



## **Congratulations to Portishead Primary School**

It is with great pleasure that we are sending you a NSHSN logo, in recognition of your ongoing commitment to healthier, happier learning.

This has been another difficult year, with shifting priorities and planned activities being thwarted by school closures and social distancing restrictions. We completely understand that schools are unlikely to have met all their ambitions for the year but are delighted that so many have been able to make significant progress in meeting health needs.

The school wanted to increase the number of children who enjoyed school as much as before Covid-19. There was clearly a need for this outcome, as 65% of children weren't enjoying school as much. 'Magic Moments' were introduced to give the children some 'down time' and create a sense of excitement each week. Staff meeting time was allocated to gather ideas together and this was clearly appreciated; one staff member commented that 'having a list of suggestions has been really useful.' It is also clear from the comments of children that the 'Magic Moments' successfully generated a buzz. One child said, 'I love having something to look forward to every single week!' and another 'now we can do fun stuff again.' The school must have been thrilled that the number of children enjoying school as much as pre-Covid increased to 80%. It would be lovely to extend 'Magic Moments' by keeping a scrapbook of activity to share with the rest of the school community and 'buddying up' with children from different age groups, as intended.

It had been noticed that some children were looking 'lost' in the playground and that disruptive behaviours were increasing, partly due to changes introduced to keep the school Covid-safe. To support the more vulnerable children, a large investment was made in 'Pods', that are large boxes containing a waterproof mat and various quiet games and activities. Fortunately, the school had a supportive dinner lady to administer them and tokens were given to targeted children, so that the dinner ladies would know who should be using the 'Pods'. Benefits have been felt in terms of improved mental health for vulnerable children, increased enjoyment of playtime, more social opportunities and better school readiness in the afternoon. It was interesting to hear that although the 'Pods' are only used by vulnerable children, there has been a positive knock-on effect across the school, in terms of minimising disruption in the classroom.

Congratulations to everyone at Portishead Primary for all their hard work, in difficult circumstances, to support health and wellbeing. We look forward to working with you again in the future.

**Shaun Cheesman and Alison Ball**  
**North Somerset Healthy Schools Network Team**