



Portway Infant School Newsletter



Dear Parents

Welcome back!

We would especially like to welcome our new families both in Year R and those joining us across Years 1 and 2. We are very pleased to say we are starting the new academic year full in every year group.

We also welcome a new member of staff this term, Miss Jill Stocker. Miss Stocker joins as Kingfisher classteacher and is a very welcome addition to the Year 1 team.

Each year group will be sending out their curriculum newsletters next week to give you an overview of your child's learning in school this term with some ideas for supporting learning at home. To further support learning at home and improve communication we have been developing a new Home School Diary which the children will be bringing home next week, this is as a direct response to your feedback.

The Annual General Meeting for the Portway Schools Association takes place on Thursday 29th Sept at 7.30pm at the junior school. This is a general meeting open to everyone at school so please tell your friends and families. The PSA not only raise huge amounts of money for both schools they offer lots of opportunities to make new friends and get involved in school life.

We have continued our refurbishment programme over the summer break with the Year 2 classrooms being painted and carpeted, it all looks fabulous. We have external decorators around this term, addressing some issues resulting from last year's decorations! The contractors have liaised very closely with us and are committed to keeping disruption to an absolute minimum with rigorous health and safety measures in place. If you have any concerns or experience any difficulties during the work please let me know as soon as possible. All work will be monitored by their Project Manager, Hampshire Property Services and of course by us.

You will notice new signage around the school site on gates and the playground as well as our new school sign at the entrance. Could we please remind all visitors on site to close gates, we reiterate this with the children and appreciate your support in modelling this safe practice. We have collaborated with the Juniors to tarmac the Upper Drove pedestrian path to make it more pushchair friendly and weather resistant. We have also had the grounds team soil fill holes and dips around pathways.

Mr Barrett, the Junior's Site Manager, has made us aware of parents using the Junior School Staff Car Park. Could we please remind all parents that both the school car parks are for staff parking only and no other vehicles must use them during the school day. We appreciate your support in making the site as safe as possible for all of our children.

We are all looking forward to the term ahead and getting to know all of our families. The children have certainly come back excited and eager to learn, long may it continue!

Miss Sara Allen
Headteacher

Issue 1

8 September
2011

Inside this issue:

<i>Inset Closures</i>	1
<i>School Crossing</i>	2
<i>Start/End of School Day</i>	2
<i>Open Day</i>	3
<i>New Entrants 2012</i>	
<i>Applying for Year R 2012 Place</i>	3
<i>Applying for Junior School Place 2012</i>	3
<i>Bus Service</i>	4
<i>Holiday Guidance</i>	4

Professional Inset Closures

For staff training and development

Friday

21st October 2011

Tuesday

3rd January 2012

Friday

24th February 2012

Friday

1st June 2012

SCHOOL CROSSING

Unfortunately Hampshire County Council have not yet had any applications for the post of School Crossing Patrol on The Drove.

If you, or, anyone you know e.g. grandparents are interested and would like this important position please contact
Mike Harper on 01962 83 2230
for an informal chat and details of how to apply.

Playground Apparatus

Please may I remind you that we can only accept responsibility for children who are pupils at this school climbing on the apparatus, whilst supervised by a member of staff. Please do not let your children on the play equipment before or after school.

Coats



Please ensure your child has a coat (waterproof if possible) with them every day as we try to allow the children to have a playtime even on a rainy day.

Water bottles

Please also ensure your child has a water bottle in school every day.

Please remember to name all uniform and coats.

The Start of the School Day

School starts at 8.50am

Could we please remind parents that registers are open between 8.50am—9.00am.

If you arrive between 9.00am and 9.10am please take your child straight to class where they will be recorded as late in the register.

ARRIVAL AFTER 9.10AM

If you are very late in the morning and arrive after 9.10am when registers have closed and been returned to the office, you **MUST** sign your child in at the office. If you are signing a child in after the registers have closed at 9.10am this will be regarded as an unauthorised absence.

It is very important that all children are in school on time.

End of the School Day

If arrangements for collecting your child at the end of the school day change please inform your child's teacher in writing if possible, or by a phone call to the school office, **before 12 noon if possible** (tel. 01264 323716).

If we are unsure we will not release your child until we have been able to contact you.

Wanted Parent Helpers

Please see your child's class teacher if you can offer any time to help. We welcome grandparents too.

All volunteers will need to be CRB checked by Portway Infant School, forms available from the office.



Can we contact you?

Have you:

- moved house?
- changed your workplace?
- changed your telephone or mobile?
- changed your childminder?

Please tell us of any changes so we have the correct contact details.

OPEN DAY

NEW ENTRANTS—SEPT 2012



We are holding Open Day sessions on

Thursday 24th November

for parents of new entrants starting school in September 2012. If you would like to visit, please come at either

9.30am or 5.00pm.

Applying for a Year R place for September 2012

(children born between
1 Sept 07 and 31 Aug 08)

Parents are encouraged to apply online and applications can be made from 1st November for Year R place, please follow this link

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/admissions/ad-important-dates/ad-year-r.htm>

Paper application forms are available on request from 1st November.

Closing dates

for **paper** applications is
Friday 13th January 2012

for **online** applications is
Sunday 15th January 2012

Year 2

Applying for Junior School Places

Individualised letters to parents of children in Year 2 will be sent home before 1st November. Parents can apply online from 1st November using the unique identifier given in the letter.

Paper application forms are available on request from 1st November

Closing dates

for **paper** applications is
Friday 13th January 2012

for **online** applications is
Sunday 15th January 2012



Portway Infant School
Ashfield Road
Andover
Hants
SP10 3PE

Tel 01264 323716
Fax 01264 351730

Email

adminoffice@portway-inf.hants.sch.uk

Holiday dates for the next two
years can be found at:

[www.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/
holidays.php](http://www.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/holidays.php)

Holidays – Guidance for Parents 2011/2012

Parents are not entitled to take their children away on holiday during term time

If a child is away for holiday reasons in term time, up to 10 days in an academic year may be 'authorised', at the discretion of the Headteacher providing suitable reasons are given and a 'Permission for Holiday' form is completed before the absence period. Reasons must state why the holiday must be taken in term time. I have been advised that cost is not a suitable reason. With pupils of compulsory school age all applications will be carefully considered on their merits given the importance of continuity of learning. No holiday will be authorised if your child's attendance is below 90%

Parents of Year 2 children are asked not to book a holiday during the first half of the Summer Term 2012, as we need your child in school for end of Key Stage Assessments. Please avoid any unnecessary absences.



Urgent Information about Bus Service to Charlton, Saxon Fields & Artists Way

The bus, provided by Pikes, has always been a public service but has served Portway Schools. We were unaware of any potential changes to this service as it is not provided by the school. We only discovered on Tuesday that the service has now changed.

The bus will now no longer pick up or drop off in Charlton and it will also serve Harrow Way Secondary School. This means that this unsupervised service will have secondary school pupils travelling on it. We have been told it will pick up at 8.20-8.25 in Saxon Fields, followed by 8.28 at Artists Way. It will then travel along Charlton Road, Harrow Way and up to school. The bus home is the same as last year (except not going to Charlton) and, we believe, will not pick up Harrow Way pupils but this has not been confirmed.

We apologise for the confusion but this service is independent of the school.