



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 2024 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you've all had a wonderful summer break and are feeling refreshed for the start of a new school year. On behalf of all the staff at Portsdown Primary, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to both our returning families and those joining us for the first time. We are excited to begin this journey with your children and look forward to an autumn term filled with learning, growth and fun.

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

2024 - 2025 INSET days

Our Inset days will be on:

Monday 2nd September 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

Friday 14th February 2025

Friday 4th April 2025

Friday 27th June 2025

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

Staying Connected

We're committed to keeping communication with parents as clear and convenient as possible. Our primary methods of communication are through **Studybugs**, our website, and our Facebook page. We are gradually moving towards more electronic communication, with Studybugs becoming the main channel for sending letters and updates. If you haven't yet downloaded Studybugs, you can do so [here](#).

A Few Reminders About School Uniform

To help our students feel part of the Portsdown community, we ask that all children wear the correct school uniform. This includes a white polo top, a red jumper (with or without the school logo), dark bottoms, and mainly black shoes or trainers. We understand the importance of keeping costs down for families, so uniform items can be purchased at any large supermarket.

For PE, children will need a plain white t-shirt, plain black or blue shorts, and trainers or plimsolls. As the weather cools, children can also bring a plain black or grey tracksuit and may wear their school jumper or cardigan over their PE kit.

New This Year: PE Kit Days

This year, we're introducing a new change to make PE days easier for everyone. Children are now allowed to come to school in their PE kit on their designated PE day. Please ensure they are in the correct kit, as we may need to contact you if they are not.

The PE days for each year group are as follows:

- Year R: Monday
- Years 3 & 4: Tuesday
- Years 1 & 2: Wednesday
- Years 5 & 6: Thursday

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

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

Lunches

School dinners cost £2.68 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 years 1 and 2 get free school meals - Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). 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

Please can you provide your child their own named water bottle. Many thanks!

Farlington Wrap Around Service

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/>

What Your Child Will Be Learning

We know how important it is for parents to stay informed about what their children are learning. Detailed information about each year group's curriculum will be available on our school website by the end of next week. Please visit [our website](#) to stay up to date.

Breakfast Club

We're pleased to offer a Breakfast Club, which runs from 8 am and is available for children from Year R to Year 6. The cost is £2 per session, and you can book via Scopay. If you encounter any issues, please don't hesitate to contact the front office for assistance. For the first week, if you're in a bind, just bring your child along, and we'll sort it out from there.

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.

Important Update on Attendance

Over the summer, the government issued new guidance regarding school attendance. This includes stricter rules around term-time absences and increased fines. As a result, all holiday absence requests will now be unauthorised. We will be sharing more detailed information on this shortly.

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.

Get Involved at Portsdown!

We love having parents involved in school life! Whether you'd like to help by reading with children, joining the PTA, or even becoming a school governor, we welcome your support. If you're interested, please come and see us—we'd love to have you on board.

We're Here to Help

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher, who will be more than happy to assist you. You can also find a senior member of staff on one of the drives at the start and end of each day. We're all looking forward to a wonderful start to the term and can't wait to see all the amazing things your child will achieve.

If your child is going to be absent

The best and easiest way is to use the Studybugs App to let us know. If technology fails, you should ring the main school number (02392 378991). You will be able to leave a message if no one is available to take your call. **ALL** absences will require a reason. No reason = unauthorised absence! Repeated unauthorised absence may result in a fine.

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.

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Programme of school term and holiday dates for LA and controlled schools

for the academic year 2024/2025

The School Year

Autumn Term 2024

	September						October					November					December			
Monday	26	2*	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4*	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	
Tuesday	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	
Wednesday	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		
Thursday	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		
Friday	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25#	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20#	27		
Saturday	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29		

Spring term 2025

	January				February				March					April				
Monday	6*	13	20	27	3	10	17	24*	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	
Tuesday	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22*	29	
Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	
Friday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14#	21	28	7	14	21	28	4#	11	18	25	
Saturday	4	12	19	26	1	8	15	22	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	
Sunday	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	


Summer Term 2025

	May				June					July				August				
Monday	5	12	19	26	2*	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	
Tuesday	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22#	29	5	12	19	26	
Wednesday	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
Friday	2	9	16	23#	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29
Saturday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
Sunday	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31

Bank and public holidays 2024/2025

Christmas Day Holiday 25 December 2024
 Boxing Day Holiday 26 December 2024
 New Year's Day Holiday 01 January 2025
 Good Friday 18 April 2025

Easter Monday 21 April 2025
 May Day Holiday 05 May 2025
 Spring Bank Holiday 26 May 2025
 Summer Bank Holiday 25 August 2025

School Holidays 

Bank holidays and national holidays 

* First day after break

Last day before break