

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

1st April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all of your kind messages and support during Term 4. We are extremely grateful for the way you continue to help keep our community safe with your observance of our school expectations and the government guidance. Your timely communication when children or any member of your household display symptoms continues to be really important to us in keeping everyone safe.

Lateral Flow Tests and Covid Symptoms – see below for latest advice from Public Health England

(Primary school pupils and rapid asymptomatic testing)

On advice from Public Health England (PHE), pupils in primary schools and children in nursery settings are not included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme.

PHE has advised that there are currently limited public health benefits to testing primary-aged pupils with lateral flow devices (LFD). In addition, primary-aged pupils, particularly younger children, may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

We are advising that primary-aged pupils should only be tested if they are symptomatic, in which case their families should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and book a PCR test for the child.

How else can you help lower the risk of Bubble Closure when we return?

- Do not send your children to school with symptoms
- Continue to be mindful of the guidance, however tempting it is to bend any rules
- Continue to communicate at the earliest possible time if a member of your family tests positive, letting us know the date when symptoms began if it is a child.
- Before and after school do not mix bubbles in the sports court.
- Continue to avoid meeting and congregating at the school gate.

Easter Break- Support

We are really pleased that some of the rules are relaxing over the Easter break. This means that we can make best use of the holiday to support our mental and physical health. There are some great resources on our website if you need any support and in an emergency contact your local GP or 111 if you need any assistance.

Change of KS2 Lunchtime

When we return in Term 5 we are moving KS2 lunch time to 12.40-1.25. This provides a small gap between the KS1 lunchtime and will help with communication and distribution of lunches. Children will have the same length of break and teaching time.

Future Stars

Future Stars will be resuming their after school sports clubs in Term 5, these will be in year group bubbles. Please contact them directly for further information.

Medicines

If you've had a reminder that your child's medicine is out of date, please bring in any new medicines after the Easter holidays if you haven't already done so. If your child's medication is no longer required please email the school office and we will update our records.

Safeguarding

We must all continue to be aware of any safeguarding risks to our children and community, both in the physical world and online. This includes supporting our children to use social media appropriately and communicating with each other in a kind and appropriate way. It is always a good time to check internet settings. Do you know what Apps your children access, who they talk to and what they share. Online fraud is increasingly targeted at younger children who may have access to their own money or know how to use the financial details of adults in their household.

Celebration

- A really positive return back to school.
- The reopening of Wrap Around Care – thanks Carol and the team!
- Cases in Year 6 were managed swiftly containing any further risk to the community.
- International Women's Week – our girls don't need to be warriors but they do need and deserve equality, respect and to feel safe.
- Red Nose Day.
- Additional Forest School Sessions.
- Continued high quality remote learning.
- Our new site supervisor continues to develop and refresh our school site.
- Some excellent fund raising and community events from FOS.
- Some very helpful challenge and support from our local governing body.
- We have witnessed some fabulous teaching and learning and all staff and children should feel very proud!

I will be moving house over the break, so thanks to everyone who has ever put something kind through my letter box or been respectful while Trick or Treating. Those acts of kindness always make me smile and the community's respect for my privacy has also meant a lot to me. I am not leaving school though, just needed a bigger garden for my 2 dogs!

Whilst we know that not everyone celebrates Easter and many parents will continue to work, we do wish all families a very special two week break. May the holiday bring you peace in your relaxation, joy in each other's company and some fun in the sun.

It has been our greatest joy to welcome you all back this term and I look forward to more exciting exciting times starting on Monday the 19th of April!

Kind Regards,

Richard Riordan

Headteacher