



PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together





A WARM WELCOME

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to explore what makes our school such a special place. Choosing a school for your children is one of the most important decisions you will make. This prospectus, along with our website, vision leaflet and a school visit will help you make an informed decision for your family.

Our stunning location, beautiful building and well developed outdoor space on the marina give a very good first impression, however, what we are most proud of is the high academic and pastoral provision we offer our children and families.

We have created an environment where children are challenged and thrive across the curriculum and where they feel cared for and listened to because of the commitment and professionalism of our staff and the partnership we have with parents and carers, other schools and the local community.

We believe in the transformational powers of education and that schools are where dreams begin. Through our topics and wow days the seeds of future ambition are sown and the joy of investigation and discovery are founded.

Our classrooms are places where creativity and a love of learning are promoted and flourish.

During their time with us children will be supported as they develop socially and emotionally, building confidence and self-esteem and learning to make healthy choices around diet, exercise and mindfulness as they face the challenges that life throws up.

Our wider curriculum is values driven, with those values modelled by our staff and explicitly taught in lessons and assemblies. They are celebrated with rewards for our children.

We have high expectations and work hard to bring out the best in each unique child through a rich and varied curriculum. It is a personal pleasure and a professional joy watching each child journey through our school, witnessing them thrive and seeing how far each child has come when we say goodbye every July to our Year 6 leavers and celebrate their achievements.

Kind Regards,

Richard Riordan



The ethos of the school becomes embedded from the start."



THE SCHOOL VISION

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

**The school has 3 core values:
Relationships, Partnership and Achievement.**

RELATIONSHIPS

We believe that children learn best when they feel happy, safe and secure. Children will learn as much emotionally and socially as they mature to develop the key skills of friendship. We recognise that this can be a bumpy road and have clear rules, a behaviour policy and anti-bullying policies to support children. Our learning mentor can help children and families in their time of need. The school curriculum is very much values based with a value of the month promoted and celebrated across the school.

PARTNERSHIP

Learning is far more effective when it is collaborative. Children will have a variety of opportunities to work individually, in pairs, groups and with other classes. The school works with parents and carers so that you are informed of your child's progress and are able to help support home learning. In turn we expect that you will support our school policies, ensure your children have the highest possible school attendance, help with homework and reading at home and by ensuring your children wear smart school uniform. The school is part of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, and works with other school leaders and teachers to enhance our provision.

ACHIEVEMENT

The school is proud of our history of academic results and school staff work tirelessly so that each child makes as much progress as we can facilitate. We are proud of our broad balanced curriculum and we value all aspects of learning working hard to ensure children are given a wide range of opportunities to shine. We are most proud of how confident our children leave us at the end of year 6. To this attend we ensure all children take part

in yearly performances to parents, share learning outcomes through exhibitions and that we take part in as many music and sports events as we can facilitate. The year ends with an excellence week for all pupils to enrich the curriculum and celebrate the high standards in our school.

During 2017 school leaders and governors consulted with parents and staff as we prepared a new school vision that reflected the changing educational landscape and our unique identity within the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (The LSP is the multi-academy trust that we are a founding member of).

During their learning journey with us the school aims to foster 4 characteristics by the time they leave us to begin their journey through secondary education.

1. ASPIRING LEADERS

2. GLOBAL CITIZENS

3. LIFELONG LEARNERS

4. RESILIENT AND CONFIDENT CHILDREN

These characteristics, with the provision that supports them, are the foundation stones of progress and contain our core educational offer. Each of the four is equally important as the next and there is no hierarchy within them. Likewise, some of the provision outlined will support the development of more than one characteristic and the summary below is not an exhaustive list.

Please see our vision leaflet for more information.



All of the children interact across year groups. The children look after each other no matter the age group."

BEHAVIOUR AND PASTORAL CARE

Children at Portishead Primary tell us how much they enjoy coming to school here and what a happy school it is.

An important part of our role as a school is to ensure that every child experiences success and is supported to make progress and feel challenged.

We follow clear policies on safeguarding, attendance, behaviour, inclusion and equality, and on Special Educational Needs. We ask parents to work in partnership and this is set out in our home school agreement.

Pastoral care is the responsibility of every member of staff. However, the school has a dedicated Learning Mentor and Inclusion Leader who oversee the wellbeing of pupils. This team supports children learning and playing together and leads on anti-bullying and behavioural support as well as attendance. The Learning Mentor is available to support both parents and children during difficult times. They also line manage the lunchtime supervisors. In addition to this, we have trained staff that can support children through bereavements and family break ups.

We appreciate that every child is an individual and are always available to discuss and work with parents to ensure that their child's time with us is a positive experience.

We aim to provide an environment that is safe and secure, stimulating and creative, promotes respect for others and celebrates success.

We have a variety of ways to celebrate success including house points, achievement certificates, values awards and more class based rewards.



My child is happy, safe and has vastly improved in English and maths since starting Portishead Primary School."

FACILITIES

Portishead Primary is in a beautiful location, right beside the newly regenerated Marina. Next door is the town's leisure centre, which pupils use for swimming and other sports lessons.

