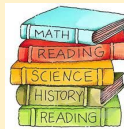


Very occasionally we have a few extra bits of information or reminders to share that won't wait until our next full Portway Press. Please see the information below for our 'End of Spring Term UpDate'. Thank you

Homework update: We want all our children to understand and remember what they learn in school, so they can use it in all subjects and in their everyday lives and we want to see all of them make great progress.

Research shows that homework can really boost a child's learning. In primary school, it can add about three months' worth of progress, and even more in secondary school. That's why we believe setting effective homework now is so important. Not only does it help your child learn better today, but it also prepares them for success in secondary school by building good study habits. We have been revising our approach to homework and, in the summer term will be introducing this ready for a full launch in the new academic year.



What We're Keeping:

- **Reading & Times Tables:** practising reading & times tables, at least 4 times a week is crucial.
- **Weekly Homework:** Homework will be assigned every week
- **Homework Clubs:** We'll still offer homework clubs for children who prefer to work at school or need extra support.

What We're Changing to Help Your Child Even More:

- **Focused Homework:** Instead of a menu of optional projects, we'll focus on weekly Maths and English tasks to target the most important skills.
- **Homework Books:** Your child will complete their homework in a special exercise book, which will be brought back to school for checking. **It should be in school everyday.**
- **Consistent routine:** Homework will be given out every Thursday and due the following Thursday, for all year groups.
- **Time Limit:** We ask that your child spend 30-45 minutes on their homework. After that, they should stop. This helps us see what they can achieve in a reasonable amount of time.
- **Reinforcing Learning:** Homework will help your child practice and remember what they've already learned in class.
- **Digital Resources:** We'll continue to use Google Classroom to share any texts for reading so we can reduce paper use. If you require a paper copy, please ask your child's class teacher.

What You Can Do to Help:

- Encourage your child to read daily.
 - Help them find a quiet space to do their homework and remind them to work for 30-45 minutes and then stop.
 - Check Google Classroom for any reading materials or questions & encourage them in fun and creative ways
- We believe these changes will help your child get the most out of their homework and achieve their full potential. Thank you for your support!



Mobile phones in school As mentioned in the Press on 12 March, please see the permission form attached with this email to allow your child to bring a mobile phone to school. Any misuse of a mobile phone on school grounds may result in it being confiscated and returned only to a parent. If your child is required to bring a mobile phone to school then this form must be completed and returned. Please note this guidance does not apply to pupils who use their phones for medical purposes, e.g. diabetic apps.

School Council Easter Egg Hunt Our School Councillors, along with Mr Crocker, have arranged an Easter Egg Hunt on the junior school site on Friday 4 April. Thank you to everyone who signed up on the Google Form - you must be registered on our form by the **end of today** to participate. If you're coming, please meet Mr Crocker and the School Council on the playground.



Housepoint Winners The winners of our Housepoint competition this term are Earth House (green) - congratulations to everyone! If your child is a member of the winning house, they can come to school on Friday 4 April in their own clothes and will win an iced bun as a breaktime snack. (All other children must wear school uniform)



Staffing update At the end of this term, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Hall-Cooper and Miss Bissell. Mrs Hall-Cooper and Miss Bissell are leaving us to explore new career paths and we'll miss them very much. We wish them lots of success for their new adventures. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Finlay-Black, who is leaving us to take up a new role elsewhere. Although we are sad to see her go, we wish her the very best in her new role. Parents of pupils in Finch and Magpie should have already received a letter informing them of the new staffing arrangements moving forward. Please let the Admin Team know if this has not been the case.

Miss Simons also begins a secondment at her new school next term - they are very keen to start working with her! She will be working there mostly mornings. This means that she will be at Portway each afternoon and more likely to be on the gate at the end of the day so you can catch up with her then.

Once again we thank you for your support throughout what has been another busy and exciting term. We wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Tuesday 22 April.

Miss Windross

Come & join the team! We need a cleaner to help us keep our school in tip top condition. Full details can be found in our advert: [Cleaner to join Portway Junior](#) Closing date is 21.4.25