

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

9th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is beginning to look (and feel) a lot like Christmas and there is a real buzz and sense of joy and celebration in the school.

Thank you to everyone who supported the FOS Fair, especially the committee and volunteers, but also to everyone who attended and made it the event that it was!

Hosting and watching our nativities this week has been very emotional. The children were outstanding and it was great to share that moment with them and their families. The great privilege of our jobs is the memories we help make and the progress we get to witness.

Staying Healthy

We all worry about our children, and I would like to assure all of you, that our first priority in school will always be the health and wellbeing of our children and staff. As well as being proactive ourselves, we have a great team in the Trust that offer fantastic advice, guidance and support and whenever appropriate or necessary we liaise with the North Somerset Health Protection Team.

In addition to the information we have sent out this week, we have reintroduced enhanced cleaning throughout the school day, which will continue until the end of term and be reviewed again when we return. We have also halted any non-essential visitors to the site.

Our Carol Services and other performances will still go ahead as planned as there is no cause or reason to cancel them. Attendees should follow the guidance we sent out and not attend the church or school if you have a fever or any of the symptoms shared.

Please help us by following the guidance we sent out to you. Under no circumstances should children attend school with a fever or high temperature (as much for them as everyone else) and please do keep us informed of the cause of all absences.

Term Dates and INSET 23/24

This seems very early to be sending out but I am happy to confirm the following dates for the next academic year. You will see that the LSP has moved to holding 6 INSET days next year.

Term Dates	Inset Days (School closed to pupils)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term 1 - Monday 04 September 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023• Term 2 - Monday 30 October 2023 to Wednesday 20 December 2023• Term 3 - Thursday 04 January 2024 to Friday 09 February 2024• Term 4 - Monday 19 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024• Term 5 - Monday 15 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024• Term 6 - Monday 03 June 2024 to Tuesday 23 July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday 4th September 2023• Tuesday 5th September 2023• Friday 20th October 2023• Friday 17th November 2023• Monday 19th February 2024• Monday 3rd June 2024

KS2 Carol Services

Children and parents can wear school uniform, Christmas attire or party clothes as befits a place of worship. We are really looking forward to these special evening events.

Other ways you can help us in the last week of term and into the new year

- Please try to book appointments at the start or end of the day – afternoons are less disruptive to phonics/reading, writing and the maths curriculums. Where appointments during the school day are unavoidable, the pupil should only be absent for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment.
- Turn engines off whilst parked around the school site.
- Ensure your children arrive with everything they need – we know that isn't always as easy as it sounds but we believe in you!
- Name your children's school uniform – **no really, name all of your children's school uniform** – with fabric pen or cute labels (ask Santa if you don't have them already!).
- Sometimes things get lost in translation or we make mistakes and that can be frustrating. Take a minute before you call or email and you will find that a polite and calm difficult conversation gets a better outcome for everyone.

5 more school days to go.....

Good luck with your preparations. This time of year can be very busy, very expensive and very overwhelming. **If you need any help with advice or support, please do speak to us.**

Our children are the real blessing of Christmas. Your time and love are far more important than what gets left under the tree or served on a plate.

We also appreciate that not everyone in our community celebrates but we hope for you, this time of year is just as special in your own way.

Kind regards,

Richard Riordan
Headteacher
Portishead Primary School