Our inspiring school building was built in 2003 and was designed by Architect John St. Leger. The gates were commissioned from the renowned artist Matthew Fedden and are one of the important pieces of community-based art in the town. There is some parking for parents outside the school but due to our location we do encourage walking and cycling to school as there are safe footpaths and cycle routes from other parts of Portishead.

Children attend the school from age 4 to age 11 in one building, with the classrooms for the older children (in Key Stage 2) upstairs. There are landscaped grounds with play equipment and outdoor teaching spaces for the Early Years Foundation Stage, as well as facilities such as a school vegetable garden and the gazebo, which is regularly used for outdoor lessons and other activities. At lunchtime the children can have a hot meal, which is cooked on the premises or bring in a packed lunch.

We have an ICT suite, a library and cookery area. We also have banks of iPads that classes book out. The school hall has a stage and is regularly used for drama and musical performances. Our breakfast and after school clubs run daily term time only and are very popular with both parents and children. Our play space has been redeveloped to include Pirate Island, two tyre parks, exercise equipment, a large shaded area and an extended trim trail thanks to the fundraising of our dedicated Friends of the School.

We constantly strive to improve the facilities for children and each year sees improvements in and around school.



HIGH STANDARDS

We believe that a successful school is built upon well-founded relationships.

All the staff at Portishead Primary aim to model the highest expectations and to promote high standards for acceptable behaviour and caring attitudes.

They encourage a positive work ethos among the children.

Children's progress is closely monitored and we provide tailored programmes of support for children whose attainment is below their potential or who are identified as having special educational needs. This can include working with outside providers of specialist support such as speech and language therapists and educational psychologists. We challenge our more able children through special projects, such as designing and marketing their own products and selling them at a school event.

We aim to produce enthusiastic, self-motivated, confident independent life-long learners. We set positive expectations for all our children, based on individual curriculum targets for every child. Children regularly share their work with the Headteacher and together they celebrate their excellent learning outcomes and successes.



There is a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and a fantastic community spirit.



Great out of school fundraising activities which involve the whole family."



National Curriculum teaching is fantastic. Very approachable, responsive teachers. Very inspirational leadership team."



QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

We are committed to improving standards and ensuring that each child reaches their full potential. Therefore, our curriculum and the quality of teaching are of the highest standards and all staff are supported in their continuing professional development.

We regularly observe our teachers teach, sample lesson planning, look at pupil's work, carry out pupil conferences where we discuss the learning that has taken place and carry out learning walks to ensure that all staff receive quality feedback to build on our very high standards.

All children are regularly assessed to better inform their future development. Progress is tracked and additional support for those pupils who may need it is made available. The Inclusion Leader works with staff in school and coordinates support from outside of school for pupils who have more complex learning needs.

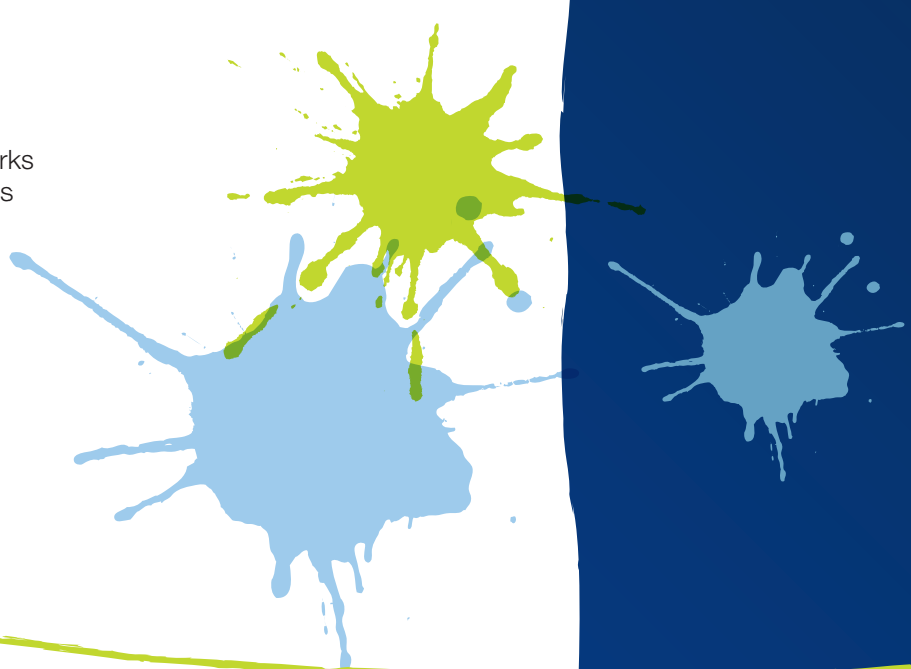
In each class we have up to 30 children and class teachers work together with teaching assistants and other qualified support staff to ensure pupils are supported with their learning.

