



School details

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

Have you seen our School and Nursery Facebook Pages?

September 2022 Newsletter



Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome you all back to school as well as welcoming the many new children and families that have joined us this year. Although a long, distant memory now, I hope that you were able to make the most of the summer holiday.

At this point, it is always important to welcome the new staff to Portsdown. On the teaching team, we are delighted to formally welcome Miss Metherell (Year 6). In terms of class based support staff, it has been lovely to welcome Miss Ball who has joined the Year R team. Also a warm welcome to our new lunchtime support staff, Mrs O'Reilly, Ms Gratton and Ms Xeurub. I am sure you join me in welcoming them and wishing them all the very best for their time at Portsdown. In addition, I'd like to send congratulation to Miss Wells on the birth of a beautiful baby boy.

As you may already know, during the summer holidays, building works took place to improve the school heating system which has overrun bit. I won't affect the children too much but some areas of the school are still in the process of being tidied up.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the children continue to come to school in the correct uniform and in PE Kits on PE Days; this is certainly making everyone's lives easier. As always, thank you for the continued support you give to us every day and I look forward to working with you all during the next academic year, for the good of all the Portsdown children, families and our Community.

If you've changed your contact details over the summer holiday, please let us know as soon as possible. Likewise, if there is a change in who will pick up your child it is important for us to know. The School's main email contact is admin@portsdown.portsmouth.co.uk

Mr Ash Vaghela, Headteacher

2021 - 2022 INSET days

Our last 3 Inset days will be on:

Monday 31st October 2022

Friday 27th January 2023

Monday 5th June 2023

School and Nursery will be closed for children on those days.

Safeguarding

Unfortunately, we live in a world where things go wrong. If we have a safeguarding concern about your child, we **will** speak to you. Please do not be offended by this. The safety of your child extremely important to all of us here at Portsdown.

Term dates can be found on the following link: [School term dates - Portsmouth City Council](#)

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Be Kind – Be Respectful - Be Inclusive - Be Safe – Be your Best

Class Names and Teachers

Nursery

Caterpillars for children aged 2 to 3

Butterflies for children aged 3 to 4

Nursery Manager: Mrs Lisa Hill. Deputies: Mrs Hayleigh Moncaster and Mrs Louise Duff

Main School

Year Group	Class Name	Teacher(s)
R	Bumblebees (RRC)	Mrs R Corps
	Snails (RLS)	Miss L Symonds
1	Hedgehogs (1MC)	Miss M Courtney
	Owls (1BH)	Mrs S Bartlett and Ms L Humphreys
2	Badgers (2BR)	Mrs Z Bill and Mrs V Riches
	Foxes (2LS)	Miss L Say
3	Jaguar (3PH)	Mrs J Pridgeon and Miss M Hall
	Leopard (3SG)	Miss S Gibson
4	Wolves (4DT)	Mrs D Tyler
	Rhino (4CT)	Ms C Thomas
5	Stingrays (5OD)	Miss O Dewing
	Sharks (5GD)	Miss G Dennis
6	Golden Eagle (6NM)	Mrs N Metherell
	White Tailed Eagle (6VK)	Mrs King
PIC	Children deciding on Monday	Mrs Ayers

Portsmouth School Safeguarding Staff

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr A Vaghela, Headteacher

Deputies: Miss K Lawrence, Deputy Head; Mrs S Thomas, SENCO and Inclusion; Mrs D Hardy, safeguarding Coordinator and Family Link Worker.

Lunches

School dinners cost £2.34 per day for those who need to pay. All dinners must be paid for on the day or in advance via the online SCOPay system. If you don't have a SCOPay account, please let the front office know and they will help you.

Children in Reception and year 1 and 2 get free school meals - Universal Infant Free School Meals (UISFM). All families can apply for free school meals (FSM) if they think they are eligible. If you are not sure it's worth applying as for every FSM child the school gets additional funds to spend on your child.

If you know your child is going to be late to school, please inform the office of their lunch choice before 9.30am otherwise you may need to provide a packed lunch.

If your child has any special dietary needs (e.g. No dairy, no soya) then please contact the office and we can arrange with Caterlink a menu catered to your child's needs.

The menu for Autumn term can be found on our website under the 'Parent' pencil.

Playtime snacks

We encourage children to have healthy snacks at playtime. We will provide fruit or veg for KS1 children every day from next week. For KS2, you can bring in your own fruit, veg, plain biscuits or plain rice cakes. No crisps, chocolate or cereal bars for playtime snack.

Water bottles

We have provided water bottles for all of our new children including those in Year R. so they do not need to bring one in. For everyone else, please provide your own labelled bottle. Many thanks!

Farlington Wrap Around Service

In September we are continuing to offer after school care for 3 to 11 year olds from after school to 6pm. (3 year old Nursery children to Year 6) 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

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for two parent Governors. Governors have a very important job in helping me and my staff run the school. It's really important that I get to hear about what parents think. We meet around 2 or 3 times each term with some additional visits. If you are interested, please give me a ring or drop me a note.

Important Attendance Update

Attendance is mandatory, meaning that all children of school age have to come to school. We will need to have a reason for all absences. If there are regular absences, we may require medical evidence but we will write to you about this.

Holiday Absence Requests

Please be aware that all requests for holiday leave will be unauthorised and may lead to a fixed penalty notice.

Keep an eye out for further attendance information coming out in the next couple of weeks,

Medication

We ask parents to administer as much medicine as they can at home. If you wish us to administer medicine to your child, please complete a medication form which is available from the front office. Just ask a staff member for a copy of the form.

Communication

At Portsdown we use our website, our main school and Nursery Facebook pages Studybugs and MarvellousMe app as electronic ways of sharing information with you. If you need any help with these, please get in touch.



If your child is going to be absent

Please ring the main school number (02392 378991) and let us know if your child is going to be absent. You will be able to leave a message if no one is available to take your call. If we do not have a reason, then the absence may be unauthorised. Repeated unauthorised absence may result in a fine. You can also report absence through Studybugs.

Conduct on School Site

Thank you to our fabulous community, who uphold the school's community ethos and values whilst on the school site as well as offsite when the children are in school uniform. We have so many wonderfully supportive parents and carers in our community. **Our values of Be Kind, be Respectful, be Inclusive, Be Safe and Be Your Best** should be modelled by us all at all times to ensure that we show the children how they should behave towards you, us and each other.

Attendance Ladder

How close are you to reaching the top?

