

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 2025 Newsletter



A very warm welcome back to a brand-new school year at Portsdown! It will be wonderful to see the children return with energy and smiles on Thursday 4th September. We are especially delighted to welcome all the new children and families who are joining our school community this September. We hope you all enjoyed a summer break, and that there were plenty of opportunities to rest, recharge, and make happy memories together.

As always, this is also a time to extend a warm welcome to new colleagues who have joined our staff team. We are thrilled to have the very experienced Mrs Ludlum join us as our new Special Needs Coordinator. We are also joined by Mrs Jolly who is our new Attendance Officer. She has been doing this role in another school for over 20 years. We welcome back Miss Gibson after maternity leave and congratulate Miss Hall for changing her name to Mrs Emery! I'm sure you will join me in wishing them every success as they begin their journey with us here at Portsdown.

A big thank you in advance for helping us by making sure the children are coming in smartly dressed in the correct uniform. (You can send in children in PE kits on PE days.) This makes a real difference to everyone's routines and helps the school day run smoothly. Most importantly, thank you for the everyday support you give to us as a school community – it truly means a lot. I am really looking forward to all that we will achieve together this year for the benefit of our children and families.

Finally, if any of your contact details have changed over the summer, please let us know straight away. Likewise, it's very important we know if there are any changes to who is collecting your child. You can always reach us by email at admin@portsdown.portsmouth.co.uk

With best wishes,
Mr Ash Vaghela
Headteacher

2025 - 2026 INSET days

Our last 3 Inset days will be on:
Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Monday 3rd November 2025
Friday 13th February 2026
Friday 27th March 2026
Friday 26th June 2026
School and Nursery will be closed for children on these days.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory, meaning that all children of school age have to come to school and we will need to have a reason for all absences. All absences without a valid reason will be unauthorised and regular absences will 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.

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

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 is extremely important to all of us here at Portsdown.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr A Vaghela, Headteacher

Deputies: Mr D Cowell (Deputy Head), Mrs N Ludlum (SENCO), Mrs D Hardy (Safeguarding Coordinator and Family Link Worker), Mrs L Hill (Nursery Manager), Mrs L Duff (Deputy Nursery Manager)

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 no longer provide children with water bottles. Please provide a **named** water bottle for your child. Many thanks!



Please sign up for Studybugs from Thursday if you haven't already. We will use this to send you important messages and letters.

Sign up here: [Studybugs – Parents](#)



Uniform

At Portsdown, we are very aware of the pressures of cost when it comes to school uniform. Any branded item is entirely optional and non-branded items are readily available at leading supermarkets at a reasonable cost.

Our **uniform** for the school is:

- Black shoes or trainers (no backless or open toed shoes or shoes with big heels)
- Red cardigan, red sweatshirt, red jumper or red fleece – with or without school logo
- White Polo Shirts (with or without school logo) or plain white shirts or blouses
- Black or Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore – plain no embellishment
- Black or grey shorts or a red gingham dress for the summer months
- No jewellery with the exception of stud earrings or items of a religious or cultural nature. We may ask for these items to be removed or taped up during PE sessions.



PE KIT (Can be worn on PE days – Year R Monday, Years 3 and 4 Tuesday, Years 1 and 2 Wednesday and Year 5 and 6 Thursday)

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black or blue shorts
- Primsole or trainers
- Long hair tied up

In cold weather, children will be able to wear a jumper or plain track suit bottoms for outdoor PE.

Lunches

All hot 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 (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 Information Tab'



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.

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.

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

Term Time School Holiday Bank Holidays

Autumn Term 2025

September					
M	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	
T	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26	
S	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	

October					
M		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
W	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
F	3	10	17	24	31
S	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	

November					
M		3	10	17	24
T		4	11	18	25
W		5	12	19	26
T		6	13	20	27
F		7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30

December					
M	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	31
T	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26	
S	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	

Spring term 2026

January					
M		5	12	19	26
T		6	13	20	27
W		7	14	21	28
T	1	8	15	22	29
F	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	31
S	4	11	18	25	

February					
M		2	9	16	23
T		3	10	17	24
W		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
F		6	13	20	27
S		7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	

March					
M		2	9	16	23
T		3	10	17	24
W		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
F		6	13	20	27
S		7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	29

April					
M		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
W	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
F	3	10	17	24	
S	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	

Summer Term 2026

May					
M		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
W		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
F	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	31

June					
M	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	
T	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26	
S	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	

July					
M		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
W	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
F	3	10	17	24	31
S	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	

August					
M		3	10	17	24
T		4	11	18	25
W		5	12	19	26
T		6	13	20	27
F		7	14	21	28
S	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30

Bank and public holidays 2025/2026

Christmas Day Holiday
Boxing Day Holiday
New Year's Day Holiday
Good Friday

25 December 2025
26 December 2025
01 January 2026
03 April 2026

Easter Monday
May Day Holiday
Spring Bank Holiday
Summer Bank Holiday

06 April 2026
04 May 2026
25 May 2026
31 August 2026

Key:

Term Time

School holidays

Bank Holidays

INSET DAYS

Wednesday 3rd September 2025
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