



Portway Junior School Spring 1 2018 Round-up



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Spring Term round up. Lots have happened in such a short space of time and as always the children have risen to the challenges with their usual enthusiasm and determination. We have welcomed our new School Business Manager, Mr. Adey Greaves and the school is already seeing more modern solutions to our practices. The Anomaly boards are adding an additional layer of communication for parents and providing the children with a range of health and fitness activities at break times.

We also have a good bye to say this term as Mrs Holt is leaving us to take up a new post in Derbyshire. We wish her every success in her new role and thank her for her support of Portway Junior School, its staff, pupils and parents.

Next half term is very short so I have attached an updated diary for parents taking us through to the summer.

Karen Puszczynska and all the staff.

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Morning procedure:

This is working well and we have had a lot of positive feedback from parents. It has led to a calmer start to the day with children entering class as soon as they arrive. Lessons are able to start promptly at 9am as registers and dinners are already completed. The hustle and bustle at the beginning of the day has also been reduced which is very important for the children who found this stressful. Due to the staggered lunchtimes children are getting an additional Active 10 session either in classrooms or outside each day to ensure they get 'brain breaks' during the day. The use of the new meal booking system has also speeded up the process of booking meals and the children can now see what they are ordering.

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EVENTS IN SCHOOL THIS HALF TERM:

Team Captains Assemblies: The Team captains joined forces this half term to encourage the school to think creatively and to give them advice on how to get more team points. I was thrilled this week to send my first letter home for 250 team points!

Team captains recommended that extra points for the Times Tables Challenge will be given to show that it is an important achievement.

Fun-trition: Premier Sports are currently working with our Year 5 and Year 6 children on a 12 week programme about how to stay healthy. The children are looking at how to keep a healthy mind and body including food, sleep and exercise. After Easter the children in Year 3 and Year 4 will also complete the project.

The Great Portway Exhibition:

The children created and presented some amazing projects. They enjoyed sharing their work with parents and visitors and also enjoyed the opportunity to visit each other's classrooms to see all the different projects. Excellent learning everyone, well done.

Creative Portway

On Tuesday 6th February, following 5 weeks of rehearsals, Joseph Wright, Picasso and Miro classes went to perform at Derby Theatre with 5 other schools and Viva Sinfonia a number of songs entitled Mathematical Advantage. The children behaved impeccably and have been heard in the classroom and playground reciting the words to help them remember things such as prime numbers! They will now be teaching these to the rest of the school. Well done everyone.



We were visited by Troy Jenkinson, an author and head teacher, who read his book and talked to the children about his book and work.

Sport at Portway Juniors

We continue to access a wide range of sporting events and over the year all year groups will have an opportunity to take part in different events.

This term the children have competed the following events:

BOCCIA Plus - Team of 6 - won

Year 5/6 Girls football festival - Won 4 games and drew 1 game.

Year 6 boys football came 5th in the county finals.

Sports Hall Athletics Year 5/6

Badminton Festival - finished 4th

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Year 3/4 Gymnastics competition.

The children performed three routines: floor routine, body management and a vault. Portway A team achieved 1st place and Portway B team achieved 7th place out of 10 teams. Individually Lucy C (year 3) achieved 1st place and Meredith N-M achieved 3rd place (year 4) out of over 60 children from across Derby City.

PTFA:

The PTFA will be sending out their newsletter shortly along with information about upcoming events.

The PTFA work incredibly hard to raise additional funds for the school to enable the children to access additional, exciting learning opportunities. A major fund raiser is the School Fair. This year we are holding it in the Spring to give it a new twist. On **Thursday 8th March** the PTFA will have a dress down day in school for a donation to the Spring Fair. This could be chocolate, Easter eggs, bottles or something special to go in the hampers.

Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND PUPIL WELFARE

If you have any concerns about the safeguarding or welfare of any children at Portway Junior School please contact one of the Designated Safeguarding staff who are Mrs Puszczynska, Mrs Marks, Mrs O'Farrell and Mr Greaves.

The children have been involved in assemblies about: Show Racism the Red Card, Mental well-being (led by our Anti Stigma Ambassadors) and Safer Internet Day.



OWN IT

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit> Is a new website for 9-12 year olds to help them use the internet safely.

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Still to come...



This year for World Book Day we will be dressing up for a donation of £1. The money raised will go to buy new books for class libraries as we develop our range of books in school. We will also have a Blind Book Swap.

All you have to do is:

1. Pick a good quality book you no longer want.
2. Wrap it in plain paper.
3. Attach a sticker saying - What age it is for.
-3 words to describe it

An example could be 7-9 years, magical, funny, family. Please DO NOT put the title or author.

All the children will then get the chance to pick a book during the afternoon to take home. If you wish to send in more than one book, that would be brilliant.

DIARY DATES Spring 1 → Autumn 1

2018	
Fri 16th Feb	Chinese New Year – DOG Break Up (3.30pm)
Mon 26th Feb	School Starts 8.55am
Thurs 1st Mar	World Book Day: Dress up. Launch 100 million minutes Book Swap
Wed 7th Mar	Y3 Inspire FGB
Thurs 8th Mar	Dress down day for PTFA PTFA Craft afternoon Mothers' Day
Fri 9th Mar	INSET Day – No children in school
w/c 12th Mar	Kindness Week (Anti Bullying)
Fri 16th Mar	PTFA Spring Fair and Book Fair (15/3-22/3)
Mon 19th Mar	School Council visit Council House
Tues 20th Mar	Parents' Evening
Wed 21st Mar	Parents' Evening
Thurs 22nd Mar	Y3 Easter Assembly
Fri 23rd Mar	Easter Peg Hunt Break up (3.30pm)
Mon 9th April	School Starts 8.55am
Wed 18th April	Y5 Inspire

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Thurs 19 th April	PTFA: Disco
Fri 20 th April	Choir workshop with BBC singers
Mon 23 rd April	British Values Day
Wed 25 th April	FGB
Fri 27 th April	Strictly Sparkle Event
Tues 1 st May	Y5 Space Centre Visit
Mon 7 th May	Bank Holiday
w/c 14 th May	SATS WEEK
Thurs 17 th May	PTFA Fun Night
Tues 22 nd May	Class photos
Thurs 24 th May	Y5 assembly Break up (3.30pm)
Fri 25 th May	INSET Day
Mon 4 th June	School Starts 8.55am
Fri 8 th June	PTFA: Fathers' day gifts
w/c 11 th June	Community Garden Project Week
Wed 20 th June	Y6 Inspire
Thurs 21 st June	NSPCC Assembly
25 th /26 th June	NSPCC Workshops Y5/Y6
Fri 29 th June	NSPCC Sponsored Walk
Mon 2 nd July	SPORTS DAY + Picnic Y3 Transition meeting for parents 5pm
Tues 3 rd July	TRANSITION DAY
Wed 4 th July	Languages Day
Thurs 5 th July	Y6 Matinee 2pm Y6 Evening Performance 6pm
Wed 11 th July	FGB
Tues 24 th July	Portway's Got Talent
Wed 25 th July	Break Up (3.30pm)
Thurs 6 th Sept	Children back to school

Please note: Children will start back at school on **Thursday 6th September** at 8.55am.

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