



Portobello Primary School
Weekly Newsletter
30th Sept 2022



Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly this week celebrated those children who have "been curious" this week. Well done to the following children:

Reception: Ethan **Year 1:** Ellyse **Year 2:** Alfie **Year 3:** Jessica

Year 4: Lucas **Year 5:** Oliver **Year 6:** Benjamin

Parental Fundraising Committee

We are very lucky to have a very active and friendly fundraising committee who before lockdown enabled us to run some extraordinary events. Now we are 'back to business' the group are reforming and have three vacancies for any interested parents or carers in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

Roles and responsibilities are:

- To meet at school once per half term
- To discuss fundraising ideas
- To be involved and help out with the planning and organising of pupil events such as: discos, film club, sponsored events, festivals and fayres
- To act as ambassadors for Portobello Primary School
- To keep other parents and carers informed of events

If you think you could help, please contact Mrs Lister in the school office.

Earrings

We do not allow children to wear earrings in school. Please remove your child's earrings before school to avoid being asked to come in and do it.

Key Stage 2 Parents and Carers

When picking up your children at the end of the day we would be grateful if you could supervise younger children at all times and leave the yard as soon as your child is safely in your care. This will enable us to get the Year 5 and 6 children, who have permission to walk home themselves, on their journeys home more promptly. Thank you for your co-operation.

Team Portobello school sport news

Another good week in the league for our Year 5/6 boys football team. They played really well in the first game, coming away with a 5-1 win and then drew 0-0 with another strong team at the end. We have one more week of boys' football for this part of the league!

Our Year 6 Girls footballers were also in action in the league and a tournament this week! They played fantastically well in their league matches, coming away with 3 wins out of 3! Not only that, but they played extremely well in the Gateshead Power League tournament on Wednesday, where they scored an impressive 17 goals, kept a clean sheet throughout and came away as winners overall! Gold medals all-round, well-done girls!

Macmillan Coffee Morning - **Friday 30th September**

Thank you for your support today, we have raised £71.35

After school clubs

Can we please ask all parents/carers to collect children on time, KS1 Year 1 & 2 - 4pm and KS2 Year 3 to Year 6 - 4.15pm.



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Warm Spaces this Winter

There is a cost-of-living crisis in the UK resulting in unprecedented pressures on people already in poverty, and this winter despite the support given by Government, thousands of people in Gateshead will be forced to make tough decisions about when and what they eat, what they can do in life, and when they can afford to heat their home.

Gateshead wants to do more to help its residents, in doing so they have created a network of Warm Spaces, a group of places where Gateshead people can come together to stay warm, perhaps enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit.

There is a directory of all the places available to all residents across the public, private, health and voluntary sectors so that anyone who is cold knows where they can go to get warm, stay warm and enjoy a little company and some hot refreshments. Birtley's warm Spaces this Winter can be found on the link below: if you would like a printed copy, please let us know.

[Warm Spaces directory - Gateshead Council](#)

Gateshead Autism Information Hub dates for October 2022

Friday 7th October - parent/carer support group meeting 9.30 to 11.30am

Monday 10th October - drop-in session 9.30 to 11.30am, with professionals from SEND, Transitions, Early Years (all Gateshead Council), and Mo Stewart SALT and Shona Chambers (Sleep Counsellor) from Contact.

Wednesday 19th October - virtual parent/carer support group on Zoom 7.00 to 8.30pm

Thursday 20th October - walking group - details tba.

For further details please contact karen.thirlaway@blueyonder.co.uk

Reception Admissions for September 2023

You are warmly invited to come along to our Open Evenings:

3.45pm Wednesday 5th October or Wednesday 3.45pm 19th October

If you would like to book your place, please contact the school office on 0191 4104571 or email us at: ortobelloprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk (Please pop Reception 23 in the subject heading)

You can apply online for your child's primary school place between Friday 9 September 2022 and Sunday 15 January 2023.

Please visit the school website and "Our School" page and within the Schools Admissions page you will find information and a link which will take you to the application page to then apply for a Reception place/s for September 2023.

Reception timeline:

9 September 2022 Online system opens for parents to apply

15 January 2023 Closing date for submitting applications

17 April 2023 Offer letters and emails sent to parents

19 May 2023 Any places that become available will be offered from the schools waiting list

June/July 2023 Appeals heard

If you have any queries regarding the admission process, please contact the School Admissions Team on 0191 433 2756 or 433 2757.

Pupil Places Available for Academic Year 2022/2023

If you know anyone who has recently moved to the area or are looking to transfer their child from another school, we currently have a few places left in the following year groups: Reception, Year 1, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5



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Secondary Admissions for Year 6 pupils

Reminder Deadline is 31st October to apply. If you have any queries regarding the admission process, please contact the School Admissions Team on 0191 433 2756 or 433 2757.

