



Portobello Primary School
Weekly Newsletter
24th November 2023



Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly this week celebrated children who have shown "curiosity". Well done to the following children:

Reception: Teddy **Year 1:** Franky **Year 2:** Lila **Year 3:** Jack
Year 4: Callum **Year 5:** Iona **Year 6:** George

Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 95.5%

Well done to Year 4 for best attendance this week at 97%!

Attendance raffle

Remember, the 100% attendance raffle has restarted so all children will be entered back into the draw. **BUT they need to be in to win!**

Dates for Diary

- Y2 - A Christmas Journey at Birtley Methodist Mon 4th Dec
- Y5 trip to Parliament - Monday 4th Dec
- Flu vaccination - Tuesday 5th Dec - whole school
- Choir singing at Morrisons - Tues 5th Dec - timings to follow
- Christmas Film Club - Wed 6th Dec (after school Y1 to Y6) - details to follow
- Reception Panto Trip - Thursday 7th Dec
- Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day - Thur 7th Dec (£1 donation for charity)
- School Fayre - Fri 8th December - start time 2pm (donations required/details below)
- KS2 Xmas show - 2pm Mon 11th Dec
- KS2 Xmas show - 9.30am Tues 12th Dec
- Reception to Y2 Xmas show - 2pm Tues 12th Dec
- Reception to Y2 Xmas show - 9.30am Wed 13th Dec
- Whole School Xmas Dinner - Wed 13th Dec
- Annual Xmas Shop - Monday 18th Dec pupil only event - donations required/details below
- KS2 Xmas parties - Tues 19th Dec PM
- Reception to Y2 Xmas parties - Wed 20th Dec PM
- Y1 to Y6 Panto Trip - Thursday 21st Dec - non uniform/party clothes
- Break up for Xmas Friday 22nd Dec - Xmas Jumper day/non uniform!
- Inset day Monday 8th January - pupils return Tuesday 9th January 24

Reader of the Week Award

Celebrating our school's passion for reading! A huge congratulations to this week's school reading award winners. We are delighted to introduce this week's star readers:

Reception

Bella
 Jessica

Year 1

Mia
 Ellie

Year 2

Dylan
 Heidi

Year 3

Robert
 Lucy

Year 4

Maisie
 Isla

Year 5

Hollie
 Alisa

Year 6

Maddy
 Sam



BIG AWARD
awarded by the Education Endowment Foundation



MUSIC MARK
 SCHOOL





Portobello Primary School
Weekly Newsletter
24th November 2023



Christmas Costumes

Might you have any good quality nativity type costumes or dressy up costumes which are too small for your child/children (ages 4 years and up over) maybe hiding in a cupboard, that you no longer need? We could likely use them for our performances this year or in future years. If you have any to donate, would you please send them into school, any unwanted costumes can be brought in either before or after the Christmas plays. Thanks to parents/carers who have already dropped some into us, we greatly appreciate them!

Portobello Parent/Carer Fundraising Committee

Are you interested in joining our school fundraising committee? Can you give up a few hours of your time across the year to support events such as after school film nights/discos, or help on a stand at our school fayres or by supporting charitable fundraising efforts? We meet up to four times a year to plan events and spread the word too? We currently have parent members from Y6, If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with Mrs Lister we would very much welcome new parents/carers to join our existing wonderful team.



Children in Need

We raised a total of £239 for children in need. Thank you for your kind donations.



Poppy Appeal

During the week beginning 6th November, children from our School Council sold items in school on behalf of The Royal British Legion. This year, with the help of your generous donations we managed to raise a fantastic amount of £361.67 our biggest total yet!

The School Council would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for supporting the poppy appeal.



Help save money and the environment at Gateshead's first pop-up Reuse Shop

The Waste and Recycling Visitor Education Centre in Wrekenton is hosting its first pop-up Reuse Shop between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 25 November. Head along to browse and buy from a vast range of pre-loved items at very affordable prices.

[Help save money and the environment at Gateshead's first pop-up Reuse Shop - Gateshead Council](#)

Easy Fundraising

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Portobello Primary School with #easyfundraising!

If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 8,100 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you!

Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today.

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/portobellopri/sch/N7TLL/at/TSX8RX7z/RTND2/facebook/>

PE KIT reminder

Could all parents/carers please ensure that their child has both an INDOOR and OUTDOOR PE kit in school from Monday-Friday each week.

Children may still be taking part in PE lessons outdoors in the colder weather, so it is vital that all children have the correct kit in school for their lessons.

Indoor PE kit:

- white t-shirt - black/navy shorts- trainers- bobble for long hair

Outdoor PE kit:

- black/navy hoodie or jumper- black/navy joggers or tracksuit bottoms- trainers (separate from school shoes)- bobble for long hair. The kits can be sent in separate bags, or all in one if possible?



Our Annual Pupil Christmas Shopping Experience Christmas Shop Donations Required

Our school council would like to set up a Christmas Shop with a buy a gift & wrap service in school on Monday 18th December. All pupils, should they wish to take part, will be able to choose and buy a gift for a loved one for £2.00 - this gift would then be wrapped and addressed to a loved one to open at Christmas.



Can you help? We have 194 wonderful pupils in our school - we therefore need 194 donated gifts which we can display in our shop, from which a child will choose one and it will then be wrapped and tagged ready to bring home.

Donated gifts can be for all ages (no alcohol products allowed) - do you have any new unwanted gifts to donate to school - a bath bomb, bubble bath, a candle, sweets, any unused soft toys/games, a pack of playing cards, books, colouring items, packets of seeds for a garden maybe, a scarf or a cotton hanky even. The choices are endless.

Staff will be on hand to carefully help our school council wrap up each gift and each pupil buying a gift for £2.00 will write their gift tag or get support doing so.

Donations to be with us by Wednesday 13th December please.

The gift of giving for just £2 is cheaper than the shops and a lovely experience for the children to choose something by themselves for a loved one too.

Christmas Fayre Donations

Christmas Fayre in school Friday 8th December 2pm - all welcome

We will be holding a tombola stall, a bottle stall, Xmas crafts (made by the children), Guess the weight of the Xmas cake, Guess the name of the Teddy, there will be a hamper raffle, children's temporary tattoo stand, and other exciting things happening too.

If you or a friend would like to have a stall to sell any Xmassy items, please get in touch and let us know.

NB:

- Reception - Please donate the following: chocolate items
- KS1 - Year 1 Year 2 - Please donate the following: sweets/cakes
- KS2 - Year 3 Year 4 - Please donate the following: toiletries
- KS2 - Year 5 Year 6 - Please donate the following: Bottles - can be alcoholic/non-alcoholic

Can we please have donations into school by Monday 4th December!



School Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 13th December.

If your child usually has a packed lunch and you would like to order a Christmas school meal, please let the office know and make a payment via ParentPay.

To advise no other meal option is available on this day.

Christmas 2023



PUPILS MENU



~
**Roast Turkey Breast with Mini Chipolata,
Stuffing, Roasted and Creamed Potatoes,
Peas & Carrots and
Gravy**

~
**Quorn Fillet with Mini Veggie Sausage Roast
and Creamed Potatoes, Carrots & Peas and
Gravy (V) ***

~
**Festive Treats: Handmade Festive
Shortbreads, Cookies, Biscuits, Muffins and
Cupcakes**



Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE



Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS



If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS



Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS



Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL



It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS



Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS



A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD



Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE



Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday