

# PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

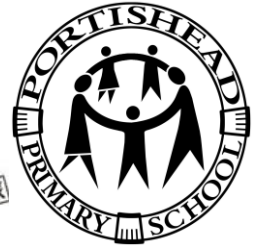
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Learning and achieving together

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## A New Beginning on the Horizon

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in our first week back. We have enjoyed catching up with children in school and online after the half term break.

On Monday during our INSET day I led some key maths training that will help our staff support maths assessment and plan learning in the short, medium and long term as we return to full-time school based learning. Staff also took part in a range of SEND workshops and training including managing medicines, Makaton and supporting children with ADHD. This training was led and organised by Mrs Hardwidge.

### Preparing for a full return to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March

There is no doubt that we are going to struggle not to overload you as we cascade developing information and updates from the DFE, the LSP and our school. We receive updated information all of the time and will do our best to bundle it wherever possible. Please help us to help you by ensuring that our emails and letters get read by at least one adult in the family.

All newsletters will go on the news page of our website and all key information to prepare you to return will be added to a March Re-opening page on the Parent Zone menu.

### Keeping Children Safe from Harm, E-Safety and Remote Learning

The DFE have updated several key documents to support parents, all of which you can find on our website.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Keeping children safe from abuse and harm](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): keeping children safe online](#)

[Supporting your children's remote education during coronavirus \(COVID 19\)](#)

### PlayStation/WrapAround Care

This will reopen from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March but in order for us to maintain this service we are dependent on minimum numbers to make it viable. Our provision is not supplemented by any government funding or the school's main budget. It is a separate business and so we are duty bound to cover costs. We encourage you to make use of this provision so that the school can continue to offer it to parents in the future.

### INSET and School Reopening Preparation

We were very pleased with the LSP decision to cancel the INSET day and allow all children to return to school as soon as possible. We all appreciate what a difficult time this has been for children and families. In order to brief staff to ensure the safety of all we will be providing home learning tasks on the afternoon of Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March that can

be done independently. This will allow those who have been working from home to fully prepare so that your children can have the best possible start when we have the full reopening. Key worker provision will be maintained.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Screen free afternoon.** Enjoy some outdoor activity with your family and take notice of the changing seasons. Visit your favourite outdoor space, enjoy a walk, run or cycle. Try on your uniform, do you need to get any bigger sizes if you have grown since before Christmas? Prep your school bag for Monday morning, write a list of anything you need to be ready to go back to school so that you can enjoy a stress free weekend.

In order to allow our classrooms to be prepared for the reopening of school to all pupils on Monday 8th March, there will be a full school closure from 12pm on Friday 5th March. This will mean that there will be no on-site key worker/vulnerable child provision or online learning provision in the afternoon and there will be no lunchtime provision in school on this day so children will need to have their lunch at home.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> - 11.30am Assembly with Mr Riordan who will read out teacher nominations. PE activities set by class teachers. 12.00pm full school closure.**

### **School Reopening Timetable**

The return to school timetable will be identical to our September reopening and you will find a copy included with this communication and on the Parent Zone page of our website. We will continue with a staggered start and end to the school day. The PE timetable will follow next week, children will continue to come to school in their PE Kit on PE Days.

The successful reopening will very much depend on the support and understanding of our community. Our children have spent far too long at home and we want to do everything we can to minimise the risk of further closures, as well as ensuring that whilst on the school site we are doing everything we can to keep children, families and staff safe.

Please help us by:

- Ensuring that you arrive at school on time within your year group window (not late and equally not early) to minimise waiting on the site. If you arrive late you risk children crossing bubbles at the office. Children will not be able to be sent to the office at the end of the day so please arrive punctually at pick up.
- Using only one adult per family to drop off or pick up.
- Observing social distancing on the playground and wearing face coverings.
- Where you are unable or unwilling to wear a face covering please drop your children at the gate if they are old enough to enter school on their own or drop children at the office door observing them until they are let in. Please be patient as only one family can enter the welcome area at a time.
- Contacting the office via email or telephone call only, wherever possible.
- Ensuring that your child arrives with all they need for the day, especially packed lunches and water bottles.
- Informing the office of any absence and any positive Covid cases in the household.
- Not coming to school if your child has Covid-19 symptoms and either arrange for a test or self-isolate according to government guidance.

We want all of our energy to go in to keeping children safe and delivering high quality learning. We must all work together to cooperate on the school site, whatever our personal beliefs. Our children will also need to be supported back in to school routines and expectations. For many being back in classes of 30 will be a challenge and take a period of adjustment.

I have every faith that you will do all you can to help us with the challenges ahead and continue to support my wonderful team as they deliver the high quality learning and care that we pride ourselves on.

Kind Regards,

Richard Riordan

Headteacher