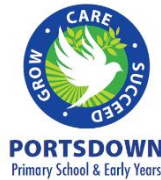


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Headteacher: Mr A Vaghela

16th June 2026

Subject: Exciting news: Creating a dedicated Early Years building for our youngest children. At the same time developing our small school led Turtles room

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am thrilled to share some wonderful news about how we are enhancing our school environment to give our youngest children the absolute best start to their education.

As you may know, schools across the country are seeing a shift in numbers due to a national drop in birth rates. Here at Portsdown, this means that from September 2026, we will be moving forward as a single-form entry for Reception, with one fantastic Year R class.

Rather than letting this extra space go to waste, we see this as an incredible opportunity! From September 2026, we are using it to create a dedicated, specialised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) building right next to the main school. This building will bring our Nursery (for children aged two upwards) and our single Year R class together under one roof, creating a tailored, nurturing environment completely focused on early childhood development.

To make this happen, our Year R class will be moving into a different part of this building—the space currently used by our small, school-led inclusion provision (Turtles). Turtles will be swapping places and moving into the main school building into the current Year R classroom. This will allow older children to access more of the curriculum that is appropriate for them.

This new Year R space is the same size as their current classroom, but with the massive added bonus of being part of a dedicated Early Years hub.

Recently, Year R children had to work over in the Nursery building whilst their classroom floor was being repaired. This worked really well for the children. From September, Year R children will still be using the main school for lunches, PE and eventually assemblies. This will help them when they transition from Year R into Year 1 when they will be fully in the main building.

Here is why we are so excited about this new layout and what it means for your child:

A Smooth Step up to Reception: Moving from nursery to "big school" can sometimes feel like a huge leap. By having Nursery and Year R in the same building, that transition becomes completely natural. Year R will just be a walk down the hallway! Your child will already be familiar with the building, the faces, and the routines. They will be using a different part of the nursery so it will still feel like they are moving class.

Incredible Indoor & Outdoor Spaces: This building boasts extensive, high-quality indoor and outdoor areas. Having our youngest cohorts together allows us to design the entire environment specifically around the physical, social, and creative play needs of two- to five-year-olds.

Collaborative Early Years Staff: With just one Year R class and our nursery under one roof, our teams can work hand-in-hand every single day. Your child's learning journey, progress tracking, and individual support will be seamlessly joined up from the age of two right through to the end of their Reception year.

A True Early Years Community: This building will feel like a warm, supportive "school within a school." It allows you to build deep relationships with our Early Years staff and other parents from the very beginning of your child's educational journey.

We are incredibly excited about this positive step forward. It allows us to utilise our space beautifully, giving our single Year R class and our nursery children a well-equipped, dedicated space to thrive.

If you have any questions about the upcoming classroom move or nursery spaces for September please don't hesitate to get in touch. Once set up for September we will invite you to come and see the space in action.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Vaghela, Headteacher