

Portway Infant School Newsletter



Dear Parents,

A very heartfelt thank you to all our families and friends for the tremendous support you have given us this term. The Christmas concerts have been packed out and it has been an absolute pleasure to welcome so many grandparents into school again this year. The silver collections raised an unbelievably generous £461.77. This money will be shared by Andover Food Bank, the Jamie G Sporting Trust and Neighbourcare, all are local charities working hard to support the Andover community. Thank you so much.

The Christmas Fayre was also a huge success thanks to the support of the parents who gave up so much of their time to organise, set up and run the Fayre, but also to you for attending the Fayre to help us raise an incredible amount for the children of both Portway schools.

A plea...

We are very aware that many of our families are feeling the pinch of the current financial crisis and would urge any family eligible for Free School Meals to fill out the attached form. This funding is an entitlement for your child. It does not mean they have to have school dinners everyday, you would simply have that option on days when the cupboard runs bare!

There is absolutely no stigma attached to this entitlement, children order their lunch in class in exactly the same way as their friends, no-one knows how any child's meal is funded! Free School Meal entitlement is simply an administrative activity undertaken by the school office.

You may have heard on the news about the coalition government's plans to allocate additional money to schools using Free School Meal numbers as an indication of need. Therefore, we are keen to have as many eligible families as possible registered for Free School Meals to secure this additional budget funding, it will be allocated according to the number of Free School Meal pupils at each school. We are experiencing a time of budget cuts and we want to do everything we can to protect the budget at Portway, including qualifying for the additional funding our children deserve.

ELIGIBILITY

Free School Meals are available to children whose parents/guardians are in receipt of any ONE of the following benefits:

- . Income Support
- . Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- . Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- . Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- . Child Tax Credit provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190
- . Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

If you have any questions or would like some help filling in the form please come and see us.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and governors, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Sara Allen
Headteacher

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School closes
early on the last
day of term at

1.15pm

**Friday
16 December
2011**

School re-opens
after Christmas at

8.50am

**Wednesday
4th January
2012**

**Professional
Inset
Closures**

For staff training
and development

**Tuesday
3rd January 2012**

**Friday
24th February 2012**

**Friday
1st June 2012**

**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

REMINDER

Year 2

**Applying for Junior
School Places**

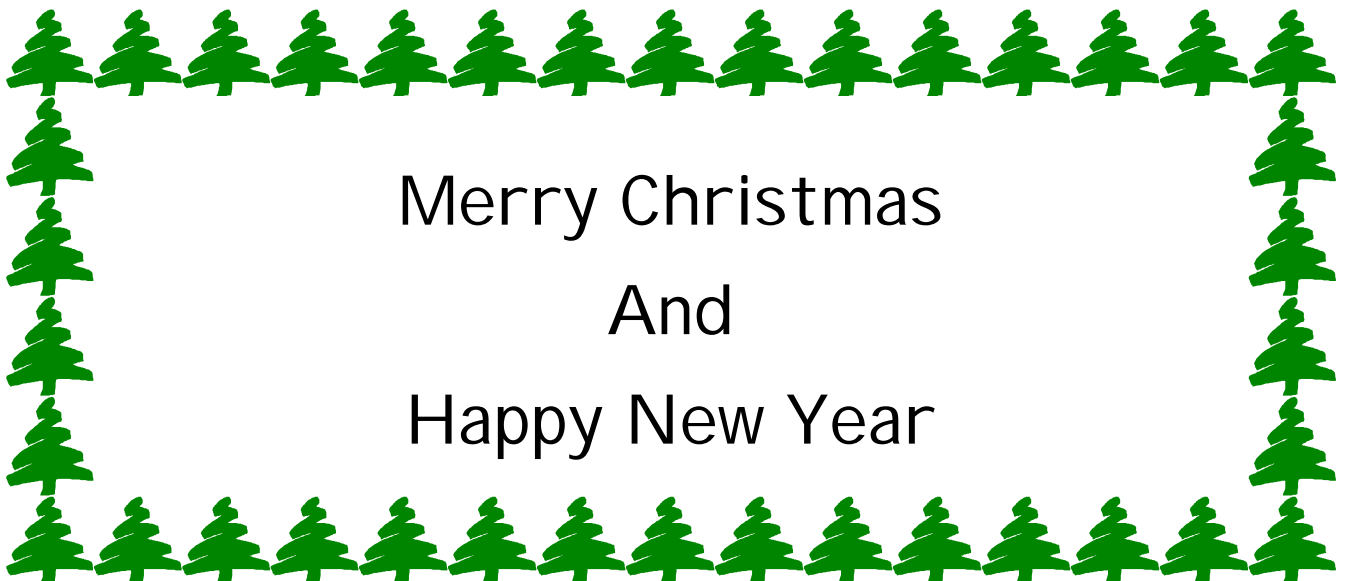
Deadline dates :

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

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

Dinner Money

Please ensure all dinner
money is paid and up-to-
date by the end of term.



**Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year**