



I often say time flies but the last 10 days have seemed much longer! Every day has been very different and it has been difficult to get into a pattern of working. Hopefully, this will start to improve now as we get used to providing face to face teaching for critical workers and supporting the vast majority of pupils at home. As we all know, achieving the correct balance of home learning is difficult. We have started to catch up with most families and, in the main, we know home learning via Google classrooms is working. Over the next couple of days we will get in contact with families that have not been able to engage online so that we can support them to do so. We also know it is hard get it right for all pupils, in terms of the home learning provision. We will continue to do our best to support you and the children at home, but please remember not to be too hard on yourselves if you are finding it tough. These are difficult and challenging times for us all and we have deliberately tried to plan our provision so that it is flexible and families can use it in a way that best suits them. The first and most important outcome of this situation is that we all survive (physically and mentally) during this pandemic so do try to be kind to yourself. As you know, kindness is very important to me and is one of the themes that runs through our school – and beyond. I heard a great quote this week and I wholeheartedly agree!

Mr D

“Kind people are my kind of people”



Remote Learning & Code of Conduct Earlier this week we sent home a code of conduct for remote learning. If you didn't see a copy then there is one on our website and the link is below. It is a useful reminder of learning expectations to ensure that your child makes the best possible progress whilst working at home. Children should check on Google Classroom each day to see the work that has been set for them. We have been asked to provide 4 hours of learning per day but this will include children practising their reading and times tables skills. For some, this amount of learning will be easy to achieve, but for others this will be more of a challenge. The key thing is to achieve as much as you can but try not to let it worry you too much. This is a very difficult time for everyone, especially parents & carers.

[Link to Code of Conduct for Remote Learning](#)

Assemblies & the Friday Message On Monday and Wednesday afternoons we will post an assembly on Google classrooms for pupils to access. The same assembly will be used for pupils in school. Mr D is continuing with his weekly video messages and the next one will be out on Friday. Each week he is going to set a challenge. This week he is asking children to gather a wide range of colourful items and take a picture of them. It could be random items, a theme or whatever you would like to do - be as creative as you like. We have already had several in and they are amazing! There may even be prizes! Photographs can be just of the item or include the pupils/families as well - but remember they may be shared online, as part of the weekly message, so please don't include pupils if you don't want them to appear. Please email the pictures portwaypics@gmail.com and Mr D will include some in the weekly message. The deadline is 8:00 pm on Thursday evening every week. The video explaining this week's challenge was posted on Monday afternoon on Google classrooms so you can go back and watch it again, if needed.



Devices for Home Learning We know devices at home are a challenge for a lot of parents. Despite being promised 40 Chromebooks from the government scheme we have been sent 8, although we have managed to secure another 14 so have 22 we can lend out to families who need them. We have been told that we will receive a few more but are still waiting for them. We have also had some very generous donations from parents and friends so we hope to boost the numbers of devices we have available. They will be mostly Chromebooks, as these are simple and ideal for accessing Google classrooms. If you would like to be considered for a device then please fill in the survey below. We will respond as soon as we can but some offers may have to wait until we receive more devices. The link to the survey is: [Chromebook Request](#)



Bags/Items from school The dining room is open 8:00-4:30 to collect any items from lockers/classrooms that were not taken home before the school was closed to most pupils. All items are on tables, labelled with the class name, so please feel free to pop in at any time and collect them, if needed.

Pupil Illness If your child is unwell, then it would still be useful to report to us. It will mean that staff will not worry if a pupil has not engaged in remote learning online. Many thanks.

Looking After Ourselves It is very easy to feel overwhelmed at the moment – and this goes for adults as well as children. BBC Bitesize have added some ideas this week on coping when you're feeling overwhelmed. They are intended for children but apply to us all. They can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zxdc3j6 and we have also included them in the wellbeing section on the front page of our website.

Thank you! We have said quite a lot recently that we have a very supportive school community and this week we have seen some more evidence of this! Parents and neighbours have been very proactive in helping us out and sharing things they have stumbled across. We've shared these below so that you are aware of our amazing community and can also benefit from the extra information shared.

You can use your Amazon Firestick to make Google Classroom more accessible, particularly if another person in the house also needs to use the laptop. One of our dads has sent in the instructions which have been sent home with the Press today – thank you!

Your iPhone has a scanner – a helpful tool if you struggle to get something uploaded to Google Classroom. Open the 'notes' app and start a new note. Press the camera icon at the bottom of the screen and select 'scan documents'. Then select 'keep scan' and 'save'. The document you've scanned then stays in your notes app and can be emailed in the usual way. Thank you to the dad who let us know about this.

We have been gifted a number of Chromebooks from another member of our school community and we are truly amazed and grateful for this generous donation and know that our children will benefit greatly as a result. We hope to have them available soon. Thank you VERY much!

One of our local residents, completely unconnected with our school, also got in touch and has donated a tablet to be used to help pupils access their learning remotely. Some of the pupils sent cards to say thank you.

Android phones will also scan documents via the Google Drive. In Google Drive click the plus button (bottom right) and click the scan button. Scan the document and click 'save'. Choose the correct google account (this could be your child's) in which to save the scan.

Tablets for Children was founded by local man Ryan Rawlinson. He set up a group to raise funds to purchase tablets for children to help them to learn remotely. We received 5 on Monday and are really grateful. If you'd like to donate towards this cause, please see the Facebook page [Tablets for Children](#).

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon Smile

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Due to the current situation, we looking at a very challenging budget, especially as some of our income streams (eg Portway Plus) have disappeared. However, you can help!

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon you can make a donation to our PTA? Log onto www.smile.amazon.co.uk and shop in your usual way and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price to the charitable organisation of your choice! Choose to support Portway Parent Teacher Association in Amazon Smile then our amazing PTA receives this as donations towards their fundraising!

So far, over **96%** of our pupils have been engaging with Google Classroom. That's a huge number and something definitely worth celebrating!

Well done to all the pupils for this and a special well done to parents for helping this to happen!

WELL DONE TO YEAR 3 FOR:

- Logging onto the registration videos and answering the questions asked.
- Presenting your work in books so neatly.
- Turning in a large amount of work – in a variety of subjects – for teachers to see.
- Letting us know how much you are enjoying Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx.

YOU'RE DOING REALLY WELL!

Well done to EVERYONE who completed activities from Hampshire School Games – keeping up our own physical fitness is important and will help us to feel good about what we do.

NICE GOING!

Celebrating Remote Learning



Google Classroom

Each week on the Portway Press we will be celebrating the work we have seen happening in Google Classroom and you will be able to read about that here!

WELL DONE TO YEAR 4 FOR:

- Logging on and checking registration videos for learning
- Enjoying the David Walliams topic and working so hard on this
- Turning in very good quality maths work, especially using your times tables.
- Enjoying the work on dream jars and Stormbreak and letting us know how you got on with this.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

WELL DONE TO YEAR 5 FOR:

- Checking registration videos for the day's tasks
- Responding to teacher's comments, improving work and resubmitting this.
- Engaging so well with 'How to Train Your Dragon'.
- Receiving such great support from older siblings and asking for help when you need it.

YOU'RE LEARNING FAST!

WELL DONE TO YEAR 6 FOR:

- Practising on TTRockstars and improving your scores.
- Turning in some deliciously sounding French menus.
- Writing good letters in the character of Sir Luckless and enjoying the reading of Beadle the Bard.
- Achieving high scores in the quizzes

NICE WORK!

And a final THANK YOU to all of our amazing staff who have done such a good job to make sure everyone had access to learning, something to learn and support and help to be able to manage it so well. We are so very glad to have you on our team!