

# PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Richard Riordan



Learning and achieving together

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26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have enjoyed chatting to our teaching team over the last 2 weeks at parents evening. I know how much they appreciate your time, support and feedback. Our partnership makes such a difference to your children.

## Christmas Activities

It is only 3 weeks until Christmas. The sleigh is having an MOT and the reindeers are tapering their training and carb loading in preparation for their long night on Christmas Eve. Meanwhile here at school our staff team are busy making plans for the lead up to the festive holidays. We look forward to nativities and performances from EYFS and Year 1.

Staff will be communicating about year group specific activities. Please keep an eye on school comms and the calendar on the website.

FOS events kick off this evening with their first wreath making evening and they are holding an outdoor fair on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.

Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December will be a non-uniform day with donations of bottles and gifts for the tombola.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – School Christmas Jumper Day – no need for new jumpers/wear something Christmassy (no donations – we recognise this time of year is expensive enough already!)

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Virtual Assembly

## Punctuality

We are seeing an increasing number of late arrivals and parents dropping in forgotten items throughout the day. We do appreciate that the mornings in busy households can be quite hectic and it is impossible to remember everything all of the time. However, the increase over the term is very disruptive to learning and the operational running of the school. Please could I ask that we all make that extra effort in the run up to the break and into 2022. We really appreciate your support with this.

## **Covid 19**

Many of you will be aware that cases of Covid 19 have continued to rise locally and have risen in our school community . Given this context the current measures included in all Trust schools will remain in place for the remainder of term 2.

Thank you for all of your support with our risk assessment measures and the diligence in which you are following national guidance around testing and self-isolation. We understand that there will be a range of views within the school community but it is important that we continue to work together to remain vigilant. School staff are doing all we can to reduce the health risks and disruption to families and it is really positive that so many of you are equally as proactive and understanding.

In our school we are now taking the following additional measures:

- Any class with 4 or more cases will be treated as a bubble inside the building and will eat in class at lunch break.
- Any staff working across classes will now wear face coverings and socially distance from children in the building.
- Children attending wrap around care from classes with positive cases will be kept in class bubbles.

## **Self-Isolation**

Guidance around self-isolation can be a bit confusing. Please see below for a reminder of the government guidance.

### **When to self-isolate:**

Self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – check below if this applies to you)
- you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app
- You may need to quarantine when you arrive in England from abroad. Check the quarantine rules when entering England on GOV.UK

### **When Not to self- Isolate:**

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

**Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:**

- get a PCR test on GOV.UK to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19
- consider limiting contact with people who are at higher risk from COVID-19

**Reading at Home**

One of the things we can all do to support the academic progress of all children is support home reading. Next week there is a phonics information session on Teams for EYFS parents and we would like all EYFS families to join us for the session.

We will be holding additional information sessions for parents in Years 1 and 2 and KS2 after the Christmas break.

**Snacks in School**

A polite reminder that snacks in school for breaktime should be healthy and form part of a balanced diet. We have notice that some children are beginning to bring in sweets and lollies. Sweet treats should be saved for outside of the school day. See link below for some healthy packaged snack guidance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids/100-calorie-snacks/#packaged-snacks>

**Staffing**

Congratulations to Mrs Hardwidge and Mrs Sargent who have been selected as consultant teachers for our Trust. This means that they will be able to offer their expertise to other LSP schools if needed, and recognises their talent and expertise. We are really proud of them!

Today we are saying goodbye to Mrs Fletcher who is having some surgery. She will be returning in the new year and we wish her well with her recovery.

We are expanding our lunchtime team so if you would like to join us here at school or know of anyone who may be interested in a role with us, please drop an email in to the school office.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for Families

Here is a link to Parenting Smart with some fabulous resources to help at home. Follow the link and have a scroll down as the links cover a wide range of topics, from the thankfully rare to some of the more common and everyday challenges we sometimes have to deal with.

<https://edu15.sprintsend.co.uk/b2/el.php?SID=64423&STATID=8&LID=20&FID=H>

### In other news.....

- The transformation of Pirate Island has begun and our School Council have chosen some replacement equipment to be installed.
- Our computers in the Computer Suite are all being replaced this week.
- We have updated our bump note procedures – please see separate communication to follow soon.
- Thanks to everyone who submitted anti-bullying posters as part of the school wide home learning challenge. Winners were announced in assembly this afternoon and the posters will be on display shortly.
- **Thank you for your generous donations to Every Child Needs Christmas. Your kindness is appreciated.**
- Thank you for making it to the end of this letter! How do you comfort an English teacher? There, their, they're!

Kind Regards

Richard Riordan  
Headteacher  
Portishead Primary School