



## **Headteacher's Newsletter Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

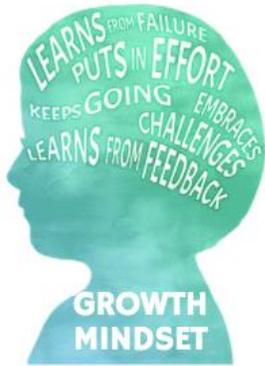
It was great this morning to stand on the gate and welcome back all our lovely children. Looking at their smiles and excitement, as they came in was wonderful. I know we have a few children who were apprehensive, but as I walked around the classrooms they soon settled back into things. I wish I could bottle the sound of them all back in the playground at break and share with you. They are so pleased to see each other again, as we are to have them back.

I know the media is full of messages about the impact of lockdown on your children and how they need to catch up. I do not think this is helpful and it will certainly not be the message we will be giving you or your children. Children are incredibly resilient, and schools and teachers have always assessed for gaps and put things in place to accelerate the progress of those pupils who need it. Our work over the coming months is no different. I also feel it is important that we prioritise everything that pupils may have missed, such as socialising with their friends and physical activity.

Here is a reminder of what I have put in the Re-opening Handbook for parents:

### **Collective positive mindset – contextualising the lockdown**

*Our staff do not feel that it is helpful to focus on what has been 'lost' during the lockdown. During that time many of our children have been working hard and producing good work and have benefited from time spent with their families, exploring and experiencing different opportunities to grow, learn and achieve in different contexts. We have worked hard as a school to continue to keep connected with all our families and pupils throughout lockdown.*



*Our staff are calm and measured and known that we have the best knowledge and experience of how to teach, support and help our children in ‘closing the gap’ where required. We will not make our children worry unnecessarily or make them think that things are worse than they are and where issues present themselves our language will reflect our established ‘growth mindset’ philosophy – ‘you can’t do it yet’.*

### **Assessment**

*Our teachers will make adaptations establishing ‘what has to be learned’ rather than sticking rigidly to our usual [long term plans](#). Class teachers will use their own expertise to establish starting points and will likely have to take ‘a step back’ in order to help children then move forward with confidence but each child and class will be different. In schools this way of assessing what should be taught next is known as ‘formative assessment’, that is the judgements teachers make on a day to day basis during class work which allow them to assess attainment and progress.*

### **Homework**

We have made the decision to not set any formal homework on Seesaw this half term. This is to allow children and their families to settle back into routines and not give any additional work for families. What we would like is for pupils to spend the next four weeks focusing on their reading and completing their quizzes on accelerated reader. Children should read daily during the week for 10 mins each night. At weekends, reading for pleasure should be encouraged and reading for a variety of reasons e.g. recipes, news articles, signs. Pupils can also access Timetables Rock stars to practise their multiplication skills and Spelling Shed will soon be available to practise spelling. After the Easter break, weekly homework will be set again on Seesaw.

### **School day timings**

**All gates open at 8:30am and children must be in school by 8:50am.**

**Year 3 and 4 pick up is 3:05pm**

**Year 5 and 6 pick up is 3:10pm**

Just a polite reminder that dogs are not allowed on site during pick up.

### **Easter Egg Raffle**

We are continuing to fundraise for our school library. This half term we are doing an Easter Egg raffle. Please can we ask for donations of eggs. Raffle tickets will be available for pupils to buy (50p) from the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Lateral Flow Device testing for parents and family bubbles**

LFD testing is now available for **adults** in households of school age children. The DfE guidance is [here](#).

In Portsmouth LFD tests for use at home can currently be collected (in packs of 7 test kits) between 1.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. from Eldon Car Park, Southsea, PO1 2DJ and between 1.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Unit 9, North Harbour Road, Cosham, PO6 3TL, with two packs being given out per person. Both sites are giving out tests for collection and use at home seven days' per week. Our understanding is that no ID is needed, and there is no need to book an appointment.

Brief information has also been published on a new "testing" page on the [Portsmouth City Council website](#).

### **Systems of Control – Prevention (Updated guidance DfE, new information highlighted)**

Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.

When an individual develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or has a positive test Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area

- they have had a positive test They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms

- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

You must follow this process and ensure everyone onsite or visiting is aware of it. Anyone told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their public health protection team has a legal obligation to self-isolate, but you may leave home to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm. More information can be found on NHS Test and Trace: how it works.

If anyone in your school develops a new and continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you:

- must send them home to begin isolation - the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days

- advise them to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

- advise them to arrange to have a test as soon as possible to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19)

Other members of their household (including any siblings and members of their support or childcare bubble if they have one) should self-isolate. Their isolation period includes the day symptoms started for the first person in their household, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test), and the next 10 full days. **If a member of the household starts to display symptoms while self isolating they will need to restart the 10 day isolation period and book a test. If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms.**

### **SEND survey to parents and carers**

Portsmouth City Council has launched their annual Special Educational Needs and Disability Survey. They would love to hear from **ALL** parents and carers who have a child or young person (0-25 years) with additional needs - this includes those with and without Education Health and Care plans. The survey will help to shape services and support in the city and it is a really good opportunity to get your thoughts and views heard. You can find more information by reading the attached flyer or by visiting [www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/SENDsurvey2021](http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/SENDsurvey2021) .

Warm Regards,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Paine".

Mrs Sara Paine

Head teacher