



Portobello Primary School
Weekly Newsletter
4th October 2024



Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly this week celebrated children who have "concentrated well" this week. Well done to the following children:

Reception: Jude **Year 1:** Michael **Year 2:** Harper **Year 3:** Millie
Year 4: Charlie **Year 5:** Charlotte **Year 6:** Ayaan

Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 96.5%.

Well done to Year 4 and Year 6 for best attendance this week at 97.5%!

Dates for Diary

- Mon 14th October - Individual School Photos AM (younger siblings welcome from 8.50am)
- Mon 21st October - PPS STEM Family event 3.30 - 4.30pm
- Tues 22nd October - Reception Vision Screening AM
- We 23rd October - Y1 to Y6 Halloween Disco 4pm - 5.15pm
- Fri 25th October - break up for Half term 28th to 1st Nov
- Mon 9th Dec - Y2 A Christmas Journey at Birtley Methodist PM
- Fri 6th December - Flu vaccination - whole school
- Thurs 19th Dec - Y1 to Y6 Panto Trip AM
- Break up for Xmas Friday 20th December!

If U Care Share

Thank you very much to all those who contributed to Miss Pendleton's fundraising effort. You donated £158.28 to If U Care Share. Miss Pendleton completed the Berlin Marathon on Sunday and raised a total of £848 for this charity. Thank you for supporting such a great local cause and for all the lovely messages of support!



Rights Respecting

Article 4 - Making rights real - Governments must do all they can to make sure that every child in their countries can enjoy all the rights in this Convention.



Personal Mobiles and Smartwatches

We recognise that mobile phones/smartwatches are part of everyday life for many children and that they can play an important role in helping children to feel safe and secure. However, we also recognise that they can prove a distraction in school and that many have software which potentially puts children and young people at risk online. Therefore:

- Children are not permitted to have mobile phones at school unless they are in Year 5 or Year 6 and have been given permission to walk home alone. These phones will be collected by the class teacher locked away and given out at the end of the day (the phone is left at the owner's own risk).
- Smart watches should not be brought to school; they may be valuable and could be lost or stolen.

Recently we have seen a rise in the number of smartwatches being worn in school. These devices can regularly connect to local 3G and 4G networks with some having software which enables recording facilities. Any smartwatches accidentally brought into school will be taken away from children and locked in the Year 5 safe until the end of the day. Thank you for your continued cooperation.





Last week we were delighted to attend the Northeast Automotive Alliance Expo at the Beacon of Light. Our children met over 100 businesses to talk about their STEM learning. We were delighted to make many new connections. Also, at the expo was new Northeast mayor Kim McGuinness who contacted us to say how proud she was of all our children. Well done to everyone involved for such a fantastic showcase.



PPS STEM Family Event: Parent Power

[Invitation to our PPS STEM - Family Event - Parent Power](#)

The STEM department would like to invite you to our first ever STEM family event, **Parent Power**.

The event will be taking place on **October 21st from 3:30pm to 4:30pm**.

Parent Power's objective is to share our school STEM journey, engage with families and seek out potential opportunities for our fantastic students.

Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy some STEM and robotics activities alongside your child/children.

We have amazing family members who we know work in the science, technology and engineering sector, if you do work within these industries and we don't know yet we would love for you to join us on our STEM journey too, please ask the STEM team for more information.

We hope to see you all there!

Mr. Chipchase and Mr. Bone

Sports update

Cross Country news - Well done to our cross-country team who took part in the event this week. They did us proud, showing determination and coming away with some great results and even a couple of gold medals. Huge well done everyone

Football league news - Well done to our Year 5/6 girls' team who started the league with 2 wins out of 3. Great effort girls! #TeamPortobello

Health and Safety - reminder

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should not bring bags to school. We cannot accommodate them on pegs for health and safety reasons. They should come to school with water bottle and PE kit only. If you feel your child needs to bring a separate bag, please speak to a member of staff so it can be kept elsewhere in school.

Wednesday 23rd October Lunch Menu Change

Please see below menu, jacket potatoes will be an available option too (no Deli sandwich)



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police; location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

f /NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.05.2023