

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Richard Riordan



Learning and achieving together

Friday 10th March 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a week! Thank you for all of your resilience and understanding. Wednesday saw snow and a sickness bug outbreak. Wishing everyone affected a speedy recovery.

Red Nose Day 23 Friday 17th March

Children and staff are invited to wear red or dress as/in something funny! Children can wear red noses or merchandise available online or from certain stores. We will be collecting optional donations of £1 for charity if you would like to contribute.

On the day there will be a special assembly and children will be offered a selection of RND activities to enjoy during their Golden Time.

Compliment Week Monday 27th March to Friday 31st March

Our anti-bullying ambassadors have arranged a week of collecting compliments to focus us all on the positives about each other, celebrate difference and spread kindness. Each class will have their own compliment book to record compliments and staff will have a book.

If you would like to share anything positive about the school, our children or staff during that week please email the school office as we will also have a whole-school book.

Industrial Action Update

Industrial Action Dates	Classes Confirmed as Open
Wednesday 15th March	Dolphin Turtle Seahorse Campbell
Thursday 16th March	Octopus Turtle Dolphin Seahorse Campbell

The strikes (if they take place) are happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school. However, I do appreciate that this will be frustrating for parents.

We have a significant number of teachers who are members of the NEU. Although we are aware of the overall numbers, the NEU are not obliged to inform us how many of their members intend to strike. As a result, should the strikes go ahead, this will result in significant disruption and severely compromise our ability to run the school safely. I have limited options on this as I cannot ask other teachers to cover for staff who are striking as this would be to undermine the strike and teachers contracts protect them from such actions.

It is therefore likely that the school will only be able to provide a very limited service on any days where the strikes take place. I'm sorry about the potential disruption to you and to your child's education, but I want to give you as much notice as possible of this disruption and, **whilst I really appreciate the inconvenience, recommend that you start to make any necessary alternative childcare arrangements for these days.** It is also worth noting that each school may be in a different position as a result of the number of NEU members in their teaching staff.

- **On Weds 15th March Year 3 (Anning Class) can attend school from 1.10pm** – children should come to the main office for 1pm and they will do PE as normal and should come to school wearing their PE Kit.
- **On Thursday 16th Year 2 (Penguin Class) and Year 4 can attend school from 1.10pm** – children should come to the main office for 1pm. Year 4 should wear sports kit and Year 2 should wear forest school kit.
- **The Play Station will also be open for any children who are attending school as usual** that need wrap around care.
- **If your class is closed on any of the strike days please cancel your meal bookings.**
- **Where your child's class is open please follow the normal absence procedure if they are ill. It is a requirement where the class is open that those children attend school as normal and the usual attendance policy expectations will apply.**

If the school is closed for your child(ren) they will be set work that they can undertake remotely, and we will be in touch with any parents or carers where any further support may be required. We will also make sure that students on Free School Meals are able to receive their meals for any days where they are not in school.

As you will know, this is not a situation the school can resolve. I therefore ask for your understanding as we try to do our best at this difficult time.

We will continue to update you if anything changes before Wednesday.

School Dinners

A small number of children are becoming upset when they go to the serving hatch to collect their dinners as they would like an alternative meal to the one that was booked for them. Unfortunately, we can't change their meals as they are cooked to order. Please could you make meal choices with your children to reduce the risk of disappointment.

In other News

- You may have seen on our website or Facebook page that our Eco Council enjoyed sharing their excellent practice with colleagues and children at St Peter's last Friday.
- We wish our children good luck at the North Somerset Dance Festival next week.
- Mr Sprake has been using his outstanding practice to help develop English in another LSP school.
- I will be attending school camp for the whole of the week beginning Monday the 20th of March but will be in regular contact with Mrs Sargent who will lead the school in my absence.
- Our updated Behaviour Policy can be found on the school website. Thanks to staff for their work on this.
- FoS are holding a St Patrick's Day quiz on **Friday 17th March**. Don't forget to book your table if you haven't done so already.

Kind regards,
Richard Riordan
Headteacher
Portishead Primary School