

Attendance We understand the importance of children attending school consistently and the impact it can have on their learning when they don't. Research has shown that those pupils with good attendance at primary school, go on to achieve higher grades at GCSE (and A Level) standard. These higher grades, according to government research, mean that pupils could add £80,000 to their earnings over a lifetime.

The government have also changed the definition of what it means to be persistently absent so, if a child falls below 90% attendance, they are regarded as being persistently absent from school. At this level there is an expectation that schools will take further action, which can include involving the legal team if attendance does not improve.

While 90% may sound like a good attendance level (I'm sure we'd all be delighted to get 90% in a test for example!) what this means is a child is missing 20 days of school – the equivalent of 4 school weeks. Again, it may be that this doesn't seem too bad but, if we put that in the context of adults at work, missing 20 days would not go down well.

Lateness can lead to a child being marked as absent so it is important that children arrive at school for registration at 8:50am. The register 'closes' at 9:00am, so any child arriving after this time will be marked as 'late after the register has closed'.

We expect parents to support us by not taking children out of school during term time. Absence due to holidays during term time cannot be authorised. Absence that exceeds 10 sessions (5 school days), will result in a penalty notice (fine) being issued. The fine is issued to each parent (even in split families) and for each of the children in a family. It should also be pointed out that our attendance policy also allows us to fine if a parent has called a child in 'sick' but it becomes apparent that they have actually been on holiday. We would also rather this doesn't happen, as it puts the child in an awkward position of having to 'fib' about where they have been.

Following up on attendance issues thoroughly is crucial for schools and we take these responsibilities seriously. All Hampshire schools are expected to abide by these procedures. Thank you for your support with this.

Mobile phones in school At present children in Years 5 and 6 may bring mobile phones to school if they walk home alone. Phones must be switched off and given to the class teacher for safekeeping during the school day. They will be returned before the child leaves for home but must remain off until they exit the school grounds. Inappropriate activities, such as taking photos or filming, are not permitted for any reason. A form will be sent home to outline these arrangements and establish which pupils may have mobile phones. Misuse on school grounds may result in confiscation, with phones returned only to a parent.



PTFA Our PTFA group did a wonderful job in preparing and selling pancakes last week. Thank you to everyone who helped out at that event and who worked hard to make it such a busy and successful event. Thank you too if you stopped by to show your support in buying a pancake or two! The next meeting of the PTFA is on Tuesday 18 March in the junior hall at 3:30pm. I know that they would love to see you there!



Break the Rules for April Fools April Fools day is coming round soon and we'd like to mark it in the same way as last year with some (permitted) rule breaking! The list of rules that can be broken by children and staff (& parents too!) is a bit later on in the Press. There is a fine of 50p for each rule broken and these can be paid via Arbor. We look forward to raising a bit of money towards continuing to develop our playground area!



Miss Windross

Key Dates

Thurs 27 March	PTFA Doughnut & Daffodil for Mother's Day
Tue 1 April	April Fools Break the Rules
Mon 7 - Mon 21 April	Easter holidays (pupils return to school Tues 22 April)
Mon 12-Thurs 15 May	SATS Week for Year 6
Week of 26 May	Summer half term holiday
Mon 2 June	Inset day school closed for training (pupils return to school Tues 3rd June)
Tue 22 July	Last day of term for the summer holidays

2025 - 2026 Inset dates

Wednesday 3 September
Friday 24 October
Monday 3 November
Friday 27 February
Friday 26 June

Please remember that key information relating to your child's year group, in terms of their current learning and/or key dates can be found on our website www.portwayjunior.co.uk and clicking on the 'Pupils' tab.

Keeping Children Safe when using mobile phones, tablets and computers.

Children regularly use different websites and apps from their parents, and it can be hard to keep up in this ever-changing digital world. But the things that help keep children safe online are often similar to the things that keep them safe offline.

Encourage your child to think critically and question what they see online. Talk to them about where they go to get information they trust, talk about fake news, fake followers and scams. Help them develop a healthy suspicion of whether people are who they say they are.

Share your knowledge and experience of good and unhealthy relationships.

Show them how to report any worrying behaviour they see online – for example through [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command](#) or the [Internet Watch Foundation](#).

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are false or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

X @wake_up_weds f /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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FOOTBALL UPDATES

Our latest football news is as follows:

Portway Albion vs Portway Rovers met each other at home last week and the match ended in a 0-0 draw. Portway Rovers also Whitchurch B - as an away match - with a final scores being Whitchurch B 0 and Portway Rovers 8.

Rovers Squad: Rory, Joshua, Oliver, Noah, Alex, Blake, Jacob, Luca, Freddie and Thomas
Albion Squad: Joseph, Tiain, George, Jasmine, Jacob, Oscar, Dominic, Klay and Mason.



Portway Rangers played Anton Junior in a home match with the end result being 2-0 to the Portway team.

Rangers Squad: Joseph, Jake, Archie, Deven, Harry, Mason, Mac, Rafael, Alistair and Sam.

Portway Albion met Portway Wanderers in a home game recently and played well with the match ending in a goal-less draw

Wanderers Squad: Ben, Bobby, Freddie, Leo, Neevah, Theo, Ralph and Tucker

There were plenty of our school's PRIDE values demonstrated in these matches and we are very proud of everyone who took part - well done! Also we must say a big thank you to Mr Kirby, Mr Staff and Mr Crocker for making these events possible.



BREAK THE RULES DAY

On **Tuesday 1 April** we want you to break the rules! Below is a list of 10 rules that you can break when you come to school.



But beware, there is a fine of **50p for every rule you choose to break**. You may break as many or as few as you like!

- 1.NO crazy/coloured hair
- 2.You **MUST** wear school uniform
- 3.NO temporary tattoos
- 4.NO nail varnish
- 5.NO hats
- 6.NO make up or face paint
- 7.NO odd socks or crazy tights
- 8.NO superhero capes or fancy dress
- 10.NO football/rugby shirts

So on **Tuesday 1 April**, break the rules and come to school. (1 rule broken=50p, 2 rules broken=£1, etc.) All fines to be paid online via Arbor (no cash please). Please contact the office if you have any difficulty.



MOTHER'S DAY!

AT 3PM - 4PM

27 MARCH 2025

OUTSIDE THE JUNIOR
DINNER HALL



Donuts £1 each

free daffodil for your
grown-up with
every donut purchased



Adopt a Teddy

£1 each



cash and card accepted
£1 minimum spend for card





BINGO *Night*

Join the PTFA via video call
from your own home for an exciting
evening with great prizes to be won!

FRI 9TH MAY

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Prizes for 1 line, 2 lines and
full house

**The PTFA will be selling Bingo tickets every Tuesday
from 2.30pm starting Tuesday 11th March outside
the Junior reception area.**

£2 for 1
ticket

cash
and
card
accepted

£7 for 6
tickets

please email secretary@portway-ptfa.co.uk if you have any
questions

*Due to restrictions regarding gambling rules there will be no cash prizes! instead
the prizes will consist of items such as, vouchers, a bottle of wine, hampers ect
prizes will be announced on the night.