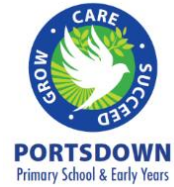




January 2023 Newsletter



Welcome back!

I'd like to welcome all our children back to Portsdown for the start of the new year and to wish all our families a very Happy New Year for 2023. I would also like to say thank you for all the many kind wishes and presents given by our families to staff at Portsdown. We are all really grateful for your generosity which is very much appreciated by us all.

I would also like to officially welcome Mr Cowell, the School's new Deputy Headteacher. He joins us with excellent experience and knowledge around school improvement and I know he will be amazing for the school.

Reception 2023

If your child, or anyone you know, was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019, they will be eligible to start reception full-time in September 2023. The deadline to apply is Sunday 15 January 2023, and it's really important that you apply in good time to ensure you have the best chance of getting the school of first choice. You can only apply online, and the website link is below:

[Apply to start school - Portsmouth City Council](#)

We will be holding our final drop in session for new parents between 4pm and 5.30pm on Thursday 5th January 2023 to show you around and talk about the application process. Please call the front office or email admin@portsdown.portsmouth.sch.uk to let us know you are coming.

Few Reminders...

- Changed your **contact details**? Let the front office or Nursery team know
- Is your child wearing the correct **school uniform** including mainly black shoes or trainers? If not, please ensure that they are.
- Make sure that your child has a **PE kit in school** (Plain white T-shirt, plain shorts and trainers / plimsolls – they can wear track suit bottoms and jumpers if it's cold outside)
- Have you remembered to book and pay for **Breakfast club** if you use it? Any problems, contact the front office or email the admin email above.

Just a few things to look forward to in Spring Term 2023...

Information to all the below will be sent to you by your child's teacher via Studybugs

Hatching chicks for Nursery and Year R	Year R to Staunton Country Park
Year 1 to Portsmouth Museum	Year 1 church visit
Portsdown hosting Infant Voices choir	Year 2 Open box theatre and local visit
Year 3 Italian food tasting and cooking	Year 4 Stubbington Residential
Year 5 Spanish cuisine day	Year 6 London trip

School details

Portsdown Primary School, Sundridge Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 3JL
Telephone number 02392 378991 Website: www.portsdownprimary.co.uk

Parent Survey feedback

Did you see the outcomes of our parent feedback? You can see a summary on our website, on the Noticeboard section.

I was really pleased to see that 96% of those who responded agreed or strongly agreed that their child feels happy at school and 99% agreed or strongly agreed that their child is safe in school. This was an increase from our last parent survey in May 2021. There were also improvements in the % saying SEND needs are catered for well, that their child does well in school and that they would recommend the school to others. Some very positive news.

HOWEVER, you have also identified a few areas that you would like further information or support with.

You said...	What we are doing about it...
Year group newsletters and some information is not getting to you when we send it out	We will send out all newsletters and important information via Studybugs. If you don't have a Studybugs app, it will go directly to the email address we have for you on our system. Any essential letters will also be sent by Studybugs and be given out in paper form. All letters for Nursery will be given out in paper form. Where there is an important letter or message we will publicise it on our Facebook pages
You are concerned about the behaviour of some individuals in school	Last term we surveyed staff, children and parents to update our behaviour and relationship policy. Part of this included introducing 'Zones of Regulation' this term across the main school. Please see section below for more information. Once the new policy has been ratified by the Governors later in January, we will publish it on our website. This will set out clearly our expectations around both behaviour and relationships in school.
You wanted more clarity over rules and regulations around attendance	This is a big piece of work we are doing over the Spring term. We will ensure that you all have an accessible guide to how we promote good attendance and how we deal with attendance when things go a bit wrong. At the core will be our commitment to work alongside you so that you are clear about the School's and Government's expectations around attendance. In the Spring term we will be asking some parents to develop information materials with us and then holding 2 parent information sessions. Dates to follow.

In addition, for clarity, we will be contacting individual parents to follow up a few of their comments. You do not need to wait for a survey to give us feedback. Come and see myself or one of the senior leaders on the drive in the morning.

Zones of Regulation

We are very excited to be launching the 'Zones of Regulation' across the school this term. We hope that this will help our children to learn how to manage their difficult emotions, which may be particularly tricky for them following the world wide issues of the last few years.

The Zones of Regulation is an internationally-renowned intervention which helps children to manage difficult emotions, known as 'self-regulation'.

At Portsdown Primary School, we are launching the Zones of Regulation throughout the main school. In our Nursery, we will continue with 'Our Happy Minds' which will lay down the foundations for Zones in year R onwards. We want to teach **all** of our children good coping and regulation strategies so they can help themselves when they experience anxiety and stress. In the classroom, sometimes children panic when faced with a tricky learning problem or challenge. By teaching them how to cope with these feelings, we might make them better at tackling learning challenges and build better resilience so they don't give up so easily when faced with difficulty.

More information can be found on under the 'School Information' pencil on our website: www.portsdownprimary.co.uk

Farlington Wrap Around Service

We are continuing to offer after school care for 3 to 11 year olds from after school to 6pm. This will be run by Farlington Wrap Around Service. For more information visit their website: <http://www.farlingtonwraparound.co.uk> or email contact@farlingtonwraparound.co.uk

Important dates

INSET DAY	Friday 27 th January 2023
Parents' Evenings	Wednesday 1 st and Thursday 2 nd February 2023
Spring half term	Monday 13 th to Friday 17 th February 2023
World Book Day	Friday 3 rd March 2023 – Children to dress up as book characters
Rainbow and Red Nose Day	Friday 17 th March 2023 – Children to dress up in multi-coloured clothing

Easter	Monday 3 rd to Friday 14 th April 2023
Bank Holiday	Monday 1 st May 2023
Year 2 Tests	Year 2 tests will take place throughout May 2023 and must be completed by 26th May 2023.
Bank Holiday	Monday 8 th May 2023
Year 6 SATS week	Tuesday 9th May to Friday 12th May 2023
Summer half term	Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June 2023
INSET DAY	Mon 5 th June 2023
Year 4 times tables tests	Government Year 4 times tables test will take place in a 2 week period starting Monday 5th June 2023
Year 1 phonics test	Week starting Monday 12th June 2023
Last day of Summer term	Last day for children will be Friday 21 st July 2023

***It is essential that children are in school to complete their tests**

Finally....

I'll leave you with a quote from the great philosopher Dr Seuss...

*Life s too short to wake up with regrets.
So love the people who treat you right,
forgive the ones who dont and believe that
everything happens for a reason.
If you get a chance, take it. If it changes
your life, let it. Nobody said it d be easy,
they just promised it would be worth it.*

-- Dr. Seuss