Each Early Years Foundation Stage class has a full time teaching assistant and support staff are deployed across the rest of the school according to need. Every year group and class has some level of additional support which is reviewed on a regular basis by the school's Leadership Team.

We see our school as a learning community and take pride in the fact that we are all engaged in the process of lifelong learning.



The teachers make learning fun which holds my child's interest.



DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Children at Portishead Primary benefit from a rich and varied curriculum.

In addition to meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum, pupils can take advantage of a wide range of further development opportunities provided by teachers and coaches from within and beyond the school community, who provide opportunities for children to develop further skills in music, sport, languages and the arts.

Pupils take part in a range of trips and visits, making full use of their surroundings and enhancing positive links with the local community. Trips and visits further afield link to year group projects and topic work and our Year 6 attend a week long camp at an outdoor adventure centre to boost confidence and self-esteem before going onto secondary education and Year 4 take part in an overnight trip.

Portishead Primary school is a regular supporter of community and charity events such as the Rotary Club Annual Swimathon, Portishead Carnival and a coffee morning held on behalf of MacMillan Nurses.

Our school council are consulted and consider issues of interest and concern to the children and are very much part of the decision process.

We regularly hold themed curriculum weeks that provide additional opportunities to develop learning across the school. Anti-bullying week, science week, healthy schools week and an excellence week are held annually.



The school provides a very welcoming and secure environment for my children to develop emotionally and academically.

CURRICULUM STATEMENT AND HOW TO APPLY

Children at Portishead Primary School benefit from a rich and varied curriculum which meets the requirements of the national curriculum.

At the heart of our curriculum is the desire to make learning fun, engage children, develop relationships and provide children with a wide range of opportunities to learn in different ways.

The curriculum is taught through a topic based approach, linked to themes with an emphasis on one key text per term. During the course of the school year each year group will cover 3 topics that will have a science, history or geography focus.

Topics are enriched with a range of trips and visitors that bring the curriculum alive and provide children with real life experiences. This approach also develops their understanding of the community around them in Portishead, the south west, Great Britain and its place in the wider world. In the summer term Year 6 attend a week long residential trip to an outdoor education centre. This provides them with a range of experiences to challenge themselves in different ways and builds confidence and self-esteem as they prepare for the beginning of their secondary school education.

Focus weeks are used to extend the curriculum and are often linked to the school development plan or vision. The school annually celebrates anti-bullying week, e-safety week and black history month. National curriculum subject focus weeks are used on a rotational basis to raise the profile of subjects and give children extended opportunities to develop their skills. This ensures the children get a broad and balanced curriculum as they journey through the school.

Phonics is taught discreetly from Reception to Year 3. Children from Year 1 to 3 are taught in ability groups with additional support provided to children who are not working at age related expectations. This ensures that all children have a strong knowledge and understanding of phonics as a reading and writing strategy throughout the school.

Reading, writing and maths are tracked rigorously 3 times a year. Children are assessed on an on-going basis and all teachers meet with their phase leaders and the Headteacher and assessment leader to discuss progress of individuals and groups at the end of each term (3 times per year).

ICT is taught discreetly in the ICT suite, all classes visit the suite weekly. The children also have access to computers and mobile technology in the classrooms and these are used across the curriculum.

Partnership is central to the school vision. To this extent the school council, Sports Leaders, ICT Leaders with the Senior Leadership Team to develop the school. Children are selected from across the school either by vote or an appointment process.

The school enhances the curriculum with a range of clubs and activities. These include a range of sports, languages and curriculum clubs as well as music lessons in Key Stage 2. The school works in partnership with a range of providers, these clubs are to be paid for and additionally school staff provide a variety of clubs for free.

The school provides children with a wide range of opportunities to perform to parents and share learning outcomes. This develops confidence and speaking and listening skills as well as providing the opportunity to celebrate achievement.

HOW DO WE APPLY?

If you are applying for a Reception place for the September intake (i.e. your child is starting school for the first time) this is managed by the local authority who you apply through. The North Somerset website;

www.n-somerset.gov.uk, gives full details of the admissions process.

Applications for places in our Early Years Foundation Stage are welcomed from parents of children who become 5 between 1st September and 31st August of the school year that you are applying for. The deadline for making an application to the local authority can be obtained along with full details at **www.n-somerset.gov.uk**.

Applications for in-year places should be made directly to the school and forms can be downloaded from our school website at **www.portisheadprimary.co.uk**.

We would be delighted to welcome you to the school for a visit. Specially arranged visiting sessions for prospective parents take place in the autumn term each year; details can be obtained from our website or from the school office. Individual appointments at a mutually convenient time can be made by contacting the school office.

WHAT PARENTS HAVE TOLD US ARE AMONGST OUR STRENGTHS:

"The overall sense of community and caring environment."

"Promotes well-being, confidence and happiness."

"Enabling children to be individuals. Teaching with praise and positivity so children realise they can achieve."

"I particularly like the way the curriculum is delivered through topics/themes that engage and interest the children."

"The school builds a sense of community and supports each child's individual needs."





For further information or to arrange a visit please feel free to contact us:

Portishead Primary School

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