

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

24th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy first 3 weeks at school and what a pleasure it has been to see the school get back into a routine based around the learning and pastoral needs of the children rather than health regulations (though we continue to be mindful of minimising the risk to all of us).

This week we have visited writing lessons across the school, looked at books and talked to children in class about their learning. It is always a privilege to witness the expertise of our teaching and support staff, the outstanding learning behaviour of our children and the joy and enthusiasm for the curriculum everywhere we go. We were joined by our school improvement advisor from the LSP and governors for a summary of the day so that they are able to support and challenge senior leaders in our roles.

Yesterday we were visited by the LSP's new director of education, Mrs Sharon Roberts and I could not have been more proud as I showed her around our school, meeting staff and children. The building was alive with the buzz of learning and the sounds of laughter and joy that only a school can generate. She left very impressed.

Next week we will be sharing our pupil leadership appointments with school council, eco-club, anti-bullying ambassador, sports leader and digital leader roles all being announced. House captains in year 6 will also be shared.

I will be out of school from Wednesday to Friday as I support the Year 4 and 5 overnight camps but you will be able to see Mrs Sargent (Deputy Head), Mrs Hardwidge (Inclusion Leader), Mrs Blackmore-Squires (EYFS and KS1 Leader) or Mrs Barrett (KS2 Leader) in my absence. I am very excited and will be spending the weekend packing and banking sleep!

Next week we will be launching The USA 401 challenge project in partnership with Ben Smith (www.the401challenge.co.uk/theusachallenge). Mrs Sargent sent an email home last week with parent information, and the children from Y1-6 will all be coming home tonight with a passport and badge. Please start helping your child record their 'miles' from Monday. The aim is that every year group completes 14,000 miles by September 2022.

Tonight is the first FOS event of the new school year. I hope those of you that are attending enjoy a wonderful evening of Family Bingo, your support for these fundraising events is much appreciated and

makes a big difference to the school. This year the money raised will fund the redevelopment of Pirate Island and our outdoor play equipment.

One of our local residents has asked us to share the following link with you to raise awareness of the impact of leaving car engines running whilst dropping off and collecting children:-

<https://familymatters-uk.co.uk/new-campaign-launched-to-stop-motorists-idling-outside-school-gates/>

Lastly, with a new academic year, our staff will be engaging with a number of carefully selected educational initiatives. We have already benefitted from whole-school phonics training to support reading across the school. EYFS – Year 2 will be taking part in a national maths initiative called Mastering Number and we will continue to benefit from the wide range of professional development opportunities that being part of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership offers our staff team.

Please look out for and engage with the parental workshops we will be running across the year to help you support your children at home.

I look forward to welcoming Dolphin and Octopus classes to school fulltime next week. They have been a joy to have in school and have settled so quickly.

Have a wonderful weekend. I couldn't be prouder of the wonderful start our school community have enjoyed.

Richard Riordan
Headteacher
Portishead Primary School