

Welcome Back It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to the new school year and lovely to see the children coming back so cheerfully and looking so smart in school uniform. We have also welcomed a number of new staff to the team: Mrs Knight as a teacher



in Year 4; Mr Pearmain as our new Forest Schools lead; Mrs Hutchinson as a TA in Year 3 and Mrs Dinkele and Mrs Christopher as TAs in Year 4. We also welcome Mr Macdonald as Inclusion Officer and Miss Miall as a Senior Admin Assistant. We are excited about growing the excellent team at Portway and are looking forward to this year together.

Uniform and timings A reminder of our uniform expectations is on the other side of this newsletter and, at the Start the Year meetings, further information will be given from year teams about PE days etc. Our 'soft opening' is no longer operating and children are expected to arrive in school to start by 8:50. The junior school day finishes at 3:20pm and children can be collected from the classroom or you can arrange to meet them elsewhere on site. If you are meeting your child elsewhere, please ensure that they know to return to the junior school office if, for any reason, they can't find you.



Portway Press The Press is the junior school newsletter which is published each fortnight, always on a Wednesday. This is our main form of communication with parents so it is important that it's received and read. If you don't receive a copy via email then do let the Admin Team know and they will ensure you do. The Press contains important information for parents about what is happening in school and shares key dates about things like parent consultation evenings etc. It may also contain

reports written by pupils about their learning and events that have happened in school. The Press is always published on our website and can be found under the 'News and Events' tab.

New website Over the last year we have been working very hard with iCandy in Andover to produce a new website and we are pleased that this will go live over the next couple of days. The web address remains the same - www.portwayjunior.net. The website contains important information about our school and is something that we can easily add to so that we can keep everyone up to date with our news and events. The new website is also more user friendly and easier to navigate using mobile devices too - we hope you enjoy browsing through it.



Values & a Visitor Hopefully your children have been able to talk to you about our school values. These include Ready, Respectful, Safe as our behaviour values but also **Positivity, Resilience, Integrity, Dedication and Encouragement** as our learning values - also known as PRIDE. Over the last year, as a school community, we have identified these values as important to our success and, as we go through this year, we will be focusing on each PRIDE value in turn so that we can be the pride of our school community and proud of our achievements.

Our first value to focus on this term is resilience and later we'll share more information about this. We are excited to be enjoying a visit later this month from Mike Mullen and one of his colleagues, to learn more about resilience and developing a growth mindset. Mike is a World and UK Halfpipe champion on BMX and we are very much looking forward to learning from him.

Start the Year meetings and Coffee Mornings It was good to see so many parents at the Year 3 & 5 Start the Year meetings on Tuesday. For parents of pupils in Years 4 & 6, the Start the Year meeting is this Thursday at 5:30pm. The meetings are a good opportunity to meet the year team and to hear more about the learning your children will be doing, as well as to find out more about PE dates and any trips etc. Our Coffee Mornings are an opportunity to just pop in and have a cuppa and chat with your child's teacher. The dates and times for these are below. (Please note that, due to a clash with swimming, the Year 5 & 6 dates have changed slightly)

Speaking to staff Our staff are always happy to meet with parents and to help with any worries you may have. For things that can be dealt with quickly, a brief chat at the classroom door at the beginning or end of the day may suffice. Please be aware though that, at these times, staff are responsible for the children coming into class and, at the end of the day, will also have meetings and clubs to attend. Therefore, if you require a bit longer to chat, please contact the school office (adminoffice@portway-jun.hants.sch.uk) and the admin team will be happy to arrange an appointment for you. The class teacher should be your first point of contact about all matters.

After school clubs We are currently organising these within school and will be sending information home shortly

Some staffing news Right at the end of last term, we said goodbye to Mr Munoz who left us to join a new school as a teacher. Although we were sad to say goodbye, we know that Mr Munoz will be a fabulous addition to his new school. Mrs Staff is also absent from school for a while following her hip replacement operation. The good news is that she is recovering well and will remain with us until Christmas. Whilst Mrs Staff is absent, Miss Brenland will be stepping up to fulfil this role for us.

Miss Windross

Absence: If your child is absent from school for any reason, then please ensure you call the school office to let us know as soon as possible and preferably by 10am. Messages can be left on the school answering machine by selecting '2' after the automated message. Any absence from school should also be followed up with a note when your child returns to school. Pupils' attendance at school is very important to us - and to the children - we will always follow up any absences as thoroughly as possible. Your help with this is much appreciated.

Key Dates

Tues 5th Sept	Start the Year meeting for Years 3 & 5
Thurs 7th Sept	Start the Year meetings for Years 4 & 6
Coffee mornings for all classes	
Wed 13th Sept	Y5 swimming starts for 6 weeks
25- 27th Sept	Resilience workshops for all pupils
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
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

Autumn Term Cuppa & Chat

- Meet the teacher
- Chat about how children have settled in
- Ask any questions

Parents should drop children off and then come to the hall - 8:45 -10:00am

Fox Class (Miss Weldon) - 11th September
 Bat Class (Mrs Wassell) - 12th September
 Owl Class (Miss Thomson) - 13th September
 Hare Class (Mrs Parkinson) - 14th September
 Kite Class (Mrs Knight) - 15th September
 Deer class (Mrs Donnelly) - 18th September

All Year 5 classes (Raven, Otter & Finch) - **21st September**

All Year 6 classes (Rabbit, Badger, Falcon & Magpie) - **20th September**

Inset dates for 2023/2024

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

Scopay: Please ensure that there is always enough credit on your Scopay account before your child orders school dinners. If, for any reason, you are having trouble accessing Scopay, please contact the school office and they will be happy to help.

Girls' School Uniform from September 2023

Winter Uniform

Summer Uniform

Black or grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers

Blue and white summer dress (optional)

Pale blue polo shirt

School sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece

Black shoes & dark or white socks/tights

Black shoes & dark or white socks

Boys' School Uniform from September 2023

Winter Uniform

Summer Uniform

Black or grey trousers

Black or grey short trousers (optional)

Pale blue polo shirt

Pale blue polo shirt

School sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece

School sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece

Black shoes & dark socks

Black shoes & dark socks

PE Uniform from September 2023

Pale blue round necked T-shirt

Royal blue PE shorts

A tracksuit should be worn in winter - plain blue/black and for sport rather than fashion

Trainers or black plimsolls

Our branded jumpers, cardigans and polo shirts are available for purchase from Stitch-a-logo or Happy Fish - click the links below to order.

[Stitch-a-logo](#)

[Happy Fish](#)

As a school, we also hold a large amount of pre-loved uniform which is in good condition and will be able to be purchased at PTA uniform sales.

Items such as summer dresses, plain trousers/shorts/school skirts and unbranded polo shirts can be purchased in shops such as Tesco, Asda and Sainsburys.

Uniform reminder: please remember that jewellery is not part of appropriate school uniform. Any earrings worn in school must be studs only and must be able to be removed (or covered with tape) for PE lessons. Necklaces, bracelets and other jewellery are not allowed.

Positivity

Resilience

Integrity

Dedication

Encouragement