

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

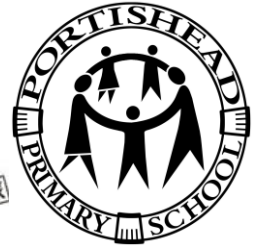
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Headteacher: Mr Richard Riordan



Learning and achieving together

4th January 2020

Dear Parents,

Wishing you all a very happy new year for 2021 and hoping that you had a safe, healthy and enjoyable break.

I am very pleased to confirm that our school and wrap around care will be open as normal from Tuesday the 5th of January.

Updated PE days for term 3 and the same staggered start and finish times are on our website if you have lost track or simply forgotten.

The safety of our community including children, staff, parents and essential visitors remain our first priority and to recognise the increased risk of transmission of the new virus variant **we are now insisting that all visitors to our site wear a mask** as we cannot maintain 2m between adults at pick up and drop off.

We acknowledge that a small number of adults do not wear face coverings for medical or ideological reasons. In both cases we ask that you drop children off at the gates if they are mature enough to come in on their own or at the office door where they will be taken to their classes, where you deem necessary. We ask the same for anyone that arrives on site and has forgotten a face covering. Please may we remind you that only one person should enter the office welcome area at a time and please maintain social distancing if you are waiting outside.

We anticipate your full support with this and do not wish to waste valuable time or resources justifying our position, policing this or taking action against adults who will not adhere to this important safety measure.

"Covid loves a crowd", and as well as the impact on the health of our community we want to limit the impact of Covid on the education of our children as much as we can.

You can also help us to focus on the safety and education of our children by ensuring that your children arrive on time and with everything they need for the school day, including water, lunches and appropriate footwear and outer wear for the weather conditions. The school heating is on but we will have windows open in classrooms for ventilation. Children will be allowed to wear coats in class if it becomes chilly.

Please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details should we be in the unfortunate position whereby we need to get hold of you in an emergency.

If your children require medicine please contact the office and bring in new medicine and complete the necessary forms.

Please continue to inform us and follow government guidance if you or your child develops symptoms and please do not send your children to school or come on to our site if you think you may have symptoms. This is the same message that our school staff have been given.

Please find below a link to the letter that was sent out before the return to school in September which contains many of the key safety measures that are already in place in school:-

[Link to September reopening letter](#)

In addition to the comprehensive measures that the school has in place we have provided staff with updated guidance to reduce the risk of spread between ourselves as well as staff and children. We have reduced the number of staff crossing bubbles to limit the need for closures should a member of staff become unwell and where we have no choice to have a small number of staff crossing bubbles those staff will be working in a way which is as safe as possible and will also avoid multiple bubble closures.

As we receive updated guidance from the DfE, PHE and the LSP we are continuing to work with staff to review and update our risk assessment as appropriate.

None of us know what the future holds and things do seem somewhat uncertain as the crisis appears to continue to develop.

We will continue to do all we can to offer safe school-based learning that recognises the challenges to mental health and wellbeing as well as our physical health.

We appreciate your continued support and understanding as the school continues to respond the unique challenge that our school setting presents.

I look forward to welcoming your children back tomorrow and getting back to doing what we do best and love.

Yours sincerely

Richard Riordan

Headteacher