

# PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

7<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It continues to be as busy and exciting as ever here at PPS and I think we can say we are truly back to the kind of school life we all enjoyed so much before March 2020. I have enjoyed getting out and about in the local community, spending time with the Boolean Maths Hub, the LSP headteachers and visiting a school in Bristol over the last 2 weeks. These experiences only serve to reinforce the excellent practice and high standards we have at Portishead Primary School, though they also allow me to bring new perspectives and ideas back to our own school to support our continued development.

## Smart Living Awards

On Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of September members of our Eco-Council attended the North Somerset Smart Living Awards at the Winter Gardens in WSM. We were proud to be the only school represented and our children were thrilled to receive the Smart Futures award. Well done to them, Mrs Perry, Mr Taylor and Mrs Wallace for all of their hard work. We are really excited to grow the contribution of our children in this area as we strive to be more sustainable in our approach.

## Supporting Reading at Home

On Tuesday evening I joined Mrs Barrett for a very well led online workshop that explained our reading approach and gave parents some very useful tips to support home reading. There is no doubt that supporting regular reading is one of the most important things you can do for your children to help their learning and improve their life chances. I encourage you all to watch the meeting recording.

[Please click here to visit our parent workshop page and access the reading workshop and some of the other sessions we have run to support parents.](#)

We have also updated our Homework and Reading webpage which includes reading leaflets for parents, Year Group Reading Quest book lists and a link to the Open University with some other fabulous resources to help with reading at home!

[Please click here to visit our Homework and Reading page and access some great resources.](#)

## Attendance

The LSP is updating its Trust wide attendance policy and we will be sharing it with you shortly. Regular and punctual attendance at school makes a big difference to your child's education. An attendance rate below 90% is classed as persistent absence. I have included the table below which shows the national attainment rates of children at the end of KS2 as a comparison to show the impact on learning. Every day really does count!

Pupils at the expected standard	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM combined
Attendance above 90%	82%	82%	80%	70%
Attendance 90% or lower	63%	72%	71%	60%

## Parent Survey Results and School Improvement

We were very grateful for the responses you gave us in the annual parent survey. Our Trust and governors review the analysis of this data and it is worth sharing that your responses compared well with other trust schools. We use this feedback alongside staff feedback, analysis of school performance data, school improvement visits and our own assessment evaluation of teaching, book looks and pupil conferencing to prepare our school improvement plan. This will be published online after our governing body meeting next week. Our key school priorities include: SEND provision, curriculum development, the review of our behaviour systems, reconnecting the school community and improving communication with parents about learning and the progress of their children.

## Black History Month

October is a time for the celebration of the contribution that the black community have made in Britain and the World. The history books and lessons I had access to throughout my education rarely recognised the diversity of our past and this is something it is important we correct as we grow aspiring leaders, global citizens, life long learners and resilient, confident children. During the month we will be sharing stories in assemblies alongside the work we do, to champion diversity and challenge discrimination of all kinds, across our curriculum.

[Click here for some great information to inspire you.](#)

## School Improvement

This week the senior staff and I have had the pleasure of reviewing writing and maths books from across the school. We were so impressed with what we saw, reinforcing our pride in the fabulous end of year results we shared in July that were built on this kind of hard work and excellent teaching. Today we visited reading and phonics lessons with our Trust school improvement lead. It was a privilege to take part in and you should all be very proud of the work your children are doing in school.

## Harvest Food Bank Appeal

We are proud to be supporting Clevedon and District Foodbank for harvest again this year. We will be leaving tables outside the school office on Friday morning (14<sup>th</sup> October) so that you can drop off any donations before school starts. Clevedon Foodbank will be picking up your donations later that morning so please bring your donations with you in the morning as we won't be able to accept them later in the day. They are able to accept anything in date that hasn't been opened and are particularly short of items such as tinned tuna, tins of fruit, savoury crackers, cereal and toiletries (deodorant, shampoo, conditioner etc.). Thank you for your support with this.

Kind regards,

Richard Riordan  
Headteacher  
Portishead Primary School