

Parents Consultations Thank you to everyone for attending our Parent Consultations before half term. Hopefully the meetings will have given you a good understanding of how your children are getting along in school. As always, if you do have any questions or worries, then please do get in touch as soon as possible. The sooner we know, the sooner we can help.

Ofsted Yesterday we received our official Ofsted report and this, along with a headteacher letter, has been emailed to all parents. If you didn't receive your copy, please let a member of the admin team know. The published report will be uploaded to the school website over the next few days.

Open morning for Year 2 Parents – Thursday 21 November at 9:00am We are holding our usual Open Morning for parents of Year 2 pupils to come and visit us. Obviously most of the parents come from Portway Infant School but it is open to any Year 2 parents. If you know of anyone who would like to come along then please ask them to get in touch via the office. Parents can apply online from 1 November for a Year 3 place using the link [Year 3 Admissions](#). The closing date for applications is 15 January 2025.



**LET'S
JUST
BE
KIND.**
STOP BULLYING

Anti-Bullying Week To mark anti bullying week this week, we have used assembly time to explore this year's theme - which is called "choose respect" and what this looks like in school. The Anti Bullying Alliance message is for everyone - from parliament, in our homes, to our phones in order to bring an end to bullying which negatively impacts millions of young lives. This year, the focus is on empowering children to not resort to bullying, even when we disagree and, as part of this campaign, the Anti Bullying Alliance also reminds adults to lead by example, online and offline. *"Imagine a world where respect and kindness thrives — it's not just a dream, it's in the choices we make. Join us this Anti-Bullying Week and commit to 'Choose Respect'. What will you choose"* More info here: [Anti-Bullying Week](#)

Kylie Grimes visit We had a great time with Kylie Grimes last week and really enjoyed hearing her story of resilience, determination and success. Please see below for a full report and some photos.

Christmas Dates Our Christmas Carol service dates are now confirmed and below and will start just after Children have been dropped off in school. Both services will be held in the school hall and space will be at a premium so we will be exploring ways in which we can manage this, whilst still giving everyone the opportunity to attend.



Christmas lunch is on Thursday 19 December and should be ordered online using SchoolGrid. Meals can be ordered now.

Miss Windross

Pop in to our Book Fair to buy a book - ideal for a Christmas gift!



Tues 26 Nov - Tues 3 Dec
3:00 - 4:00 in the junior hall



(access from the side doors) Cash and card taken.

Parents / Carers / Grandparents of Year 4

Year 4 would like to invite their parents and grandparents to join them on Thursday 19 December at 3pm for a lantern parade in the hall as a finale of their DT project!



See you there!



NUTS AND NUT-BASED PRODUCTS

Like virtually all schools, we have been nut-free for a while and we have several pupils with very severe allergies. It is vital that no nuts or products containing nuts are brought into school at all. This includes products like peanut butter and nutella in packed lunches. We really appreciate your support.

Key Dates

Wed 20 Nov	Pupil flu vaccinations
Mon 25 - Fri 29 Nov	Avon Tyrrell residential for Y6 pupils
Tues 26 Nov - Tue 3 Dec	Book Fair - details coming soon!
Wed 18 Dec 9am	Year 5 & 6 Carol Services
Thur 19 Dec 9am	Year 3 & 4 Carol Services
Fri 20 Dec at 1.15pm	School stops for Christmas holidays
Mon 6 Jan	Spring term starts for all pupils
Wed 29 - Fri 31 Jan	Hooke Court residential for Y4 pupils



REMINDER



PTA AGM 15 Nov 2024 at 3:30

in the junior hall. All welcome!

The agenda is available on the PTA page of our website - click [HERE](#).

Childcare provided in Rabbit Class 

Christmas Carol Services

Our Carol Services this year will take place on the following dates:



Year 5 & 6 - Wednesday 18 December
9:10am

Year 3 & 4 - Thursday 19 December
9:10am

Both services will be held in the school hall and will begin at 9:10am. These services are our celebration of Christmas with whole school songs, carols for everyone to join in with and readings that tell the story of Christmas. We are hoping to be joined by a local vicar to help us celebrate Christmas.

Attendance Rules

There are updated rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance or otherwise. Don't get caught out!

I'm a single parent of one child and I want to go on holiday for 5 days or more.

Let the school know before you book anything and make sure you use the absence request form. A holiday **will not** be authorised. If your child misses at least 5 school days, you'll receive a penalty notice fine. This fine is per child, per parent.



1 parent & 1 child = £80 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days

1 parent & 2 children = £160 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £320 if paid between 21 and 28 days

For a family of 2 parents & 2 children



£80



£80



£320 if paid within 21 days
Increases to £640 if paid between 21 and 28 days



£80



£80

What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook? Foreign mobile dial tone? Home visit shows no-one is at home? Amazing sun tan?

Children talking about your holiday?



Please don't be offended if we ask these questions or ask for evidence - we're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

What about subsequent attendance? Is it still the same penalty amount?

No! If you have a second holiday in a rolling 3-year period you will receive a higher fine of £160 per child per parent. If you have a third holiday in a rolling 3-year period there is an immediate referral for prosecution.

2nd TIME

2 parents and ...

1 child = £320

2 children = £640

3 children = £960

No discount for early payment!

3rd TIME

A penalty notice will **not be** given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & 2 children = £5000

2 parents & 2 children = £10000

What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?

Yes! If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to consider penalty notice / prosecution



So, half a day here and a day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks. If unauthorised then it would be a penalty notice. Remember 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon)

What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member's birthday
Shopping for uniforms
Inadequate clothing for school
Child being used as a carer
Problems with transport

Family holidays
Sickness of parent or sibling
Sibling's school closed
Refusing to attend but able to
Poor family organisation
No absence request completed.

Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a GP surgery is given.



EVERY DAY COUNTS - ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Sponsored Event with Paralympian Kylie Grimes

The visit from our athlete Kylie Grimes was a great success with lots of respect, positive attitudes and fun shown by all participants. It was a busy day that went well and everybody loved it.



Some great encouragement, one of our school values, was shown by lots of individuals and Kylie had a lot of fun with us too!



We had 4 courses set up which were all to make our bodies work to the limit. These were shoulder taps, spotty dogs, jumping jacks and squat jumps. These exercises all work different parts of the body and can benefit anyone who does them just once a day. This was a huge success and on the day the non-stop relay of activities worked so well.

All of us at Portway Junior found Kylie Grimes to be such an inspiration - we were all hanging on her every word during assembly! The fact that, despite a horrific accident leaving her paralysed from the chest down, didn't stop her achieving amazing things in Paralympic sport, namely wheelchair rugby is amazing. We can all learn a lot from her resilience, courage and determination.

Thank you for supporting us with your sponsorship. We are hoping to raise a lot of money that we will spend in school on improving our school provision of sport and PE.

Below are some photos of the day.

Sam, Rabbit Class



ParalympicsGB



Positivity

Resilience

Integrity

Dedication

Encouragement