

Happy New Year from everyone at Portway Junior School!



Welcome back and to the spring term of 2025 - we hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the holiday time together. It's been good to see everyone back and it's been a good first few days.

Although this is the spring term and the days are getting longer, it is still very cold and we are likely to see some wet, freezing and challenging weather. As we like to get outside as much as we can for playtimes, lunchtimes and outdoor activities, please ensure that your children come to school prepared with coats / hats etc. The 'Parent' tab on our website has information about emergency school closures and our snow procedure letter, if they are needed.

Please click the link to read more: [Emergency School Closures and Snow Procedures](#).



Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Raffle and Tombola event right at the end of term. It was good to see so many of you there supporting our schools and our new PTFA. The next meeting of the Parent Teacher Friends Association is on Thursday 9 January at 3:30 in the junior hall and there are lots of plans afoot for the spring and summer terms - the committee would really appreciate your support! There is some childcare available provided by junior staff.

Parent Consultations The evenings of Wednesday February 26th and Thursday February 27th will be our next planned Parent Consultation evenings and these will both take place in person with meetings in school. These meetings are the most important ones of the year and a good chance to review the first half of the year together and agree on targets for the rest of the year. Opportunities to book appointments will come out via email nearer the time, but we thought it was worth mentioning the two dates early in the term.



Playground update Over the next few weeks you will see our new adventure trail being installed on the playground. This has been possible due to the fundraising of the PTA over the last year and we are looking forward to playing on them and having a lot of fun.

Instagram There is an official school Instagram account for parents / carers only to follow if you wish. As with our other social media accounts, this is not an official communication with school, but a means of sharing some information about our learning and activities when we can. The account is not for children. Please look for portway_junior_school to find us.



Miss Windross

Staying toasty in the Great Outdoors!

❄️ As the temperatures drop and winter wraps its frosty fingers around us, let's talk about one of the golden rules for enjoying our forest school adventures: wearing the right clothing for the cold!

🧥 Why is it so important?

When we're warm and dry, we can focus on exploring, playing, and having fun in nature. Cold toes or soggy jumpers can quickly turn excitement into grumbles (for both kids and grown-ups!).

Here's a quick checklist to keep everyone comfy:

- 🌟 **Base Layers:** Thin, thermal tops and leggings are a game-changer! They trap heat without being bulky.
- 🌟 **Mid Layers:** long sleeve t-shirts, joggers (or pjs!), Fleece jumpers or woolly sweaters for extra coziness, gilets, puffer jackets.
- 🌟 **Outer Layers:** Waterproof coats and trousers to keep the wind and rain out.
- 🌟 **Accessories:** Hats, gloves, and thick socks are a must. (Bonus points for bringing spares—mud happens! 🐾)
- 🌟 **Footwear:** Sturdy waterproof boots or wellies with good grip keep us steady and dry.
- 💡 **Top Tip:** Dress in layers—it's easier to peel one off if we get too warm during all the running, climbing, and swinging!

Let's make this winter one to remember for all the right reasons. Nature is even more magical when we're ready to embrace it, rain or shine! See you in the woods, Mr Pearmain.

Key Dates

Thur 9 Jan, 3:30pm	PTFA committee meeting - junior hall
Thur 30 Jan 3:30pm	Info eve for Y5 parents for Avon Tyrrell '25
Wed 29 - Fri 31 Jan	Hooke Court residential for Y4 pupils
Thur 13 Feb	Info eve for Y6 parents for end of KS2 tests
Mon 17-Fri 21 Feb	Spring half term holiday
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

Information about clubs will be coming home soon.

Office telephone: 01264 352060
adminoffice@portway-jun.hants.sch.uk

Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 (4:00 on Fridays)

Messages can be left on the answerphone outside of these times (or at any time during the day)



Portway Parent Pop In

Infant School Community Room
Every Monday 8.30am – 10.00am

Spring 2025

Date	What's On?	Comments
6 Jan	Just Pop-In	For any questions, queries or just a cuppa!
13 Jan	How to get the best out of family life Find out more about the Nurturing Programme	Speak to Gemma about the course, how to join the next group or work through the content 1:1
20 Jan	Supporting Samaritans 'Brew Day'	Join us for a drink, bring a friend along too and take a cuppa to a loved one on us
27 Jan	Just Pop-In	For any questions, queries or just a cuppa!
3 Feb	School Nurse Clinic	Speak to the School nurses about what they do, the support they can offer and advice the give on a number of health related issues.
10 Feb	Keeping Children Safe Online – Safer Internet Day is 11 February 2025	Support and advice around managing screen time and keeping children safe in the digital world
HALF TERM		
24 Feb	Just Pop-In	For any questions, queries or just a cuppa!
3 Mar	Battling Bedtimes?	Support and advice around bedtime routines and the importance of sleep.
10 Mar	Just Pop-In	For any questions, queries or just a cuppa!
17 Mar	Just Pop-In	For any questions, queries or just a cuppa!
24 Mar	Coffee & Craft - Mother's Day	Take some time for you and make a little something for a special Mum
31 Mar	Coffee & Craft – Easter Special	Pick up some ideas for the Easter holidays and stay to try easy to make Easter themed craft

Open to all Parents & Carers. There's no obligation to take part if you'd rather just stop in for a drink. Toddlers welcome too.