Dates for Diary - if you need a printed copy of the parent planner, please let the office know

- Tues 11th Oct - Whole School individual pupil/sibling School Photos with Tempest Photography
- Y3 Trip Thur 13th Oct - Segedunum all-day event - packed lunches required/full school uniform
- Y5 Mon 17th Oct - Walking to Lord Lawson of Beamish to watch a production of Matilda
- Y5 Tues 18th Oct - Hancock Museum all-day event - packed lunches required/full school uniform
- Mon 31st Oct - Whole school - Halloween Disco 4.15pm to 5.30pm (ticket info to follow)
- Fri 11th Nov - Whole school flu vaccinations

Headlice - Take a peek once a week

Within most schools at any one time, there will be a small number of children infected with head lice. This is often between 0% and 5%, rarely more. Schools generally do not have a serious 'outbreak' with many children infected.

Infection levels remain fairly constant, so we need your help to combat the bugs!

If there is a case detected by school, parents/carers will receive a general communication text or email to request you to "take a peek" and to continue taking a peek once a week, to keep these pesky bugs at bay.

If you detect head lice in your child's hair/head, we also ask you to contact school and advise us so we can get the general communication out to the whole school community so everyone is taking a peek and checking too. See link on our school website for further information:

https://portobelloprimary.eschools.co.uk/cms_manage/edit_page/562408

Online Safety

Green with your Tech

Right now, humans aren't living sustainably: we're taking too many resources and not leaving the world in a fit state for future generations. Old tech products are a clear example: if we throw them away, the poisonous lead and mercury inside can get into the food chain through the soil. Recycling tech, though, has its own issues: it's often exported to countries where the law doesn't protect people from hazards. Whole villages (including children) sort through discarded devices to remove useful parts and substances like gold, silver and copper - often putting their health at risk. Finding ways to re-use tech is the greenest option.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of tips such as donating your old devices to charity, reusing your smartphones and recycling the batteries.



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So what can we do with those cupboards and drawers full of old phones and unwanted computers?

Reuse, recycle, donate or sell them!

There are lots of charities that redistribute unwanted tech to worthy causes, either in the UK or in developing nations. If your old products are still working, this is a great option – as it means that new products don't have to be made. Search online for your nearest place that does this.

Almost all batteries can be recycled – even the little ‘button’ ones from smaller gadgets. You could choose a box at home or school to keep used batteries in, and then take them to a designated place that collects them. Be very careful, though – button cells can be deadly if eaten by small children or pets.

If you're recycling, selling or repurposing any of your devices, make sure that all your personal data, private photos and so on have been deleted before the tech leaves your hands or is connected online.

Old smartphones can be used as webcams, security cameras, baby monitors or pet cams: there are apps that will configure them to do this. You can also turn an outdated phone into a TV remote control, an alarm clock that wakes you up with your favourite track, media centre you can take to places where you wouldn't risk your new

Smartphones are more powerful than most older computers. If you have an unwanted android phone, it's quite easy to create a new computer - you could use an old TV as a monitor, meaning you just need a mouse and keyboard. There are also small devices you can buy which let you do the same with iPhones.

Return devices to the manufacturer or retailer you bought them from. Some manufacturers take responsibility for their products and accept them back, to refurbish and redistribute. If they don't, you could contact them and ask why: the more consumer pressure there is on shops and manufacturers, the more likely they are to act in a greener way.

Let your old devices help modern research. Scientists currently investigating topics like far-off star systems, cancer treatment and earthquakes need enormous computing power. If your unwanted device is WiFi enabled, for example, you can connect it to a network so that it can boost scientists' research.

This is also a green option as it means that fewer devices have to be produced. On top of that, you could also donate some of the money you make to an environmental charity.

If your device is beyond repair and no one wants it, get rid of it safely through a specialist tech disposal company. Check that your device won't be shipped off to another country for processing.


There's no such thing as 'too many' ways to help our planet! If you come up with a better idea than ours, contact National Online Safety and tell us.

Neil Atkin teaches scientific literacy through his non-profit organisation, Rubbish Science, which engages people in working together to live more sustainably and creatively uses waste to help address real-life problems. There are a range of environmental activities you may like to try on their website: www.rubbishscience.com.



USER LUNAS Plans to donate a desktop to www.wisconsin.edu/colleges/gifts/donate-desktop | How to turn an old smartphone into a computer: www.makix.com/colleges/turn-smartphone-into-pc | The laptop repair responsibility is on www.guyguy.com/colleges/producer-supplier-responsibilities | Two students research smartphones with old devices can support www.wisconsin.edu/colleges and www.wisconsin.edu/middle-school | Product and price comparison: www.wisconsin.edu



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