

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

4th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, it has been a very busy first week back at school already.

World Book Day

Staff and children enjoyed world book day and focussed their efforts on reading and books rather than dressing up. We hope that you can put the book vouchers to good use. There is very little in education that has more of an impact than supporting your child with phonics and early reading in KS1 and continuing to build on a positive reading culture in KS2. Whether it is reading a range of fiction or fact-based reading material that may include sports reports, collectable cards and stickers, reading anything with text that your child has an interest in, makes a difference.

In school we held a world cup of books, introducing some new texts to our classes through extracts. Copies of these books have been bought for the school and the winners were:

- EYFS and Year 1 – Doctorsaurus
- Years 2/3 -The Worst Class in the World Dares You!
- Years 4/5/6 - Cookie! and the Most Mysterious Mystery in the World

Information Evenings

The staff team have run a number of information sessions for parents recently. Thanks to those parents who attended our KS1 SATs session last night and phonics and early reading session in Term 3. This term we will be adding other recorded sessions on other school areas to support parents' understanding of the school to our website.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings are being held online on Thursday 17th March and Tuesday 22nd March. Booking will go live on Monday 7th March at 6pm. Information on how to book your online appointment will be emailed to parents during the day on Monday 7th March.

Winter Wanderland

A big thank you to the children and staff involved with our wonderful window display in KS2. We are very pleased to support this community project and hope it brings you as much joy as it brought in making it.



Supporting Children in Dealing with News about Ukraine

Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>

We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week/Children's Commissioner)

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-should-not-hide-from-children-what-is-happening-in-ukraine/>

How to talk to children about what's happening in Ukraine and World War Three anxiety (Metro)

<https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/24/how-to-talk-to-children-about-whats-happening-in-ukraine-16163133/>

Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation (Department for Education)

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

Support for Ukraine – Non-Uniform Day Friday 11th March

Our staff have been collecting supplies to support the humanitarian relief in Ukraine and the countries that families have been displaced to. Please see local media to get involved with your own donations of supplies.

At school, next Friday (11th March) will be a non-uniform day. Children should come dressed in the colours of the rainbow in support of peace and bring whatever donation you are able to contribute. These will be collected and passed on to the DEC appeal that you may have seen in the media. Alternatively, you may wish to make an anonymous donation directly to the charity. For those classes that have PE please wear sports kit in any colours you like.

https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMluPnHxais9glVgtPtCh1cJgm3EAAYASAAEgLkffD_BwE

Governance

Our school governing body work very closely with the school team. There are visits planned to support and challenge school leaders this term as there are every term, and this includes governors attending our termly standards visit from the Trust on the 15th of March. Before then we are meeting on Saturday the 12th of March to review our School Strategic Plan which will be revised and published thereafter.

Punctuality and Attendance

We do appreciate that mornings don't always run according to plan, however we are seeing an increasing number of late arrivals which can be unsettling for children and classes. Please could I ask that we all make that extra effort to arrive at school promptly with everything that your child needs for the school day.

We understand that it has been very difficult for families to get any time away over the last two years. At the same time, we all recognise that children have not had the same learning opportunities they would otherwise have enjoyed. Please can we all work together to reduce the number of unauthorised absences by making the most of the opportunities that the school holidays present.

Thank you for your support with this.

International Women's Day Tuesday 8th March

I am very lucky to be able to call so many inspirational women colleagues and every year we mark this day with a range of visitors and activities arranged by Mrs Moss. It is really important that we play our part in creating a culture where girls and women are inspired and empowered and feel safe, respected and valued. We know that across society this is a national priority. Each class will have a visiting female coach in to lead an additional sports session next week.

Celebration

Congratulations to our readers, writers and mathematicians of Term 3. Certificates were shared in assembly today and have gone home with our proud children after a delay caused by our storm school closure.

It has been a great first week back, I hope you enjoy your weekend.

Kind Regards

Richard Riordan
Headteacher
Portishead Primary School