

# PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

6<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Happy New Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

We sincerely hope that every one of you enjoyed a fabulous break and wish you and your families a happy, healthy and harmonious 2023. It has been a pleasure working with your children this week – our value of the term is Optimism which feels very appropriate given the love of learning we have witnessed.

The school, our community and most of all our children benefit the most when we work together in effective partnership. We value your continued support and it will remain a vital ingredient in the success of your children's education as we journey into 2023.

## Advice from the UK Health Security Agency

The following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low.

Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.

Eligible children include:

- those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- all primary school-aged children
- some secondary school-aged children

You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu](#) on NHS.UK.

### **Absence and Punctuality**

Please could we remind parents and carers to phone in on each day of a child's **absence** unless asked not to by our admin team. When a child's absence is not reported daily our admin team must carry out a welfare phone call and this is significantly adding to their workload.

At the end of term 2 we were very concerned with the growing number of children arriving late for the start of the school day. This is stressful for the children and disruptive to the start of lessons for the remainder of the class. We really appreciate your support with the **punctuality** of all children.

### **Terms 3 and 4 Information Sharing**

Mid-year reports to be shared on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February.

Our parents evening dates have been updated to the following:

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March

### **Staffing Update**

Congratulations to our Office Manager, Mrs Forrest. She will be joining the LSP Central Service Team in a finance role from the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. She is an outstanding employee who has made a significant contribution to the school during her time with us and we are very proud of her promotion.

### **Other Highlights to look forward to:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> February FOS Disco
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March World Book Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> March Red NOSE Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> March Curriculum Showcases

Happy New Year and Kind Regards

Richard Riordan  
Headteacher  
Portishead Primary School