



Achievement Assembly

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

Reception: Eleanor **Year 1:** Isla **Year 2:** Harry F

Year 3: William **Year 4:** Ilinca **Year 5:** Millie T **Year 6:** Lucas

Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 96%

Well done to Year 2 for best attendance this week at 99%!

Dates for Diary

This is the last week for Lego, Football and Performing Arts clubs.

Dance, Rights Respecting and Eco club will be on next week.

Other dates

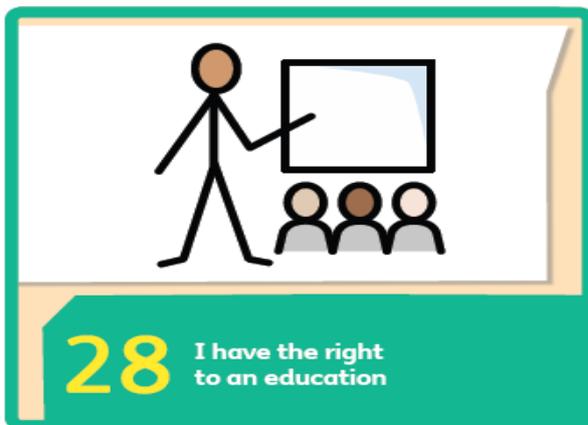
- Tues 17th Feb - Pancake Day at Breakfast Club - must book!
- Tues 17th Feb - Chinese New Year Menu and Pancake Day pudding: details to follow
- Wed 18th Feb - Rights Respecting Parent/Carer workshop AM - please complete google form
- Thur 19th Feb - Non-Uniform day fundraising for Benny
- Thur 19th Feb - Valentine's Disco - see details overleaf and emails sent
- Fri 20th Feb - Inset day/break up for February half term returning Monday 2nd March

Families Magazine

In your January/February magazine, you'll find interesting articles and features on education, early years and health. Discover the role of schools in children's mental health and the importance of allowing children to develop at their own pace. Plus, some great ideas for New Year's Resolutions you'll be able to stick to!

[READ NOW](#)

Rights Respecting Article of the month: Article 28



Breakfast Club are celebrating Shrove Tuesday on Tuesday, 17th February.

There will be pancakes galore on Tuesday, 17th February. Pancakes will be served with fresh fruit toppings and chocolate, or syrup sauce will be available too.

Usual breakfast club food items are available too! **BOOK ONLINE BY MIDDAY Monday 16th February**



Valentines Disco Thursday 19th February - please pay online by Friday 13th!



**Year 1 to Year 6
Valentine's Disco!**
Thursday, February 19th,
straight after school!
Collect from the normal key
stage pick up yard @ 4.30pm

£3 per pupil includes: entry,
juice cup, crisps & a special
valentine's mix up too.
Payment required by Friday
13th Feb!

Non-uniform day
fundraising for Benny
£1 per child



**Reception Class
Valentine's Disco!**
Thursday, February 19th,
during school time!
Collect at 3.20pm

£1.50 per pupil includes: juice cup, crisps &
a special Valentine's mix-up.
Payment required by Friday, 13th Feb!

Non-uniform day
fundraising for Benny
£1 per child

If your child is going, please complete the disco google form today too:

<https://forms.gle/aGN31Jp9fCj6Tuus6>

NB: If your Y5 or Y6 child has permission to walk home from school they are allowed to walk home from the disco too. If you are collecting at 4.30pm, please ensure you are in the KS2 yard waiting for them. Thank you.

Parent/Carer Workshop: Would you like to find out about what it means for us to be a Rights Respecting School? Wednesday 18th February

Rights are important to everyone at Portobello. During Multicultural Week, we would love for you to come and join us to find out more about what we do as a Rights Respecting School. You will join your child to take part in many different activities all to do with rights. We can't wait to see you there!

Reception and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Parents/Carers between 9.15 - 10am
(For Reception and KS1 Parents/Carers - our hall will be available to wait in after dropping off your child as the session will start as soon as registration is complete)

Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6) Parents/Carers between 10.15 - 11am
Please complete the below google form to advise if you can make it, a grandparent or other adult family member is welcome if you cannot make that date,

Thank you
Miss Pendleton

<https://forms.gle/xEh3EiipCooXa2ye6>

Looking for a dentist for your child?

