

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

15th June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous first week back we have had. We have been as busy as ever as we wind up to the end of the school year in the final weeks of term 6.

Arts Week

I hope that your children have enjoyed Arts Week as much as we have. You can see some of the activities that our children have enjoyed on our school Facebook page, as well as the final portrait of the Queen, made of all of the individual portraits that the children painted to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee!

My sincere thank you to all of the staff involved in the planning of the week and the delivery of activities which included visual arts, drama, music and dance. The week finished with a visit from local artist/furniture designer, Tristan Merriam, who made a planter out of a chest of drawers with the children. The finished product can be found at the front of the school. There will also be a silent auction of another piece of work designed by children. Look out for details coming soon.

Anti-Bullying

Thanks to everyone who entered a poem into our anti-bullying poetry competition. Myself and Mrs Sargent really enjoyed reading them all and found it really difficult to shortlist entries for the judging panel. On Friday we were joined by our CEO, Mr Gary Lewis, who selected the winning entries with our anti-bullying ambassadors from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Our anti-bullying ambassadors agreed that they would remove their own entries from shortlisting to reward the other children in the school – a very humble and considerate decision.

Winners

- Year 1 Joseph, special mention to Harriet
- Year 2 Bella, special mention to Hunter
- Year 3 Autumn, special mention to Alice and Leo
- Year 4 Phoebe, special mention to Olivia and Emmy
- Year 5 Martha, special mention to Charlie
- Year 6 Archie, special mention to Connor

Overall winner: Bella in Year 2 – Well done!

Mr Lewis used the opportunity to find out more from the team about the work they have been doing this year. We were delighted to let him know that our work has been valued by the Somerset Anne Frank Youth Awards and Mr Riordan and the Chair of Governors will be attending an awards event in July. Our fingers are crossed!

He was also incredibly impressed with how articulate, compassionate and committed our anti-bullying ambassadors were, as well as the quality of the poetry he read!

Eco Club

I really hope that you enjoyed reading the Eco Club newsletter. The work the children do is supported by Mr Taylor and Mrs Perry, and our new business manager Mr Bird is adding his expertise to the work they do which is very important to the leadership team and governing body. You will see more and more outcomes and changes in our practice as we strive for increased sustainability in all that we do in school.

The LSP have been very impressed with our approach and I am delighted to share that we will be taking centre stage at the first LSP Eco-Conference in July, talking to other schools, leaders and governors from across the trust about the work we have been doing.

Holidays in Term Time

We understand within the community that the opportunity to get away for breaks has been severely limited over the last 3 years, however the government guidance that covers attendance and holidays in term time has not changed. Please could I take this opportunity to remind you of that and the trust wide expectation that breaks are taken within the 13 weeks of school holidays.

Cost of Living Crisis

We recognise that things are very tough for families up and down the country and in our own community with the very challenging financial climate, energy cost increases, food cost increases and increasing inflation not matched to wage rises. If your family is struggling at this difficult time please don't hesitate to contact us in complete confidence as we may be able to help. Call the office and ask to speak to Mr Riordan or Mrs Sargent.

Considerate Parking

This continues to be some unnecessary and avoidable cause for concern for local residents and members of the school community. Persistent issues include blocking driveways, restricting road access, causing needless traffic blockages, narrowing pavements for pedestrians and parking in ways which make the crossing of roads dangerous for the school community. These things are all easily fixed with increased consideration for others and, as well as being dangerous are damaging relationships between parents and the community. I trust that this is something we will all work together to improve.

Warm Weather Preparation

Please do slip, slop and slap. Every child should bring a water bottle that they can refill in the school day. Sun cream is advised as whilst we do have shade in school, most children enjoy running around in the sunshine in their free time. A hat and cool loose school uniform and PE kit (all named) will add benefit to any long-lasting sunscreen you have applied before school.

In Other News

- All classrooms will be receiving an air conditioning unit this week as things hot up.
- Year 6 were visited by Off the Record for some bespoke mental health lessons to support transition to secondary school.
- Year 3 enjoyed a fabulous Wow Day linked to the Egyptian History lessons. We had some wonderful feedback from Professor Jones who joined them for the day.
- We have had a very productive meeting with North Somerset Music Service and look forward to sharing some news about the return of peripatetic music lessons in September 2022. **Please be patient until we have shared our plans in the coming weeks.**

Congratulations

I finish with the wonderful news that Mrs Barrett is expecting a baby. We are super excited for her and her husband and the journey they plan for their new arrival in October!

Kind Regards

Richard Riordan
Headteacher
Portishead Primary School