



PORTERS POST

December 2018

WE ARE A 'GOOD' SCHOOL

This term we were visited by Ofsted and we were delighted to receive a 'GOOD' rating for all five of the individual categories. During the last three years the staff have worked tirelessly across all the different areas of school life, never satisfied until the experience offered to the children was the best it could be. The report highlighted our 'OUTSTANDING' work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare. The children have worked very hard and it is evident that they are proud to be a part of Porters Grange. We are over the moon that all of our efforts have been recognised. We would like to thank our parent community, for its support and for helping to make such a positive difference at the school. The journey to 'Good' has been a real team effort.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

To mark the one hundred year anniversary of the end of World War 1, all of the children learnt about the war and the importance of remembering everyone who has ever served for our great democratic country. As part of the commemorations, every child in the school made a poppy for a school display. The poppies have now all come together to make Porters Grange's very own Poppy Wave. The display is draped over the staircase to our lovely library and it looks absolutely stunning. We are very proud of everyone's creations! On Friday 9th November, members of the School Council attended special Remembrance ceremonies at Hamstel Infant School and Hamstel Junior School. The ceremonies were very poignant and it was lovely that we could join together with children and staff from other Portico Schools. At the same time, children back at Porters Grange observed a minute's silence in respect of all of the fallen soldiers. We will remember them.



FIRE ENGINE VISITS EARLY YEARS

The children in our nursery and reception classes had a visit from the fire brigade. The fire engine drove on to our playground so the children could have a closer look. The firefighters showed the children around the inside and outside of the fire engine and they were amazed by all of the buttons and levers it had! The children had the opportunity to squirt the water, from the hose on to the playground but they didn't realise how powerful it would be, they nearly soaked the teachers! We are very proud of our children in early years, they followed instructions and were very sensible and safe.



CHRISTMAS AT PORTERS

In the build up to Christmas, there was a whole host of Christmas-themed events taking place across the school. Every year group was involved in a performance and parents and carers were invited along to participate in craft activities with their children. The performances were fantastic with lots of great acting and singing. The craft afternoons produced many wonderful decorations and were a great deal of fun. In addition to all of this, everyone visited All Saints Church for special Christingle services. Many parents and carers joined in too. Year on year we have bigger audiences at our performances and increased parent participation elsewhere. Thank you for all of your support over 2018 and best wishes for 2019!



Attendance remains an important focus for our school. Following our successful Ofsted Inspection, attendance is now a key issue for improvement and we need your help to succeed in this area. There have been a number of nasty bugs affecting families this term and we urge you to support us in reminding your children to wash their hands regularly to try to avoid spreading germs. Children who have low attendance will not be able to fulfil their potential so please send them in as often as possible and on time for the rest of the year.

SCHOOL PING

We are pleased that so many of our parents are accessing our Newsletters and other communications via School Ping. Please contact the school office if you have any questions or issues with using this application.

YEAR 6 CINEMA VISIT

Year Six were lucky enough to receive free cinema tickets through the 'Into Film Festival', a nationwide event that celebrates film and education for 5-19 year olds. The film screened was 'Sherlock Gnomes', a hilarious romp through London in which the titular character (voiced by Johnny Depp) helped foil the crimes of his rival Moriarty, as well as saving the gnomes of London. There were several scenes which took place in landmarks across London, from Tower Bridge to the Tower of London. (Which year 6 have been learning about in our 'Crime and Punishment' history topic!) The children all had a great time, and we will be using the film as a stimuli to task them with creating their own film reviews. A huge thank you to Odeon Cinema Southend for hosting the event, and the Into Film Festival for giving us this opportunity! Who knows, we may have inspired the next Spielberg, Hitchcock or Sofia Coppola of the future!

SCHOOL DINNERS

After the Christmas break we will introduce our new dinner menu for the Spring term. The children return to school on Thursday 3rd January and the menu for the remainder of the week will be as follows;

Thursday

Toad in the hole
Veggie sausage in the hole
Chips and peas
Yoghurt or fruit

Friday

Breaded fish finers
Vegetarian fingers
Chips and peas
Trifle or fruit

DATES FOR THE DIARY

JANUARY

Thursday 3rd - Children return to school
Wednesday 16th - Yr 5 Healthy/unhealthy relationship workshop
Thursday 17th - Yr 3/4 Girls' football at Len Forge - all day

FEBRUARY

Monday 4th - Yr 6 Bikeability 10-12pm & 1-3pm
Thursday 7th - KS1 Football at Len Forge
Monday 11th - Yr 6 Bikeability 1-3pm
Thursday 14th - Yr 3/4 emerging football at Len Forge
Friday 15th - INSET DAY
Monday 18th - Friday 22nd - HALF TERM

