

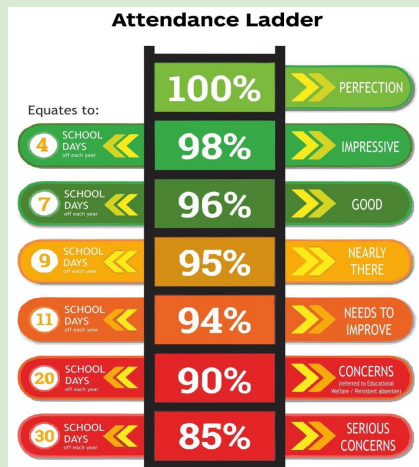
Attendance We understand the importance of children attending school consistently and the impact it can have on their learning when they don't. Research has shown that, of those pupils who miss between 10 and 15% of days in school, only 36% go on to achieve a Grade 9 to 5 at GCSE, compared to 75% of pupils with over 95% attendance. The government have also changed the definition of what it means to be persistently absent so, if a child falls below 90% attendance, they are regarded as being persistently absent from school. At this level there is an expectation that schools will take further action, which can include involving the legal team if attendance does not improve.

While 90% may sound like a good attendance level (I'm sure we'd all be delighted to get 90% in a test for example!) what this means is a child missing 20 days of school – the equivalent of 4 school weeks. Again, it may be that this doesn't seem too bad but, if we put that in the context of adults at work, missing 20 days would not go down well.

Lateness can lead to a child being marked as absent so it is important that children arrive at school for registration at 8:50am. The register 'closes' at 9:00am, so any child arriving after this time will be marked as 'late after the register has closed'.

We expect parents to support us by not taking children out of school during term time. Absence due to holidays during term time cannot be authorised. Absence that exceeds 10 sessions (5 school days), will result in a penalty notice (fine) being issued. The fine is issued to each parent (even in split families) and for each of the children in a family. It should also be pointed out that our attendance policy also allows us to fine if a parent has called a child in 'sick' but it becomes apparent that they have actually been on holiday. We would also rather this doesn't happen, as it puts the child in an awkward position of having to 'fib' about where they have been.

Following up on attendance issues thoroughly is crucial for schools and we take these responsibilities seriously. All Hampshire schools are expected to abide by these procedures. Thank you for your support with this.



Covid Guidance We have received updated guidance from the government about Covid. It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for Covid-19 unless directed too by a medical professional. If your child has a sore throat and/or a runny nose, or a mild cough but are otherwise well, they may attend school as normal. There is no requirement to isolate.

Dress Down Day for Diabetes Charity

Don't forget that Friday is dress down day - with an outdoors theme - for the donation of £1. All money raised goes to JDRF and their work with people who have type 1 Diabetes. Our donation will be given through the Trapnell family who are climbing Kilimanjaro next month to raise awareness. Children should bring in £1 cash so we can pass this on. If you would like to sponsor directly then please use the link here: [Team Trapnell and Kilimanjaro](#).



Parent Consultations Please don't forget to book your Parent Consultation appointments for tonight and tomorrow. With just 87% of appointment taken, there are still some slots available. Please see your email from SchoolCloud to book a time.

A Governor's Gift

You will know that governors play an important role in the life of our school and we are very grateful for the support they offer. One of our governors was a lovely chap called Alan Cotter. Alan was an ardent supporter of Portway Junior School for a significant number of years and held the role of Vice Chair of Governors. He played an essential role in our school and was passionate about children's education. He firmly believed in the power of nature and the outdoors as a positive influence on children and young people; he would have loved our Forest Schools offer! Sadly Alan passed away last year, after a period of illness. In his will he left a gift for the pupils of Portway Junior School - a significant financial donation with the request that it is used for developing our pupils' experience and understanding of the natural world. We are very grateful to Alan, for all that he achieved and championed for our school and we still miss him very much from the governing board. We intend to spend his gift to us developing our Forest Schools area in memory and honour of him. We'll share our developments when we can.



Miss Windross

Year 4 Hooke Court

Please remember to inform us of your child's medical information and emergency contact information whilst we are away. Please [click here](#) if you did not receive the google form and please complete it as thoroughly as you can. Thank you

Free workshop for all parents and carers ...

We live in challenging times regarding our use of technology and all have a duty to our children to ensure they are always safe online as so much of what can be accessed is unsuitable. As the term has progressed, we have had several incidents where children's access to and use of the internet has concerned us. In some instances we have referred our concerns further to Children's Services.

It can be very difficult to keep up with what is changing and developing and we are always looking out for resources and guidance to support pupils and parents in this essential area. We believe this subject to be so important that we have purchased some training and are offering a **free workshop to all parents** on **28.11.23** at **3:30pm** in the junior school hall.

We will be joined by Lorraine Lee - a professional parenting and child development specialist. The workshop is called '**Laying Strong Foundations for Children and Technology**' and we will be issuing free tickets for all parents to attend and providing some childcare for junior children to enable parents to attend.

In the run up to Christmas, we know that many children may receive gifts that enable them to get online and this workshop is ideal for parents to be able to manage this safely and intelligently. We will be issuing tickets soon and look forward to seeing you there!

And a Year 6 Workshop too ...

Whilst Lorraine is with us, she will also be running a workshop for all of our Year 6 pupils.

This will take place in the afternoon and will focus on using technology positively. We believe this will help our pupils to understand the risks and to make good choices with their technology. We also believe this will put them in a strong position for starting secondary school.

Our Year 6s will then share their learning with the wider school in the form of an assembly about being safe online.



- This is a FREE PTA event, Simply bring in a decorated pumpkin during the week of 16th October

All Entries must be received no later than Thursday 19th October for judging on 20th October

- Pumpkins can be decorated any way you choose (painted, carved, etc) but must not feature any sharp or dangerous objects. Please include your name and class at the bottom of your pumpkin

- Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories. Please ensure you collect your pumpkin after school on Friday 20th October

Year 7 secondary school places: This is a reminder that the deadline for applying for a place at secondary school is fast approaching and is Tuesday 31st October. Parents are asked to name three schools to give them the best chance at securing a place at one of their preferred schools. If you have submitted your application but haven't listed 3 schools, you can log back into the Schools Admissions System at any time to update your preferences before the deadline. If you have yet to apply, you can do so online [HERE](#) or you can request paper forms by emailing admissions.team@hants.gov.uk or from any Hampshire school.

Parents who applied online and on time, will be notified of the outcome of their application on 1 March 2024, and two or three days later if they applied using a paper form. For more information about the admissions process, please visit the [County Council's website](#).

Key Dates

18th & 19th Oct	Parent Consultation Meetings
23rd - 27th Oct	Autumn half term holiday
Mon 13th Nov	Individual pupil photographs
Tues 14th Nov	Pupil flu immunisations
22nd - 24th Nov	Y4 Hooke Court residential trip
28th Nov	Parent Online Technology Workshop 3:30pm
Fri 15th Dec	School finishes for Christmas holidays
Tuesday 2nd Jan	School closed to pupils for staff training
Wed 3rd Jan	Spring term starts for all pupils

DATES TO REMEMBER

Inset dates for 2023/2024

Friday 1st September	Monday 6th November
Tuesday 2nd January	Friday 23rd February
	Monday 3rd June

Positivity

Resilience

Integrity

Dedication

Encouragement

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online; listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday