.</p>
<p>5.0 - UPDATE - GSp provided presentation outlining the key priorities for the year ahead at the Prince of Wales School.</p> <p>These were to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔄 Raise attainment and accelerate progress 🔄 Improve the quality of teaching and learning 🔄 Improve the conditions for learning 🔄 Develop the school as a professional learning community 	<p>Copy of the presentation will be made available on the school website.</p> <p>UPDATE - Copy of presentation is on the website. School Development Plan will also be provided in the same 'Parent Forum' area of the website.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - As above.</p>
<p>6.0 - UPDATE - Parents requested a 'Parent Information Board' at the front of the school for key information to be shared through this platform as well as online and via email.</p>	<p>Board has been purchased and will be installed in the next two weeks.</p> <p>AUTUMN TWO UPDATE - Board is being used on an adhoc basis, GSp seeking a long term solution.</p> <p>SPRING ONE UPDATE - Long term solution was ordered before Christmas. Delivery and installation due before half-term.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - Weather delayed installation. Board will be</p>

	installed in due course.
7.0 - UPDATE - Parents expressed the desire to have one place to access all information.	<p>GSp confirmed that all information would come through Wednesday letters and that these would be archived on the school website for easy access.</p> <p>AUTUMN TWO UPDATE - This is happening. Action closed.</p>
8.0 - UPDATE - Parents raised issue of blogs not being consistent - i.e can't rely on them for reminders.	<p>GSp outlined how blogs were an <i>additional</i> form of communication. They exist to provide a stronger link between home and school. Parents/carers should refer to the website for official dates and letters.</p> <p>SPRING ONE UPDATE - GSp has been monitoring blogs and welcomes further parent/carer feedback.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - As above.</p>
9.0 - UPDATE - Trip contributions were discussed and suggestion made that we ask for an annual trip contribution for trip below a certain cost.	<p>GSp to discuss this idea with Senior Colleagues. MBI to run a trial with a small group of parents/carers.</p> <p>UPDATE - Volunteers welcome for trial. Please see GSp.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - As above.</p>
10.0 - UPDATE - Discuss on amount of paperwork to be signed, can this be streamlined?	<p>GSp to issue new 'local trips' permission slip to provide blanket coverage for trips across the local area.</p> <p>AUTUMN UPDATE - Slip was issued following meeting.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - As above.</p>
11.0 - UPDATE - Discussion on Annual Forms such as the Home School Agreement and the Acceptable Usage Policy. Do these need signing every year? Could the language used be more accessible to younger children?	<p>GSp to discuss this with Senior Colleagues.</p> <p>UPDATE - Discussions ongoing, intention remains to review before next year.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - As above.</p>
12.0 - UPDATE - Discussion on sweets being given as rewards.	<p>GSp will clarify position with all staff. Sweets should not be used as a reward. Stickers are more appropriate.</p> <p>SPRING ONE UPDATE - Action closed.</p>
13.0 - UPDATE - Discussion on parents/carers sending in sweets for Birthdays. How is this managed.	<p>GSp will monitor this. We need to find an appropriate balance here.</p> <p>AUTUMN TWO UPDATE - Discussions ongoing. GSp will be taking this matter to Governors.</p> <p>SPRING ONE UPDATE - Sweets and cakes no longer allowed. Action closed.</p>
14.0 - UPDATE - Parental request for the ordering of	<p>MBI to review puddings being offered. MBI to take thought to Local</p>

<p>pudding to be available.</p>	<p>Food Links (Hot Meal Provider).</p> <p>SPRING ONE UPDATE - CMO attended Autumn 1 meeting and addressed these points as stated above.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - As above.</p>
<p>15.0 - UPDATE - MB requested feedback on moving to online payments. Discussion on cost of systems being prohibitive and very complex.</p>	<p>Parents requested to volunteer to try direct payments into our bank account and via eschools and with a paypal account. Please see MBI.</p> <p>AUTUMN TWO UPDATE - Volunteers welcome for trial. Please see GSp.</p> <p>SPRING TWO UPDATE - Cashless scheme is due to launch after Easter. More information to follow.</p>
<p>16.0 - UPDATE - Issue with Ukulele lesson raised.</p>	<p>Same day letter sent to parents/carers. Matter resolved.</p> <p>AUTUMN TWO UPDATE - Action closed.</p>
<p>17.0 - UPDATE - Request to keep music provision in the school a high priority.</p>	<p>GSp shares desire to do this, Mrs S. Johnson (Year 4 Class Teacher) is now leading on Music Provision and is doing a fantastic job.</p> <p>AUTUMN TWO UPDATE - Action closed.</p>
<p>18.0 - UPDATE - Sport provision for KS1 requested. Historically this has been difficult to find qualified coaches.</p>	<p>Sports funding is increasing and this will be considered.</p> <p>UPDATE - This remains a key priority and plans are in place to increase provision from January 2018. More information to follow.</p> <p>UPDATE - Junior Fitness and Badminton provision now added to extra-curricula timetable. GSp seeking more options in the near future.</p> <p>UPDATE - Outdoor options being explored for the Summer Term.</p>
<p>19.0 - UPDATE - Parents requested that KS1 were offered swimming too and that the possible use of the hydro pool for small groups to do this was explored.</p>	<p>GSp will look into this with Senior Colleagues but it is unlikely due to other curriculum pressures.</p> <p>UPDATE - This option has been explored but is not practical with current restraints on time, resource and most importantly curriculum. Action closed.</p>
<p>20.0 - UPDATE - Concern raised that current Y1 have missed out on a number of trips due to inclement weather.</p>	<p>GSp to monitor this.</p> <p>AUTUMN TWO UPDATE - Action Closed.</p>
<p>Next meeting - Wednesday 18th April February, 2018.</p>	

PARENT FORUM - 08:45-09:30 - STAFF ROOM

The Prince of Wales School Parent Forum is a half-termly opportunity to meet Headteacher Mr. Spracklen and other members of the Senior Leadership Team. It provides an informal platform to share concerns, discuss ideas and ask questions.

All members of our community are welcome.

2017/2018 DATES

Autumn Term One - Wednesday 27th September, 2017
Autumn Term Two - Wednesday 1st November, 2017
Spring Term One - Wednesday 3rd January, 2018
Spring Term Two - Wednesday 21st February, 2018
Summer Term One - Wednesday 18th April, 2018
Summer Term Two - Wednesday 6th June, 2018