

Portfields Post

Welcome back!

It was lovely to see so many smiling faces on the gate on Wednesday morning. This week was all about the children getting back into routines after the long summer break. I have been really impressed with how sensibly the children have been this week and have been amazed by their manners and ability to show our BRIDGE values in all their interactions.

On Friday we welcomed our newest members of the Portfields' Family, our new EYFS cohort. We can't wait to have them in full time from Monday.

For those new to Portfields' Post, at the bottom of this newsletter you will find important dates for the diary. There have been a few changes to the dates published in July, so please check the red dates carefully.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Folkard.

Notices

We have updated our Home School Agreement. It is a statutory requirement for all schools to publish their Home School Agreement and parents to sign the parental declaration to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the agreement

This will be coming out to families via a ParentMail Form today. Please take time to read as a family and sign via electronic signature. If you would prefer this in paper form, please contact the school office. Please complete the Home School Agreement by 20th September 2024.

Curriculum Newsletters

We have updated our Year Group Pages with the most up-to-date curriculum newsletters, explaining what each year group will be learning this half term.

Class Pages

Parking near school

Several parents have raised concerns about irresponsible parking at drop off and pick up times. Please can we remind all parents to park considerably. The council have informed us that over the coming weeks there will be an increase in parking enforcement at local schools.

[Our New House System](#)

We are still using Class Charts to celebrate positives and highlight negative choices and behaviours.

This academic year however we have made a few changes.

Children will still earn points in the same way but will now receive 10 points for VIP and 10 points when they are Star of the Week. Children will work towards gaining a certificate and eventually a badge as a representation of their hard work and effort. This will be presented to them in assembly.

The rewards are:

- 200 points Bronze Certificate
- 500 points Silver Certificate
- 1000 points Gold Certificate
- 1250 points Portfields Badge

We are also bringing back our House system. We will have three houses, coloured orange, purple and green. Next week you and your child/children will be notified which coloured house they are in. The points that they individually earn will be added towards their house total and each half term a house will receive a reward such as extra break or to come to school in their own clothes.

Each year, we will hold a competition to name the houses for that year. This year, our theme is British sports people. We are looking for suggestions who represent great sportsmanship and demonstrate positive values.

Please complete [this google form](#) provided and we will announce the new house names in next Friday's Portfields Star Assembly.

[Changes to Attendance](#)

The Department for Education guidance 'Working together to improve School Attendance' became statutory on 19th of August 2024. There are now changes to how persistent absence is calculated and where penalty notices may be given. Please read the attached poster which summarises the new guidance which is statutory from 1st September 2024.

[KS1 Reading Books](#)

Children in KS1 will receive their new reading book on Wednesday. This will be at the same colour that they were reading prior to the summer holidays to help children to recall their sounds and build fluency. We will be assessing children's reading throughout this half term and adjusting children's groups accordingly. Please ensure all previous reading or library books have been returned to school as soon as possible.

[PE Survey 2024](#)

In response to parent feedback, we have created a PE survey to find out which sports your child would like to represent the school in this year. While we can't guarantee they will get to represent the school in these events, it will help us when picking teams.

We have also asked for information about whether your child competes competitively in any sports out of school. This will help us with picking teams for events such as the swimming gala, where holding trials is not feasible.

[Please click here to complete the survey](#)

For more information about the range of sports events available at Portfields, [please click here](#)

[Y1 - Y6 Meet the Teacher Session](#)

On Wednesday 25th September, between 3:30 - 4:30 there will be an opportunity for you to pop into your child's class and meet their teacher. Classroom external doors will be open and teachers ready to welcome you and answer any questions you may have.

[Anti knife crime sessions for parents/carers available](#)

Free online information session for parents/carers and family members - knife crime and how we can keep our young people safe - delivered by The Ben Kinsella Trust, leading national anti-knife crime charity.

As part of our rolling "Stay True to You" campaign, helping to support practitioners and parents in keeping young people safe, we have set another date for free, online information session for all parents/carers.

Delivered by The Ben Kinsella Trust, each session covers the risk factors that can cause conflict and lead to violence, explores what is driving the "fear factor" that can lead to vulnerable young people carrying weapons for perceived self-protection, and also looks at issues including online harm, exploitation, gangs and county drug lines. The sessions aim to raise awareness of these issues and to give parents the confidence of signs and symptoms to look out for, tips on how to build stronger relationships and to have those difficult conversations. It explores some of the learning from the wider "Stay True to You" campaign (more info: staytruetoyou.co.uk)

For all parents/carers and family members worried about how to keep their child safe, a free online information session on knife crime is offered 6.30pm - 8.30pm Weds 25 September. Register in advance: [The Ben Kinsella Trust](#)

Piano's Available

We have two pianos available for free to anyone who could make use of them (photos attached). Please note, they are extremely heavy and you would be required to arrange collection. If you are interested, please contact admin@portfields.org

Community Events

A reminder that, to reduce the number of parentmail communication we send home, we now list local events, information from local sports clubs and local businesses on our community page. [Click here](#)

Updated Term Dates (2025-26)

We have added the term dates for next year, 2025-26 to the school website. [You can find them here](#)

Dates

New dates in red

Mon - 9.9.24 - EYFS Children Full Time

Mon 16.9.24 - KS1 Maths Parent Workshop - 6:15pm

Wed - 18.9.24 - EYFS Maths Parent Workshop - 6:15pm

Mon - 23.9.24 - Y6 SATs Information Evening

Wed - 25.9.24 - Y1 - Y6 Meet the Teacher Session (3:30 - 4:30)

Wed - 25.9.24 - KS2 Maths Workshop

Wed - 25.9.24 - Y6 Empower and Challenge Workshop

Thu - 26.9.24 - Y6 Empower and Challenge Workshop

Mon - 30.9.24 - Dolphin Forest School Day

Wed - 3.10.24 - Meerkat & Rhino Forest School Day

Thu - 4.10.24 - Jaguar Forest School Day

Mon - 7.10.24 - Newt Forest School Day

Tue - 8.10.24 - Toad Forest School Day

Thu - 10.10.24 - Frog Forest School Day

Thu - 10.10.24 - Mental Health Day (Wear Yellow)

Mon - 14.10.24 - EYFS 2025 Intake Parent Information Morning (9:00 - 10:00am - Aston Hall)

Mon - 14.10.24 - EYFS 2025 Intake Parent Information Evening (6:15 - 7:15pm - Aston Hall)

Fri - 18.10.24 - Brachiosaurus Forest School Day

Mon - 21.10.24 - Triceratop Forest School Day

Tue - 22.10.24 - Velociraptor Forest School Day

Tue - 22.10.24 - (Y2 & Y5) Times TBC - Please note - these replace the December dates

Wed - 23.10.24 - (EYFS & 1, 3&4, 6) Times TBC - Please note - these replace the December dates

Wed - 23.10.24 - Stegosaurus Forest School Day

Thu - 24.10.24 - Individual Photos

Thu - 24.10.24 - Last Day of Half Term

Fri - 25.10.24 - INSET Day

Celebration

Portfields Stars - No assembly this week