

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

24th June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another very busy couple of weeks at school as we move at pace towards the end of the academic year. The summer is in full effect and the warmth of the weather matches the joy and enthusiasm for learning that we see around the school.

Standards Visit

On Tuesday the 14th of June we visited English lessons from Reception to Year 6 with our Trust school improvement lead. We were so impressed with the behaviour for learning we saw in all of the classrooms which, alongside the quality of the teaching, led to some fantastic written outcomes for the children. As well as the wonderful written work we saw, a highlight was the fabulous maturity in our children. Our Reception classes can be exceptionally proud of their academic and pastoral levels and our Year 6 children exemplify everything that our ethos and vision promotes.

Pupil Voice

Congratulations to our Eco-Club children who have been invited to speak to senior leaders and governors from across the Trust at the first LSP Eco Conference on the afternoon of the 7th of July. It is a source of much pride that they have been selected to speak at this very important event to share their passion and commitment to sustainability in schools.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have been nominated for a Somerset Anne Frank Youth Award and the school will be attending an event on the 12th of July. This awards ceremony recognises the work that children and young people do to challenge discrimination and promote kindness and inclusivity. Our Ambassadors rightly made sure I understood that we don't need to win an award to be very proud of the work that our anti-bullying team do. We lead activities to support kindness because it is the right thing to do and because we care, not for external recognition. I couldn't agree more!

Staffing News - Update

In July we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Hardwidge who will be joining Whitchurch Primary School after 8 years with us. She is a very valued and respected senior leader and her new school will be very lucky to have her.

On Friday we completed an exhaustive recruitment process with some very strong candidates and were joined by two governors as part of the interview panel. I am very pleased to share that Mrs Merriam will be our new SENDCo from September. There will be a very thorough handover over the remaining 4 weeks that will include a chance for

parents to meet her informally. Part of this process will involve one meeting with the LSP Deputy Director for Education (Inclusion and SEND).

We will also be saying goodbye to:

Miss Levy who is joining an international school in Thailand.

Mrs Mattson who is starting teacher training.

Miss Stone who is starting her undergraduate degree.

Raising Money for Access to Swimming Lessons for Disabled Children

Between 12pm on Saturday the 2nd of July and 12pm on Sunday the 3rd of July, I will be taking part in a 24 hour swimming challenge at Clevedon Marine Lake to raise funds for disabled children to be able to access swimming lessons and water sports. This will include popping back to Portishead to join you at the summer fair. I absolutely appreciate that these are very challenging times and there is no expectation that anyone should contribute. If you would like to donate, please follow the link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/richard-riordan2>

Dance Festival

After a very long delay and much perseverance and preparation, I was delighted to have the opportunity to watch our amazing Year 4 dancers perform on stage at the North Somerset Dance Festival on Wednesday evening. The children did themselves and the school proud and their smiles made my evening extra special. It was a wonderful occasion for everyone involved and I know how much it meant for the children and staff who have worked so hard and coped with so much disappointment when the event was first postponed when they were in Year 2 and then again back in March. Well done all!

FOS

Our wonderful volunteers do a fabulous job. If you could lend a helping hand at the summer fair next weekend please do get in contact with them. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Tonight, I am joining the volunteers alongside other members of the staff team for their summer disco.

Friday the 1st of July will be a non-uniform day and you are asked to donate a bottle for the tombola or cake for the café. This is on a voluntary basis and donations can be dropped at the front of the school.

September 2022

As school leaders and governors, we increasingly turn our attention to evaluating this academic year and planning for the new one. Below is our teacher deployment for the next academic year as communicated in our transition letter earlier in the week. There is still some recruitment to complete and we will follow up today's attached list with a new one once we have appointed.

We will have our Year 2 teacher appointed for the Move Up Day and aim to have them in before then for some additional transition. We will communicate their name to their new class with a photo and short biography.

Current class	New class 2022-2023	New teacher
	Dolphin	Mrs Blackmore-Squires
	Octopus	Mrs Rowswell (Mon-Wed) Mrs Perry (Thurs-Fri)
Mix Dolphin/Octopus	Turtle	Mrs Hall
Mix Dolphin/Octopus	Seal	Mrs Davies
Seal	Seahorse	New teacher- confirmed Fri 1st
Turtle	Penguin	Miss Treherne
Seahorse	Anning	Mr Cook
Penguin	Campbell	Mrs Fletcher
Anning	Scott	Mr Capel
Campbell	Brunel	Mrs Moss (Mon-Weds) Miss Arnold (Thurs-Fri)
Brunel	Peake	Mr Sprake
Scott	Fossey	Mrs Pearce-Dunkley (Mon-Weds) Mrs Spencer (Thurs-Fri)
Peake	Parks	Miss Woodyatt
Fossey	Darwin	Mrs Bennett

Whilst we will be starting informal transition now it is important that we all remain focussed on enjoying the remaining weeks where we are and making the most of every curriculum opportunity.

We can't wait for the upcoming sports days and our Eco-Week and class exhibitions (dates to be confirmed) amongst the many things we have coming up in the last 4 weeks of term.

Kind Regards

Richard Riordan
Headteacher
Portishead Primary School