



Portobello Primary School
Weekly Newsletter
5th September 2025



Welcome Back

Welcome back everyone! We hope you have all thoroughly enjoyed your summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead. 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
- Miss Clarke (SENCo) - Deputy Designated Lead
- Mr Chipchase - 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. And a big well done to Year 2 with 100% attendance this week too.

Reception: Ella & Kasper **Year 1:** Ellie **Year 2:** Holly
Year 3: Aariah, Jenson & Vinnie **Year 4:** Kody **Year 5:** Spencer **Year 6:** Ella

Team Captains

Well done to our team captains who have also been elected this week:

Green Captain: Bella Green Vice-Captain: Peter
Blue Captain: Ella Blue Vice-Captain: Ruby
Yellow Captain: Olivia Yellow Vice-Captain: Marshall

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

Arriving Late to School?

An adult must accompany children to the main reception area; children should then be signed into school via the reception iPad which is situated at the reception window.





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Weekly Newsletter
5th September 2025



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 must move school 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 makes 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 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, these currently 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>

Attendance Guide for Parents/Carers

What YOU must do:

- Telephone the school before 9am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour, or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Home Learning

Home learning is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set on e-schools each Friday and are to be completed by the following Thursday.

Donations please

If anybody has any spare fidgets or sensory toys we would be delighted to receive them.

Dates for Diary (an annual parent planner will be made available in due course)

- Fri 12th Sept - Karate lessons restart after school
- Fri 19th Sept - Flu vaccination - whole school
- Mon 13th October - Individual School Photos AM (younger siblings welcome from 8.50am, for example who currently attend a nursery, who do not attend Portobello, parents/carers please bring children via main entrance and photos will be taken before school starts)
- Tues 21st October - Reception Vision Screening AM
- Fri 24th October - break up for Half term 27th to 31st



BIG AWARD
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Weekly Newsletter
5th September 2025



- Mon 8th Dec - Y2 A Christmas Journey at Birtley Methodist PM
- Thurs 18th Dec - Y1 to Y6 Panto Trip AM @ Little Theatre (Payment via Schoolgateway please)
- Break up for Xmas Friday 19th December!

Right of the Week

Do you know the ABCDE of Rights?

A Rights are for ALL children. UNIVERSAL	B Rights are there at BIRTH. INHERENT	C Rights CANNOT be taken away. INALIENABLE	D Rights DO NOT have to be earnt. UNCONDITIONAL	E All rights are EQUALLY important. INDIVISIBLE
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After School Clubs Year 1 to year 6

After school clubs will commence on Monday 15th September for Key stage 1, Year 1 & 2 and Wednesday 17th for Key stage 2, Year 3 to 6.

To make the process more efficient we are asking all parents/carers to choose which club you are signing your child up to via a google form by midday Wednesday 10th September please ensure payment is made for the club by close of play Wednesday to secure your child's place.

Please note clubs are a one-off payment, no refunds will be given for non-attendance, if your child decides they do not like the club they have been signed up for and wants to swop, that may not be possible if other clubs are at full capacity, please ask and we can let you know.

Once google forms and club payment reports have been ran, Miss Tindale/PE Lead will then send a confirmation text to all parents/carers to reconfirm the chosen club, via an eSchools text next Friday 13th by midday. Google forms have been sent via text and via Marvellous me today.

School office opening times.

Mon to Thur: 8.30am to 4pm

Friday: 8.30am to 3.30pm

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please leave a message on the telephone system or an email can be sent to the main school email address before 8.30am, please provide a reason for absence: portobelloprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

Earrings Reminder

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

EasyFundraising

Thank you to everyone raising donations for Portobello Primary School with #easyfundraising!

Not joined yet.

Sign up to easyfundraising and when you shop online with your favourite brands, they'll donate to us. It's free and your shopping won't cost you any extra - the brands you shop with will donate, not you!

Sign up today:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/portobelloprisch/N7TLLL/at/tyxnhf3e/facebook/>



Poorly child? How long should you keep your child absent from school?

Yes, keep off school	Until
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode of either/or
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Ringworm	If your child has ringworm, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.
No - no need to keep off school if well enough to attend	But make sure you let their school or nursery know about
Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Tonsillitis	Threadworms
Slapped cheek	Head lice - please treat and seek advice from a pharmacy, if necessary, whole household will need to be treated too

For further information on earaches, conjunctivitis, sore throat please see: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Is your child feeling anxious or worried?

It's normal for children to feel a little anxious sometimes. They may get a tummy ache or headache or have problems eating or sleeping.

Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk about any worries they may have such as bullying, friendship problems, schoolwork or sensory problems. You can also work with the school to find ways to help them.

If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, it might be good to talk to your GP or school nurse.

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/anxiety-in-children/>

Innovation in Action

PPS STEM & Robotics are now on [Instagram](#) & [YouTube](#) !



We've got some electrifying news to share — Portobello's STEM department is officially online and ready to celebrate the incredible learning journeys of our pupils!

From robot builds to coding breakthroughs, our STEM sessions are buzzing with creativity, and now we're capturing it all on **YouTube** and **Instagram**. These platforms will showcase the achievements, progress, and proud moments of our young innovators as they explore the exciting world of STEM in primary education.



Catch the action on both platforms **@PPS.STEM.Robotics**



We can't wait to bring you along for the journey. Don't forget to **like, follow, and subscribe** to stay connected and cheer on our future scientists, engineers, and tech wizards.

Together Let's Inspire the Next Generation!

Reception new starters

At Portobello Primary, we are acutely aware that we take from your care the most valuable gift in your world. We feel privileged this week to have spent time with your little ones and you entrusting them in our care. Cared for is just what they have been. Reception have settled in so well, and it's been an absolute joy watching them explore and make new friends, while we also get to know them as individuals.

We're all looking forward to continuing this wonderful journey together, filled with lots of curiosity, learning, fun and laughter.

We also look forward to getting to know you as parents and carers and forging relationships that will last for years to come.



Portobello Primary School
Weekly Newsletter
5th September 2025



Online Payments

How to set up online payments for trips, meals or events etc

How to create an account:

- To register go to the login screen on the App/Web. If using the web version of School Gateway, ensure the NEW USER tab is selected before inputting any details
- <https://www.parentpay.com/schoolcomms/>
- Enter the email address and mobile number that is registered with the school.
- A PIN will be sent on a text.
- Enter the 4-digit PIN number received via text.
- Once logged in the home screen will be displayed.

If already registered

- Access as an existing user
- Enter the email that is registered with the school and your existing PIN
- Once logged in the home screen will be displayed.

If you have forgotten your PIN

- On the login screen click on **Forgotten PIN**
- Enter the email address and mobile number that is registered with the school.
- A PIN will be sent on a text.
- Enter the 4-digit PIN number received via text.
- Once logged in the home screen will be displayed.

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>

For any other enquiries or generic parent support link below:

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



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