



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

7th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a good week. This week there have been a number of different events across the school culminating last night in our careers convention. I would like to thank all the students and parents who joined us. It was fantastic to see such a large variety of stands from providers and exhibitors across the South-West and I hope that students who attended went away with lots of inspiration, information and ideas about their future pathways. I would also like to thank the fantastic team at Gordano who planned this event.

Portishead Youth Centre Half Term Trips

The Youth Centre are running the following trips during half term:

- Tuesday 25th October we are running a trip to Alton Towers for their Scarefest event. This is from 8am until midnight and will cost £70.
- Wednesday 26th October we have the ultimate zombie VR experience from 3pm - 4pm at Parrish Wharf at a cost of £20.

If your child is interested in either of these, please e-mail mail@portisheadyouthcentre.co.uk to find out more. Spaces are limited!

#HelloYellow

Just a reminder that on **Monday 10th October** we are encouraging students to replace one item of their uniform with an item of yellow clothing to support national mental health awareness.

School Uniform and Sports Clubs

Students are aware that if they take part in sports clubs before or after school, they are not permitted to wear PE kit during the school day (unless they also have a PE lesson on the same day). Students with morning clubs are expected to change into uniform before tutor time, and those with clubs after school are expected to bring their PE kit to change into at the end of the day. Parental support in ensuring students have the correct change of clothes with them on club days is appreciated. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you that students should not be **wearing socks** over their **tights**. We would be grateful if you could ensure that students adhere to this expectation

Breakfast Service

We are considering in the future introducing a breakfast service for students in the school canteen but would like to gauge interest ahead of doing so. We therefore invite parents to [complete this survey](#) to give us a sense of how well this would be used, if made available.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, as a school we will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential. Your child will be entitled to free school meals if you get any of these benefits:

- income support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with annual take home pay/net earnings below £7,400 (which equals £616.67 per month) benefits not included

For more on eligibility and how to apply please use the following link:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/free-school-meals>

If you would like to discuss any aspect of Free School Meals provision or Pupil Premium with someone in school, please complete a contact log from the school website, for the attention of Mandi Davis or go to our school [website](#) where there is more information.

Important request for Medical information

We have a student in school who is at serious risk if they come into contact with students or staff with Measles, Mumps, Chickenpox or Shingles. Please let us know immediately if your child is suspected of having measles. Our student is also at risk from chickenpox and would require a medical review within three days of contact. If your child is suspected of having chickenpox, can we please ask you to let us know immediately. We would also appreciate you letting us know if there is shingles in your household. Your child is not at any risk whatsoever from this situation. However, we are trying to do what we can as a community to support and protect one of our members who is at risk. Thank you in advance.

Further Covid reminders

As you know last week, I sent out the full current government guidance to all parents with regards to Covid - you can see the full guidance [here](#). As a community it is obviously important that we continue to support each other as much as possible and continue to think about how we can protect each other and our most vulnerable members during the coming season, therefore I just wanted to reiterate some key areas that I would appreciate us being mindful of under the current guidelines.

(NHS website) Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) - a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body

- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

(NHS) What to do if your child has symptoms

Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school, college or childcare, or do their normal activities

They can go back to school, college or childcare when they feel better or do not have a high temperature. The DFE guidance currently recommends that students should remain at home for 3 days

As we journey out of the covid restrictions of the past few years the government guidance is much less stringent, but it is still important for us as a community to consider how we support each other in line with the guidance provided, as we always have. As a school we will continue to also monitor confirmed cases - if your child does have a confirmed case please do let the school know through the usual absence procedures

The DFE guidance is useful in terms of outlining further guidance.

- [People at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell from a respiratory infection, including COVID-19](#)
- [Symptoms of respiratory infections, including COVID-19](#)
- [What to do if you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and have not taken a COVID-19 test](#)
- [Children and young people \(aged 18 years and under\) who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19](#)
- [What to do if you have a positive COVID-19 test result](#)
- [What to do if you are a close contact of someone who has had a positive test result for COVID-19](#)
- [Children and young people aged 18 years and under who have a positive test result](#)

I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher