

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

14th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems like our world has transformed over the last few days with the weather reflecting how many of us may be feeling, given some of the messages we hear in the media and news about climate change, energy prices and the evolving Covid situation.

At times like these it often pays to remind ourselves of the positives and focus on the things that we can control. I am sure that just as the fog will disappear, brighter news and good times are on the horizon.

Blue/Brew Monday

Don't forget it is a day to celebrate on Monday. Children can come in to school wearing clothes that bring them joy and happiness. They can decorate a spare t-shirt in class in the afternoon and will all be given anti-bullying wrist bands that they can wear in school.

We are encouraging all adult members of our community to reach out to friends, colleagues, relatives and loved ones and share a brew and a laugh and have a catch up. Talking and staying connected does wonders for our mental health and wellbeing.

Covid 19

Our risk assessment has been updated since last week to reflect the changes to government guidance around positive LFD tests and self-isolation. This is now on our website.

It is likely to be updated again early next week to reflect the announced shortening of isolation coming in to force from Monday, subject to 2 negative LFD tests.

Whilst we have robust plans in place should we see an increase in cases in our school, we are also turning our attention to the hope and expectation that guidance will change for the positive on the 26th of January.

As important as it is to have actions in place to keep our community safe, we will also be turning our attention to planning our way out of the pandemic and returning our school culture and processes back to normal as things improve.

Tablets/Smartphones/and Other Gadgets

Many members of our school will have found some of these items under their Christmas tree. They bring so much joy and offer so many educational and social benefits which is why they are such a popular gift.

We encourage all parents to monitor the usage of these and the apps that children use, groups chats and messaging. Some of you may be very surprised at the language and content that can easily be accessed on popular games and social media platforms such as TikTok. Given the age and maturity of our children, not all of them will be aware of the seriousness of some content or its meaning.

Our Environmental Work

Children across the school are engaged in a range of learning opportunities and activities that promotes environmental understanding and positive action. Please check out our website and Facebook page to find out what the children, our Eco-Club and Eco-6 teams have been up to. Year 2 were also visited by a Greenpeace volunteer this week.

It is well worth reflecting on how you can have a reduced environmental impact at home. Our Eco-6 team have been sharing with the school that one of the ways is reduced meat and dairy consumption.

Behaviour and Anti-Bullying

We continue to be impressed with the focus in classes, the manners of our children and the level of kindness we see around the school every day.

Teachers, support staff and senior leaders meet regularly with pupils and walk the school to monitor what is going well and how we can enhance the happiness of our pupils. Assemblies, Friendship Fridays and circle time are used to share wider issues with our children and to guide and develop their social and values-based learning. Every class has a worry box that children can share concerns with in private if they don't feel confident to raise them in person with a trusted school adult.

You can see how well your child is doing on Classcharts. Currently all of our houses have accumulated over 10,000 house points each since the start of this academic year! We couldn't be more proud!

Census Day – School Funding – You can make a difference!

Thursday the 20th of January is school census day. The more children that have a school lunch on that day, the greater the funding the school receives. In EYFS and KS1, where lunches are free, it would be really beneficial to the school if every child, wherever possible, has a school lunch booked on that day.

Portishead in Bloom Painting Competition

Please see attached flyer with a wonderful opportunity for your children to take part in an arts competition run by Portishead in Bloom to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. **Please bring your entries into school on A3 paper as described and we will pass them on.**

Kind Regards

Richard Riordan
Headteacher
Portishead Primary School