

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

9th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for the excellent way you are working in partnership with us. It was a pleasure to observe the sea of yellow coming in to school today for World Mental Health Day which has never been more relevant than now.

World Mental Health Day

In assembly on Monday and today I discussed a range of strategies to support health and wellbeing and in class children have done follow up work this afternoon. Friday afternoon is Friendship Friday and all classes where possible (e.g. if PE is timetabled they will do this another day) use this time for PHSE (we follow the Jigsaw Scheme) and address any class specific relationship and behavioural needs. This is followed by Golden Time which is linked to our Behaviour Policy.

Just One Tree Non Uniform Day

We are holding another non uniform day on the last day of term (23rd October) to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our environment and the world around us. The charity we are supporting, JUST ONE Tree, plants trees all over the world to help reforest areas that would benefit from reforestation. Every pound raised plants one tree. We at school will also be given the opportunity to plant our own small trees next term as we will receive a free schools tree pack from the Woodland Trust to help us increase the biodiversity of our site.

Remote Learning

All schools in the Trust have added a remote learning statement on the school website. Ours can be found on the parent zone tab of the website.

<https://www.portisheadprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Remote+Learning+During+the+Pandemic&pid=158>

Remote learning offers will vary from school to school across the Trust because of differences in capacity. We have been busy updating our IT equipment and working with the Trust on the home learning offer.

Please check that you can access your child's Team account and if you have any issues let the class teachers know, so that should you need it for any reason we know it works.

Staff Absence

There is a requirement for all stakeholders to self-isolate should they be showing Covid symptoms. This means it is highly likely that we will see more staff absence out of necessity to follow government guidance during the pandemic. Quite simply, we cannot take any chances that may result in the closure of bubbles and loss of learning for children, or that could compromise the health of our community. In the case of teaching staff absence we endeavour to cover classes with consistent cover but this is not always possible for reasons out of our control.

When teachers are absent year group colleagues, senior leaders and support staff work closely with cover staff. This ensures continuity of the curriculum offer and the continuation of the planned class learning. Certainly when I was at primary school this was not the case. Please be assured that curriculum continuity is our priority and that we do check in regularly with both cover teachers and the classes.

Thank You

These are strange times that we find ourselves in. I am extremely proud of the way that your children have settled back in to school and have applied themselves to their learning. I am extremely proud of the way that staff have adapted to the change in work patterns and ways in which we have to teach in order to keep us all safe.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. It is my biggest regret that staying safe limits our face to face contact and being together as a community is the bedrock of our school. We continue to review and reflect on our practices here at school and your continued support with our risk assessment and the government guidelines continues to minimise the risk of children missing out on schooling and us all staying safe.

Check out the new website which is being updated on a continuing basis. It is a great place to check in on news and the school calendar (parents evening week is now on there - more information to be sent out nearer the time) and there is some great wellbeing advice on the pupil tab.

<https://www.portisheadprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Wellbeing&pid=125>

Have a lovely weekend and I hope you all find the time to do something lovely as individuals or families to support your own mental health.

Kind Regards
Richard Riordan
Headteacher