

PORTERCROFT

Church of England Primary Academy

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2015/16 Newsletter #1

Dates for your diary:

6th and 8th October
Parents evening
(NB Foundation 2 dates are 7th and 8th October)

9th October
Y5 trip to York

9th October
Christmas card orders and payment due in to the Main Office

13th October
Y6 class assembly

13th October
Y4 Radio Sheffield chat show

14th October
Open the Book assembly

19th October
All about Me week

23rd October
It's Good to be Me day (wear cultural dress to school)

23rd October
Break up for half term holiday

Welcome to Porter Croft!

A warm welcome to everyone who has returned to Porter Croft this half term and an especially big hello to all our new families in Foundation stage who are joining us this term. We are all looking forward to working together as we begin another exciting and busy year ahead.

We have an 'open door' policy at Porter Croft and we are always happy to meet with parents to discuss any issue at all so please do feel free to come and speak with us if you need to.

Twitter

The Academy has a Twitter account and you can follow us and keep up to date with news and events by following us @portercroft. Many classes also have active Twitter accounts and you can access these through the same @portercroft account at www.twitter.com/portercroft.

Thank you!

We have been really inspired by how generously our community has supported a number of charities recently and offer heartfelt thanks to you all for your support!

The following charities have benefitted from your kindness:

Roald Dahl Marvellous Children's Charity - £37

MacMillan Cancer Support - £57.88

Project Paddington - £387.80 (and lots of bears!)

Thank you all once again for helping to support these very worthy causes.

Family Learning Courses

We are offering the following free Family Learning courses at the Academy for Parents and Carers and you are warmly invited to take part:

- **Wednesday 7th October** – Discover Coding
- **Thursday 15th October** - Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
- **Thursday 22nd October** - Times Tables fun

If you are interested in taking part, please ask for more information at the Main Office.

Attendance Rates

A quick reminder that the Government changed the law regarding attendance and so our policies were updated to be in line with this.

This means children whose attendance falls below 90% will be classed as persistent absentees. Please remember that medical appointments count as absences so please book these outside of the school day.



Together we are Porter Croft

Uniform

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who have made sure that their child has come to school in the correct uniform every day!

Thank you to all those parents who have named their children's clothes ready for the start of term. If you have not done so please do over the weekend as we do end up with a very full lost property box and it is impossible to return unnamed clothing.

Uniform can still be ordered from the office. Please see Denise Hale for more information and she will be happy to help you.

Behaviour Policy

We send out the school's Behaviour Policy at the start of every school year and you will be receiving a copy shortly. Please ensure you fill in, sign and return the reply slip to let us know you support the school in our efforts to provide a safe and secure learning environment for your children. We have been very pleased to observe good behaviour at Porter Croft last year, and this is something we want to maintain. If you have any suggestions for the Policy itself, please do let us know.

Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Secondary School Applications

For parents of Year 6 children, it is the time of year when you need to apply for a Secondary School place. If you need any help with the application process, please speak with either Cath Thomas (Deputy Headteacher) or Ellie Long (Learning Mentor) who will be happy to offer support.

The online application process closes on **Thursday 22nd October 2015** and paper applications must be received by the Local Authority by **Friday 30th October 2015**.

PE Kits

Please make sure your child has a PE kit that is kept in school. The PE kit at our Academy is:

- A white T-Shirt
- Black or dark blue shorts (or jogging bottoms if appropriate)
- A change of footwear e.g. pumps



Harvest Festival

We will all be going to St. Mary's Church on Bramall Lane to mark the Harvest Festival on Thursday 8th October. The service starts at 10.30am and we warmly invite families to attend with us. It would be fantastic if you could join us in church, or alternatively if you would like to walk up to church from school with us, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be happy to tell you when individual classes are setting off. As usual, if you would prefer that your child did not join us for religious reasons, just pop into the office and let us know.

One of the messages for the children is to appreciate the things they have, to be thankful and understand what it's like for those less fortunate. We would therefore like to ask if you would kindly donate one item of non-perishable food, such as a tin or packet, so that the children can bring them up to the table during the church service. The goods will then be distributed to the poor and needy. It would be great if you could send donations into school over the course of the next week so that we can make up a Harvest display in school. Thanks in advance.

As ever, I would like to thank all children, parents, carers and staff for all their efforts in making Porter Croft such a wonderful place to be part of for us all.

Warmest regards,
Jim Dugmore, Headteacher



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