



Portobello Primary School Weekly Newsletter 9th May 2025



Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly celebrated children who have "shown co-operation" this week. Well done to the following children:

Reception: Harry K **Year 1:** Thomas **Year 2:** Eliza
Year 3: Kieran **Year 4:** Nate **Year 5:** Lacey **Year 6:** Rhys

Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 95.5%

Well done to Year 1 for best attendance this week at 98%!

Date for Diary

- Wed 14th May - Y1 to Gibside
- Thur 22nd May - Y5 to Gibside
- **Mon 2nd June - Inset day - school closed to pupils**
- Fri 6th June - Y3 visiting Birtley library
- **Midnight 15th June - School Uniform order deadline for free to School Delivery**
- Tues 17th June - Y2 & Y4 Newcastle trip & Discovery Museum Workshops
- Thur 19th June - Sponsored colour run event/national picnic day lunch
- Fri 4th July - Summer School Fayre 2pm
- **Monday 7th July - Occasional Day - school closed to pupils and staff**
- Thur 10th July - DT Showcase/workshop, timings will be shared in the summer term
- **Mon 1st Sept - Inset day - school closed to pupils**



VE 80th Celebration

Victory in Europe (VE) Day, celebrated on 8 May 1945, marked the end of World War II in Europe. Eight decades later, we come together to reflect on the sacrifices made and honour the courage of those who fought for our freedom through a special assembly in school.

On Thursday 8 May 2025, we had a special assembly to mark this momentous occasion teaching our pupils the meaning of VE day and the hardships of war and

the endurance of the British people who fought so bravely to overcome World War 2. During lunch period music was played alongside an incredible slide show full of images from that era too.

School Catering Notification

We have received notification from School Catering regarding a food supplier who will be closing their Northern depot in July. In the meantime, Catering may experience some substitutes or shortages which could then affect school meals.

We have been assured kitchens will inform school as best they can in advance where feasible, although deliveries are often made daily to suit weekly orders made by our school catering team, so stock of certain items may not be available on the day and the dinner menus may then need to change quickly to ensure a lunch is provided to those children who have ordered one. Please be assured those on a medical diet will be always catered for. Please bear with us and school catering, this is beyond our control,



BIG AWARD
awarded by the Education
Endowment Foundation



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Rights Respecting

Article 38: I have the right not to join the armed forces. Governments should not recruit children into the armed forces. Governments should make sure that children are given extra protection when there is a war or armed conflict.



Polite reminder

The vast majority of parents, carers and others visiting our school are keen to work with us and support the school. We recognise that disagreements and differences of opinion may occur, however, it is important that while issues are resolved we continue to treat each other with respect.

We believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress is contrary to the aims of the school.

National Picnic Week

On Thursday 19th June we are having a sponsored colour run event (see below)

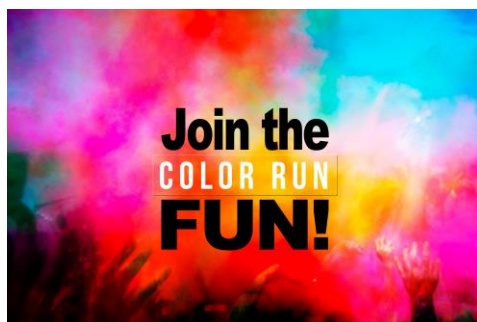
We will also be celebrating national picnic day too and have a special lunch see below for children who would usually have a school dinner please review the below and relay to your child the day before.

There will be no other dinner option available.





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As part of our Health and Sports fortnight we are going to also celebrate PRIDE month and take part in a Sponsored Run with a twist of colour!

This will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 19th June at 2pm and **you are all invited!**

We would love to have parents/carers involved in our Sponsored Colour Run, where children and adults will take part in a short running course across our school grounds and be immersed in lots of bright and colourful powder!

The powder is being purchased through a reputable company, who have followed health and safety guidelines. They will be £1 a bag on the day. Please **DO NOT** bring your own powder to the event.

Throughout the course, there will be stations where powder will be sprayed across the participating runners and small obstacles for everyone to tackle, i.e. tyres to run through so there should be something fun for everyone!

If any parents/carers/family members would like take part alongside your child, a small £4 entry fee per person is required and this can be paid via the usual school payment system.

If you would also like to purchase an additional bag of coloured powder to use at the end of the course, please let us know so that we can order enough. They will be sold for £1 per 100g bag.

Please complete the form below so that we know how many people to expect. A sponsor form will also be sent out at a later date to sponsor children running.

For the event, all participants will need to wear an old white t-shirt and sunglasses.

Please let us know if your child would NOT like to take part.

We are really looking forward to a fun afternoon of fitness and colour!

Please complete below consent by 16th May

<https://forms.gle/yfMAanrJVApfPFRG7>



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awarded by the education



MUSIC MARK
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Are you ready to
**return to
practice?**



From the NHS Return to Practice programme

Thinking of returning to your role as a healthcare professional or know anyone who would like to?
We can help you!

This message goes out to all parents, carers and members of the local community who may once have been a healthcare professional such as a nurse or midwife and now considering a return.

Returning healthcare professionals have a key role to play in ensuring patients and service users have access to experienced and well-trained care staff equipped with the right skills. NHS England provides funding to support the pathways to return and are keen to support or answer any questions you may have if you are considering returning to perhaps nursing, midwifery or if you trained as an allied health professional (AHP) or a healthcare scientist (HCS) but have since left the profession.

Please do contact us for more information on 0191 275 4796 or email:

england.returntopractice.north@nhs.net

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.

2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.

3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.

5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.

6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.

7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.

8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.

9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.

10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging

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