Bupa Dental Care Pelton have availability for ages 0 to 10
Address: 2-3 Wheldon Terrace, Pelton Chester-Le-Street, County Durham, DH2 1DA
Please contact the practice 0191 3702051.

Celebrating STEM Success at Portobello!



Our eldest group of young engineers in Upper Key Stage 2 have achieved something truly remarkable this year. Competing in the VEX IQ Northeast regional competitions, our robotics team has won *two* major regional titles and an outstanding *six* prestigious awards across categories including Robot Design, Teamwork Strategy, and Coding Skills.

This incredible team of eight talented pupils currently ranks **1st in the entire Northeast** and an amazing **2nd in the whole of the United Kingdom** for skills performance. Their dedication, creativity, and engineering excellence have now earned them an invitation to the **UK National Championships**, where they will compete against the top STEM and robotics schools from across the country.

We know they will continue to make Portobello proud, and we wish them the very best of luck as they take on this next exciting challenge. You can follow their journey and show your support by subscribing to the school STEM department's Instagram and YouTube channels: **@PPS.STEM.Robotics**.



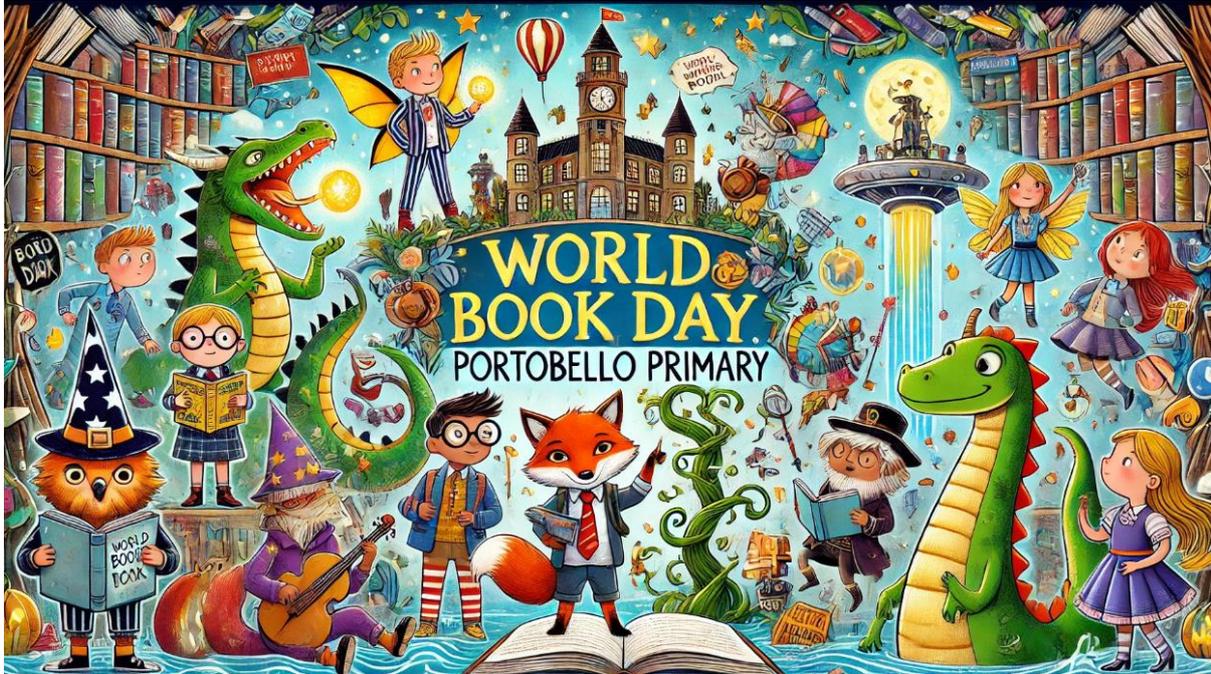


Portobello Primary School
 Weekly Newsletter
 6th February 2026



Celebrating World Book Day 5th March

World Book Day 2026 - 'Read for Pleasure'



We are delighted to mark World Book Day as one of the first major milestones in the National Year of Reading, shining a spotlight on the joy and importance of 'Reading for Pleasure'. Due to our school calendar being extremely busy, we will be holding our school World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March 2026**.

