

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

11th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope your children have enjoyed their first week back in school. It has been a pleasure to welcome them and see how refreshed they are after the sunshine filled half term break. We look forward to working in partnership with you as we complete this academic year whilst transitioning to the new one.

This term is the busiest for school staff as we continue to focus on our current cohorts and ensure we have all of the preparation completed for September. We look forward to sharing with you staffing and classes later this term.

Working in Partnership

Thank you for all you do for the school and to support academic and social development of your children. Please continue to help us to help you and support the school community by:

- Social distancing
- Respecting the one way system
- Being mindful of Covid systems and engaging with the testing systems
- Parking responsibly
- Reporting absence timely
- Ensuring children arrive promptly and with everything they need for the day
- Reading regularly to and with your children
- Sharing your concerns so that we can act on them
- Avoiding calling with non-essential queries before 9.45 so that we can focus on absence and the tracking of children who have not arrived at school. **This involves cross referencing the registers with emails and telephone messages to identify children who are missing without explanation that need urgent action.**

Thanks to those of you that have already completed the parent survey. We have brought forward the closing date to 9am Friday the 18th of June to allow us plenty of time to review your responses as we plan for 2021/22.

Transition arrangements

Mrs Sargent has been very busy coordinating our dates and arrangements for this year in consultation with staff and with the impact Covid has had on our children very much at the heart of our decision making.

As part of our extensive transition program this year, the children will be spending time with their new teachers in their new classrooms on **Friday 9th July in the afternoon**, and on **Tuesday 13th July** in the morning.

Staff will be meeting together to discuss the academic, social and emotional needs of the children over the course of 3 weeks in July to ensure that all vital information is passed on and that they know where all children's strengths and areas for development in their learning are.

For our children who are on the SEND register, we will be arranging online meetings with parents and the current and new teachers via our parents' evening software. These will be held during the week of 28th June and you will be sent an email with the appointment details.

So you can put a face to the name of your child's new teacher, the teachers will be available for a quick hello on the playground outside their current class straight after pick up for 10 minutes only (due to our staggered times and Covid restrictions) on the following days:

Current EYFS- 3:05 Monday 12th July

Current Y1- 3:20 Tuesday 13th July

Current Y2- 2:50 Tuesday 13th July

Current Y3- 3:20 Wednesday 14th July

Current Y4- 3:05 Thursday 15th July

Current Y5- 3:20 Monday 12th July

We always anticipate a level of child and parent anxiety around the transition to a new year group and teachers, so we hope that these steps will help to reassure you all.

Social Media

Social media and technology has been incredibly beneficial to children during the pandemic as it has allowed them to access learning remotely and stay in touch with friends and family that they might otherwise have not seen for long periods.

Over the period of time we have been back in school full time we have begun to pick up more and more issues outside of school that stem from social media or online platforms and communication. This world can be really challenging for adults to successfully navigate both in terms of their own behaviour and the impact on real life relationships.

Please can you consider how you support and supervise your children's online activity, particularly with our younger children who appear to be having the most difficulty. The school will continue to educate and support children but your role in this part of their childhood is critical.

Support for disadvantaged and SEND pupils

The school team do a fantastic job supporting those children and families who require additional support over the long term and sometimes only short periods of time. Nationally and across our Trust this work remains a high and increasing priority. To reflect this work the Trust has been working with governors and school leaders to produce policy and strategy documents that outline our trust wide approach. In our school we pride ourselves in staying true to this approach and often going beyond it. Please see the links below to the trust wide documents to see how our approach reflects that of the Trust's.

<https://www.lsp.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=126&type=pdf>

<https://www.lsp.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=198&type=pdf>

As with most things in school, the best possible support for children is time in class and access to great teaching from their class teacher.

Celebrating Diversity and Unity through Sport

One of the many things we love about our school is the diversity amongst our families that may not always seem apparent. To allow a celebration of national pride, children will be able to wear the football shirt or colour of the home kit/flag of their family nation any school day that the country is playing a match.

Please do not go out and buy anything – this is entirely optional, applies only to the top you wear and is designed to allow children to celebrate their heritage.

Not all of our family heritages are represented, so on Friday the 9th of July, the last school day before the final, everyone can come to school in non-uniform wearing a sports kit or colour of their home national flags.

You can find a full fixture list here, if you wish to join in.

<https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/fixtures-results/#/md/33673>

FOS Events

A big thank you to the FOS team who continue to find ways of fundraising and building community despite the challenges we all continue to face.

I hope your children enjoyed their lollies today and you can support the Smarties tube challenge that will start from Monday. Look out for other news coming from them shortly.

Thank you from me

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to my charity swim and shared the charity link. Raising awareness of the charity and the support they offer has been my goal and I am touched by your kindness and generosity.

A big thank you to your children, the effort you have gone to and the staff team for making my 50th birthday so special. I feel genuinely lucky to work in such a special school with such a caring and thoughtful community.

Kind Regards,

Richard Riordan

Headteacher