



PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

Robincroft Road, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2GL

Telephone: (01332) 550113

E-Mail – admin@portwayj.derby.sch.uk

Website: www.portwayjunior.com

Monday 13th June 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school for the last half term of the year; we look forward to everyone having a happy and successful end to the academic year. The second summer half term is always a very busy time; please take a minute or two to have a look at the dates on the back of this newsletter to familiarise yourselves with everything that is going on in this final half term. I have been informed today the support staff in Unison plan to take industrial action next Thursday, the 16th June. I am in the process of trying to gauge how many staff this will involve and to what extent the school will be affected. I will send out a letter on Monday afternoon with more information.

Common Transfer Day – Tuesday 5th July

The transfer day for Year 2 children moving up to our school and for our Year 6 children moving up to Woodlands School will be Tuesday, 5th of July. The Year 2 children coming up to the Juniors will meet their new teachers and the rest of the children in Years 3, 4 and 5 will move up to meet their new teachers as well. Children will stay with their new teacher for the whole day.

All Year 6 children going to Woodlands will need to make their own way there and will need to be there ready for an 8:45am start. They will be dismissed from Woodlands at 3:30pm. Please ensure that arrangements are made for your child's return home from Woodlands School.

Miss Lewis' Promotion

It is with regret that I inform you that Miss Lewis will be leaving Portway at the end of this academic year. Miss Lewis has successfully secured a Deputy Head's position in a Derby primary school. I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success for the future. She will be much missed by colleagues, children and parents. Last term we interviewed for a teacher and we appointed Miss Beecroft. She will be joining our teaching team in September.

Walk to School Week

Well done to all the children, parents and staff who made an extra effort to walk to school before half term as part of 'Walk to School Week'. Every class kept a daily record of the pupils who walked to school each day. In total 1,448 journeys on foot were made to school over the week. This means that on average 290 pupils out of the 330 in school walked to school every day that week. I hope that as many people as possible will continue to walk to school. Parking a short distance from school (or using the Woodlands Pub car park) and walking will help encourage healthy lifestyles and will ease the congestion on the roads immediately around school, making them safer for our children. The Lady Mayor came into school today to award each of the winning classes with a certificate. It was a very close call but the winners of Walk to School Week were 3M, 4L, 5S and 6B.

NSPCC Sponsored Walk

It was lovely to get outside on Tuesday morning with the children on their sponsored walk. All the children did very well and were keen to walk as many laps as possible to raise funds for this worthy charity. Thank you to everyone who has supported this event.

News from the PTFA

Our Summer Fair will be held on Friday, the 8th of July. It starts at 3:30pm and will finish around 5:30pm. There will be lots of great stalls and many exciting new activities to try out. If you can make it please come along; it promises to be a fun-packed afternoon (let's hope the weather is a bit kinder than today!). The PTFA are holding a Dress Down Day on Friday 24th June to generate donations for the forthcoming Summer Fair. The PTFA will be sending out more information directly. The PTFA will also be selling Father's Day gifts next Wednesday, 15th June. Gifts are £3.00. Please order online in the 'shop area' by Monday 13th June.

Test Weeks for Years 3, 4 and 5

Next week, the week beginning Monday 13th June, is the week for tests for children in Years 3 and 4 - Year 5 will have their tests the week after, the week commencing 20th June. All we ask is that the children do their best. The results of the tests will be available later this month and will be shared with you in the end of year reports. The tests are important; they will be used by teachers to inform them in making the final end of year 'Age and Stage' assessment for each pupil. They will also be important in diagnosing pupils' strengths and areas for improvement in their future learning.

Sun Safety

Now that the sunnier days are upon us, a reminder: skin cancer is now the most common and fastest rising cancer in the UK. Malignant melanoma, the deadliest form of the disease is now the most common cancer in

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young adults aged 15-34. Burning as a young child can cause irreparable damage to a child's delicate skin, that over time can develop with serious consequences. However, the good news is that skin cancer is almost entirely preventable and simple steps can be undertaken to ensure that your child's skin is protected from the sun's harmful rays.