At Portobello, we understand the pressures that many families are facing due to the cost of living, and we want to ensure that everyone can take part in a way that feels comfortable and enjoyable.

This year, we are embracing the theme fully — **children are invited to come to school wearing whatever they feel best reading in!** Whether that's fancy dress, pyjamas, casual clothes, or even their school uniform, all are welcome. The focus of the day will be on the joy of reading and celebrating books in a way that feels personal to each child.

We look forward to seeing everyone reading for pleasure and sharing a wonderful day filled with stories, imagination, and fun activities!

Happy World Book Day!



Update on Wednesday we were advised that Benny's target had been hit, WOW, thank you to those who have already donated online.

Our fundraising event will still go-ahead next week with all extra funds going towards extra treatment or follow up treatment costs for Benny, should there be any complications, any excess funds will be shared with other poorly children who need treatment too.

Fundraising for Benny Thursday 19th Feb!

We are having a non-uniform day on Thursday, 19th February, which is our last day of this term. We hope you can help us to raise some much-needed funds to help Benny receive lifesaving treatment. Benny is known to some of our families who have asked us if our school can support their friend. Please click on the link and read Benny's story. Can we ask you to put your hand in your pocket and donate £1 for your child to come into school in non-uniform?

They can come in whatever clothes/dressy up outfits they wish, so long as they are warm enough and the clothing is suitable for school.

No cropped tops please, and easy toilet access clothing a must!

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/benjaminahmanizad>

Solving Kids' Cancer UK
Benny is fighting a life-threatening cancer

Benny is a happy and caring four-year-old who loves dinosaurs, Ninja Turtles, pizza and dreams of playing for Newcastle United when grows up. In February 2023, at just two years old, he was diagnosed with stage 4 high-risk neuroblastoma. After completing treatment in March 2025, he began DFMO, a relapse-prevention drug. Sadly, scans in September showed that Benny's cancer had returned. His family is now fundraising in the hope that they can travel to Rome for life-saving treatment.

stand_by_benny
 Stand By Benny

You can give Benny hope by donating today:

To donate online, visit:
solvingkidscancer.org.uk/children/benny

To donate by text, send the word **BENNY** followed by any whole amount (up to £20) to 70085

SCAN TO DONATE

If you would like to fundraise for Benny, please contact Solving Kids' Cancer UK for support at fundraising@solvingkidscancer.org.uk or on 020 7284 0800

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Grapes, cherry tomatoes and blueberries for snacks/part of packed lunches.

We are concerned that several children are bringing whole grapes to school in lunchboxes or for morning snack, and that these pose a choking hazard. Equally some of the cherry tomatoes and blueberries that children bring in are large and pose a similar risk. We do not have capacity to cut up every child's fruit at lunchtime or at break.

If you continue to send in grapes, cherry tomatoes or large blueberries, we ask that you read the following advice please:

We all know you're supposed to slice grapes before giving them to children, if uncut they become a serious choking hazard.

Are you cutting them the right way?

They should always be cut lengthwise so they can pass more easily through smaller throats. And never width wise, because they'll still be big enough to choke on.

You can either slice them downwards in half, or for younger children, you might want to cut them lengthwise again into quarters.

Please give yourself peace of mind (and us) and cut them up!

For more information on choking please visit: <https://capt.org.uk/choking-prevention/>



Gateshead
Libraries



Kim McGuinness
North East Mayor

Stories Everywhere: Story and Craft with Storyteller Chris Adriaanse

Birtley Library • Monday 23 February, 10.30am-11.30am

Blaydon Library • Monday 23 February, 1.30pm-2.30pm

Leam Lane Library • Thursday 26 February, 10.30am-11.30am

Gateshead Central Library • Thursday 26 February, 1.30pm-2.30pm

Come along for a fun session of storytelling and crafting with author-in-residence Chris Adriaanse. Listen to a story then use your imagination to bring it to life in a pop-up book or story scene. Suitable for families and ages 5+

Free – Pre-booking essential

Book online at www.gatesheadlibraries.com

**FREE
ACTIVITY**

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