



Welcome Back

Welcome back everyone! We hope you have all enjoyed your summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead at Portobello Primary. It has been so lovely to see old friends again and to welcome new ones to our community. All of the children have excelled themselves and settled so well this week, so a huge well done to them.

Keeping our Children Safe

We ensure that safeguarding permeates all aspects of our school life. There can be no issue of greater importance to our staff, governors and parents and carers, than the safety of our children. We ensure that the following underpins everything we do:

- Protecting our children and learners from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of our children's and learners' health or development
- Ensuring that our children and learners are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Undertaking a role to enable those children and learners to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully

If you have concerns about any child, please to speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads:

- Mrs Humphrey (Headteacher) - Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Miss West (Deputy Headteacher) - Deputy Designated Lead
- Mrs Lockhart (SENCo) - Deputy Designated Lead

Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly this week celebrated children who have made a "great start" this week. Well done to the following children:

Reception: Henry W & Ellis C **Year 1:** Jamie S **Year 2:** Willow C **Year 3:** Robert C
Year 4: Caitlin L **Year 5:** Yanis A **Year 6:** Orla R

Attendance

We are continuing to focus on improving attendance this year. Further details can be found in your accompanying letter which also explains our attendance reward system.

Celebrating Attendance

Well done to Year 5 for best attendance this week at 99%!

Well done on achieving the first certificate of the year!

Attendance raffle

Our termly attendance raffle has restarted once again for this academic year, so all children with 100% will be entered back into the draw.

Remember, they need to be in to win!

Reminder: Start and end of the day procedures

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

- Children should be brought on to the infant yard between **8.40am – 8.50am** where a senior member of staff will be waiting to admit them to the building. Doors will close at 8.50am.
- All classes will be dismissed on to the infant yard at 3.20pm.

Year 3 – Year 6

- Children should be brought to the main gates between **8.40am – 8.55am** where a senior member of staff will be waiting to admit them to the building. Gates will close at 8.55am.
- Year 3 and Year 4 will be dismissed on to the Key Stage 2 yard at 3.25pm
- Year 5 and Year 6 will be dismissed on to the Key Stage 2 yard at 3.30pm



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Reception Class Meet the Teacher Meeting

Mrs Lockhart will be hosting a special meet the teacher session for Reception class on **Monday 18th September 2023 at 4.30pm**. Please come along and find out how you can support your child and work in partnership with us this year.

Right of the Week - Article 2

All children have rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.



Stonewall Award

We are thrilled to announce that we are a Silver Stonewall Champion. This means we have shown a dedication to creating an inclusive environment and curriculum for all, including LGBTQ+ families. Well done to everyone at Portobello!

Earrings Reminder

Ear-rings are not allowed to be worn in school; this includes clear plastic ones. If your child comes to school wearing ear-rings and cannot remove them independently, you will be contacted and asked to come to school to do so.

Support for families

If you are a member of the Armed Services, you will probably already know all about the government's funding scheme - Service Children Pupil Premium. The additional funding aims to help schools provide a support system for service children, who often have to move schools regularly or deal with separation from a parent serving overseas. For schools to secure the right funding to support pupils, we must have correct information recorded for your child. Therefore, can you please let us know if either parent/carer is a current serving member of the Armed Services.

In addition, the DfE make additional funds available for students who have been adopted from care. You are under no obligation to provide us with this information, however, if you wish to discuss this any further, please contact us to make an appointment to meet with myself or Miss West, Deputy Headteacher.

Please remember if your financial circumstances change even for a short while you may be entitled to benefits related free school meals which will stay with your child, under the current regulations, for the rest of their school days and schools can also provide support with the likes of breakfast clubs, after school clubs and trips too. If you would like more information, please contact Mrs Lister for a form or head to the council website direct: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/7433/Free-school-meals>

Primary and Secondary school admissions September 2024

Apply online: The online system opens today!

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/2796/Primary-school-admissions-September-2024>

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/2797/Secondary-school-admissions-September-2024>



BIG AWARD
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Dates for Diary

- Individual School Photos - Tuesday AM 10th October
- October Half term 30th Oct to 3rd Nov
- Y2 - A Christmas Journey at Birtley Methodist Mon 4th December
- Reception Panto Trip - Thursday 7th December
- Y1 to Y6 Panto Trip - Thursday 21st December
- Break up for Xmas Friday 22nd December!
- Inset day Monday 8th January - pupils return Tuesday 9th January 24

Eschools and Communication from September 23

To ensure you don't miss out on vital school communications/dates from Sept 23, can you please download the Eschools app. Back up texts will no longer occur to non-app users with the rising costs we cannot continue to support this service. [Parents: App - eSchools Academy](#)

Please review newsletters to keep in the loop, these are emailed and added to the website weekly. If you need a paper copy of anything, please let the office know.

Re School gateway/ParentPay APP notifications re meals/trips/clubs

If you are now using the APP you may notice a meal purchase history notification being sent via School Gateway App - this will occur if your child receives benefit related free school meals, universal free school meals (Reception, Y1 and Y2) as well as a home packed lunch. These are merely noted as transactions.

You may see a debit of £2.90 displayed in the top left-hand corner of the notification, this is due to the meal data which comes through from SIMS. SIMS is our school internal system which we use daily to record attendance and dinner choices.

However, you should also notice the balance is £0.00 therefore confirming you are not being charged for these transactions, this is purely a purchase history notification.

If your child is in Y3 to Y6 and they are taking paid school meals you will see a balance which is owed, you will also receive a notification if the balance on the account falls to £2.90 (one school meal).

For dinner money owed please refer to our Dinner Money Policy, which is located on the school website, we expect dinner money to be paid promptly and in advance of dinners being taken. Should you require a printed copy of the policy please contact the school office.

If you are struggling with any aspects of ParentPay, please check out the link below:

<https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/sections/4407691522449-Account-Access>

If you would like to book onto a school club option, see link below:

<https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/15444655523985-ParentPay-Clubs-How-to-book-a-session>

For any other enquiries or generic parent support link below:

<https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb>

School office opening times.

Mon to Thur: 8.30 to 4pm

Friday: 8.30 to 3.45pm

If your child is unwell an email can be sent to the main school email address before 8.30am, please provide a reason for absence: portobelloprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk



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