Can I ask that all parents/carers provide both appropriate sun hats and quality sunscreen for your children that are to remain at school at all times during the months May through to the end of September. This is necessary to ensure that your children always have access to the appropriate items that will help protect them from over exposure to UV during outdoor activities and break times - the majority of which are taken at the hottest times of the day, when UV penetration is at its strongest.

Sun hats should be either legionnaire or broad brimmed, bucket style hats that shade the face, neck and ears. Sunscreen should have a minimum sun protection factor (SPF) 30 with minimum 4 star UVA protection. Sunscreen will be applied by the children before extended periods of time outdoors such as lunch breaks when UV penetration is at its peak. Both these items should be labelled with your child's name and class and kept in school bags or trays.

We also have dispensers for sunscreen in school should children not have theirs on the day.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Can I thank everyone who has sent in Sainsbury's vouchers this year and remind anyone who may have any at home that we have to send in all our vouchers by Monday 27th June. We are looking to acquire another set of gymnastics mats this year with our vouchers.

Absence Procedures

Just a reminder of procedures if your child is absent from school. Could you please contact school before 9.30 am on the day of absence? There are several ways you can do this. You can ring and leave a message on the answering machine, please speak clearly, by email to admin@portwayj.derby.sch.uk or by sending a text message to +447786208889. Please provide the reason for absence, the child's name, class and your name. As a safeguarding procedure, if we don't hear anything, we will contact you to confirm the absence. If your child has diarrhoea and or sickness bug, the guidelines are 48 hours after the last episode before returning to school.

Procedures Before School

Can I please ask parents who stay with their children on the main path before school to ensure the children line up with the other children when the whistle is blown by the teacher on duty? Thanks for your help with this.

Parent/Co-opted Governor Vacancy

A vacancy for a parent / co-opted governor has arisen on the governing body. This could be filled by a parent or a member of the wider school community. This is a challenging but rewarding role. If you feel you would like to nominate yourself for this position, or you know someone who would be interested, please look out for the information and application pack which will go out next Friday.

TheGivingMachine

Thank you to all of you who have registered with TheGivingMachine to do their online shopping. Since joining the scheme we have raised £542.78. The way it works is you register online with www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk and nominate Portway Junior School. Then, every time you shop online with your usual retailers such as amazon, eBay, the big supermarkets, Next, Boots, in fact over 360 of the UK's leading retailers, Portway gets a free donation from the retailer. It doesn't cost you anymore and you don't have to buy anything you wouldn't normally buy. Just keep shopping online as you do already, via www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk, and at the same time you're raising money for our school. It really is that easy! In addition, once you have joined, you will receive emails with exclusive special offers and discounts from the top retailers.

French Lessons After School

There are places available for children to attend French lessons after school on Wednesday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. A small charge applies. For more information, please contact the office.

Dates

Mon Jun 6	Start Back (Clubs Start for 6 weeks)
Wed 15 Jun	Staff Governor Meeting
Fri 17 Jun	INSET Day
WC 27 Jun	Year 6 to PGL
Mon 4 Jul	New Y3 Induction Eve
Tue 5 Jul	Common Transfer Day
WC 4 Jul	Test Week 6
Thu 7 Jul	9.30am Sports Day (reserve Jul 8)
Wed 13 Jul	2.00pm Summer Musical Concert – Please note this date has changed from June
Tue 19 Jul	Reports Out
Wed 20 Jul	Last Swimming lesson for Year 4
Wed 20 Jul	6.30pm Y6 Leavers' Production
Mon 25 Jul	Parents Evening – Drop Ins
	6.00-7.30pm Y6 Leavers' BBQ and Disco (Please note date change)
Tue 26 Jul	End of Year

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