



PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Friday 6th November 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school for what is always a very busy, but very enjoyable, half term. As the clocks go back, and the mornings and evenings are darker, it is important to remember road safety on the journey to and from school. I have reminded the children about road safety in assembly before the half term break and I will repeat the message again this week. Will you please remind your children of the importance of road safety and point out the dangers on the roads at this time of year as statistics show that as the mornings and afternoons get darker accidents sadly increase.

SATS Results 2015

Every year the school receives a document from Ofsted called RAISEonline which is an analysis of the school's performance in the SATS tests. The tables below show some of the main messages coming out of RAISEonline this year.

Table 1

		Portway Junior School	Derby City	National
% Level 4 +	Maths	89%	84%	87%
	Reading	93%	87%	89%
	Writing	91%	83%	87%
	Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation	89%	76%	80%
% Level 5 +	Maths	48%	37%	42%
	Reading	61%	43%	48%
	Writing	51%	34%	36%
	Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation	74%	52%	56%

Table 2

	Portway Junior School	National
% Level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Maths combined	84%	80%
% Level 5+ in Reading, Writing and Maths combined	31%	24%

Table 3

	Portway Junior School	National
% of pupils making expected progress in Maths	96%	90%
% of pupils making expected progress in Reading	92%	91%
% of pupils making expected progress in Writing	97%	94%

You can see from Table 1 that our school's attainment was higher than local and national averages in every subject at Level 4 and 5. What is especially noteworthy again this year is the strong performance of children at Level 5 – the level awarded to higher attaining children.

Table 2 shows that the number of children who achieved

Level 4 and Level 5 in Reading, Writing and Maths combined is well above national averages. This shows that the overwhelming majority of children at our school go on to secondary school with the reading, writing and maths skills essential for success in their next stage of learning.

Table 3 shows pupil progress at our school compared with national rates of progress. Children's progress is measured from when they leave infants to when they leave our school (from the end of Key Stage 1 to the end of Key Stage 2). The government calls this 'Value Added'. In other words, how far we have moved children on in the four years they have been at Portway Junior School. This measure is the most important and it is the main measure Ofsted look for. Progress in maths is very good and is better than the national average. Progress in reading is similarly good and is also higher than the national average. Progress in writing is also very good this year and is above the national average. These results are, for another year, very positive. Our challenge now, as ever, is to maintain these standards year on year – especially now that end of Key Stage 2 tests will be changed and, consequently, the measures by which schools are judged are changed, too.

Year 4 Harvest Assembly

Well done to everyone in Year 4 for the Harvest Assembly which was such a success before half term. The children performed with confidence and were a credit to the school and their parents. The messages of being thankful for what you have and thinking about others came through clearly – well done Year 4. Thanks also to everyone for their contributions to the Padley Centre – they are gratefully received.

Online Payment System

Thank you for embracing our new online payment system and bearing with us whilst we get used to using the system and to get it to work best for us all! School meals are now available in the shop area by one meal, weekly or termly. If you are having problems using the system or haven't tried it yet and want help, please speak to the admin staff who will be happy to help.

PTFA Disco – Advance Notification

Tickets will be released to buy on our online payment system from 2.30pm on Monday 9th November. Tickets can also be available to buy by returning a reply slip and enclosing payment. The closing date to buy tickets is Monday 16th November. Tickets will be issued to children through the classroom on Monday 23rd November.

Portway Junior School, alongside Derby City Council, is committed to promoting equal opportunities, valuing diversity and tackling social exclusion in everything it does. Our aim is equality for everyone who lives, works and visits our school. Please contact the school, in the first instance, if you have any questions or concerns about school.

Sporting Successes

There have been some fantastic results for some of our sports teams. The girls football came through the Derby City tournament and qualified for the county finals which will be played next week at John Port School. They won every game in the group stage and won the semi-final convincingly. They narrowly lost the final to Oakwood School, 1-0, but as finalists qualified for the county finals. We wish you all good luck, girls.

In assembly today the Year 3&4 and Year 5&6 Girls' cross country teams received their shields for being City of Derby cross country champions. Very well done all you cross-country runners.

Are You Eligible for Free School Meals?

Children whose parents receive the following support payments are entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA - IB)
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA - IR)
- Child Tax Credits (but NOT Working Tax Credit), and your annual income is no more than £16,190.
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit element only)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

A form is available from the school office or our Website or on Derby City Council Website. If you do wish to apply for school meals the form should be sent to: Derby Benefits, Derby City Council, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS. For further information the Free School Meals team can be contacted by telephone 01332 255122 or by email freeschoolmeals@derby.gcsx.gov.uk. More Information can be found on <http://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

Parents Evenings

Parents evenings were attended very well again this term. 96% of parents came into school to discuss their child's learning and progress. I hope the new parents' evening slips are a useful reminder of what was said, and most importantly, clearly help you to help your child at home. I hope the leaflet on the new assessment procedures is useful, too. If you have mislaid your copy another can be downloaded from the school website. By the end of this term teachers will be using the data from assessments, and their knowledge of how your child has been performing in lessons, to make a judgement on which age and stage they assess them to be working at. This will be shared with you in the spring parents' evening.

Letters Home

From this week we will send letters home one per family where appropriate. The letters will be given to the eldest child. We will also start sending letters via email too. If we do not have an email address for you on file we will contact you shortly for you to provide one. All class teachers will remind children to take home their letters. Please help yourself to spare letters which are available from the reception area in labelled trays. Copies of letters are also available on the school's website in the latest news section. www.portwayjunior.com. Please have a look at the content on the website. You will find lots of useful, interesting and up – to – date information there.

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.

Last Call for the Walking Bus

A letter was sent out last half term to ask if parents would be interested in using a walking bus from the Woodlands pub to school in a morning. We have only had a very small number of people interested in this. Please get in touch with the office before the end of next week, 13th November, if you are interested.

Poppy Appeal

We begin selling Poppies and The Royal British Legion merchandise all next week.

Clothes Recycling

Please remember we are accepting 'good quality' items for recycling as a fundraiser for school as follows: men's, ladies' and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around), hats, bags, scarves and ties, lingerie, belts and soft toys. All bagged recycling can be handed into reception. If you need a large strong bag, these can be collected from reception.

Dates for your diary

Mon 2 Nov	Start Back
WC 9 Nov	Themed Week
Tue 10 Nov	Governor Visit Day
Thu 19 Nov	2.30pm Y2 Parents Introduction to Portway
Mon 23 Nov	INSET Day 3
Thurs 26 Nov	PTFA Disco
WC 7 Dec	Test Week 2
Dec 9 and 10	2.00pm Afternoon and 6.30pm Evening Christmas Productions
W.C. 14 Dec	Party Week
Tues 15 Dec	Christmas Dinner
Thu 17 Dec	11.00am Carol Service at Woodlands Church
Fri 18 Dec	Year 6 Charity Fair and break up.

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