



Portobello Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

2nd December 2023



Achievement Assembly

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

Reception: Tommy **Year 1:** Amelia **Year 2:** Oscar **Year 3:** Izabelle
Year 4: Annalise **Year 5:** Ava **Year 6:** Olivia

Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 95%

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 between 2pm - 3pm
- Christmas Film Club - Wed 6th Dec (after school Y1 to Y6) - collect at 5.10pm
- 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

Zara and Solomon

Year 1

William and Alex

Year 2

Oscar and Emmie



Year 3

Harley and Hollie

Year 4

Lucas and Callum

Year 5

Emily and Freddie

Year 6

Kailum and Joseph



BIG AWARD
awarded by the Education



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Choir at Morrisons

If you are out and about shopping in Birtley on Tuesday 5th December, please pop into Morrisons and hear our choir singing between 2pm - 3pm.

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, Y5 and Y3. 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.



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.

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

- 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



Rights Respecting: Article 11

Governments must stop children being taken out of the country when this is against the law - for example, being kidnapped by someone or held abroad by a parent when the other parent does not agree.

School Uniform

A polite reminder that we request all children to wear the following school uniform daily:

- red jumper or cardigan
- blue polo shirt or shirt
- grey shorts, trousers, skirt, or pinafore type dress
- plain black leggings (no sports logos)
- blue summer dress
- black school shoes or plain black trainers
- hair bobble for longer hair

We would like to draw your attention to the fact skirts, pinafore type dress, trousers or shorts should be grey and not black.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you require any support please speak to Mrs Humphrey, Miss West, Mrs Lockhart, or Mrs Lister.

Key Stage One Bags

The Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should only bring to school a book bag and PE bag to school. We do not have room to store 'personal school bags' daily on their pegs and children are not required to bring to school anything daily other than a water bottle. Please help make the cloakrooms safe and accessible by not sending your child to school with a bag. If you feel your child requires a bag for personal items, please speak to a member of the Key Stage One team who will be able to accommodate this in an alternative place. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

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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



BIG AWARD
awarded by the Education
Authority



Online Safety - New laws, new responsibilities?

With the Online Safety Act now coming into effect, our #WakeUpWednesday guide this week highlights some key areas that the fresh legislation covers - and what this means for UK education providers.

Additional Online Safety: we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" - and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT
Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments, pornography and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY
Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY
Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter - by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS
Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2024. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance - making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online - so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Hammond is Senior Deputy Headteacher and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He's a regular speaker at conferences and sits on the ITB (Innovative Teachers' Board) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding in 2022. He was named 'most inspirational' of the year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.




National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday