

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school after the Easter break. We hope that you all had the opportunity to enjoy the warmer dry weather and the relaxing rules to meet up with family and friends.

It has been a real pleasure to see how quickly children have settled back in to the life of school and are enjoying learning and playing together. Year 3 is turning in to a rain forest, Year 4's Roman Wow Day was very memorable, Forest School sessions are up and running and much more.

Our school value of the term is Curiosity and our PSHE theme is Relationships. These will be taught explicitly during Friendship Fridays and will guide our assemblies during term 5.

How can you continue to help us keep our community safe?

- Do not send your children to school with symptoms.
- **Please arrive promptly at school for your year group start time.**
- 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.
- Please follow the rule of 6 as you make your way to and from home to the school site.
- **Please minimise the need to come to the school office by ensuring your children arrive at school with everything they need for the school day.**

Other Covid 19 reminders:

- All adults are now able to participate in lateral flow testing.
- Staff or pupils with a positive LFD test result must self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school.
- Parents/carers of children who have been asked to self-isolate may also be eligible for a payment from this scheme:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>

Phonics Workshop

EYFS and KS1 parents should have received an invitation through their child's Teams account to attend a workshop run by Mrs Blackmore-Squires and Mrs Barrett next Thursday (29th) at 4:30pm. Please join us if you can to learn more about how we teach phonics in school, and how you can best support your child in phonics at home. The meeting can also be accessed here:

[Link to Phonics Teams meeting](#)

Reading Books

Sadly, we are still missing thousands of pounds worth of library, classroom and colour-banded reading books since the first lockdown. We desperately need to replenish our stocks and support our children to catch-up and excel their reading. Please have an extra look at home and return any school books as soon as possible. Children can hand books to their class teacher or alternatively there is an amnesty box in the main entrance. Thank you in advance.

Considerate Parking

We hope as the weather improves that wherever possible families will walk, scoot or cycle to school to keep healthy and limit the human impact on the environment.

Where this is not possible we ask that families park cars considerately, avoiding narrowing pathways, blocking drive ways or obscuring junctions. This allows children to cross roads safely and ensures good relationships with our local community. We are saddened to have received a report from a local resident being verbally abused after their driveway was blocked, preventing them from leaving their house. This is not acceptable on any level. It is our understanding that PCSOs will be monitoring the parking around the school. Of particular concern are Beach Road East and Gateway Terrace (leading to Lower Burlington Road). Thank you for your understanding and thoughtfulness with this issue.

School Dinners

We have noticed that a growing number of children are not familiar with our school dinner menu and are choosing food that they don't like and won't always eat. If your child has a school dinner, time talking about the meal choices would be very helpful to both your children and the school.

FOS

Thanks to the team and those of you that supported the clothing drive and bake sale. This community fund raising is still much needed as we continue to upgrade our school site and play opportunities for children.

Site Development

Our site manager, Alex, has continued with our programme of site maintenance and development. We have upgraded the shaded area in the KS2 playground, added fencing around the pagoda in the KS1 playground, made changes to the security of the school hall and will shortly be adding an additional gate to the site for use in the day.

Congratulations Mrs Merriam and family

It is with great pleasure that I share the good news that Mrs Merriam is expecting a baby after the summer break. Good luck to her and her family as they prepare for their new arrival.

Kind Regards,

Richard Riordan

Headteacher