



**Leading
Learning Trust**



Portway Primary
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Thursday 30th April 2020

Dear Families,

What a difference the weather makes to the lockdown! As we come to the end of week 6 of these extraordinary times, I am sure we all have begun to consider what 'normality' will return in the coming weeks and months.

What is important to focus in times of uncertainty is what we are in control of. That being, our tremendous efforts in providing support for our families, a safe space for our most vulnerable pupils and a whole new digital world of remote learning! There has been a slight increase in the numbers of pupils attending Portway this week, which has been delightful to see some of the children so excitedly return.

Of course, we will continue to monitor the government guidance and inform you of any changes.

Home Learning:

After taking into consideration feedback from families, children and staff, we have reviewed our current home learning offer. We have been working alongside our IT team to use a new programme called Loom which allows teachers to record themselves alongside a flipchart - as if they were teaching a real lesson.

This is a fantastic resource which will support your children's learning and understanding of new skills as well as helping families to follow the learning. It will provide opportunities for teachers to clearly model techniques and explain these to the children using examples.

Teachers will upload links to maths, reading and writing recorded lessons each day onto the classroom. The children need to click on the link and watch the recording. They can then complete the quiz which is uploaded as normal onto the classroom.

We're sure the children will love to see their teacher's faces and hear their voices after such a long time and will enjoy receiving more support in their learning.



Please contact our IT support if you have any technical issues by emailing support@leadinglearningtrust.org.

Sharing Home learning

We would love to see the children's fantastic learning at home- please send pictures and captions via our online platforms:

[Portway Primary School Facebook Page](#), and our [Twitter account - @PortwayE13](#).

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

Public Health England (PHE) has launched a new campaign to support people to manage their mental wellbeing during this difficult time.

PHE's Every Mind Matters platform has been updated to include a range of new resources, designed specifically to help manage mental wellbeing during coronavirus, include a tailored COVID-19 Mind Plan, COVID-19 specific content for individuals and their loved ones, and support for specific mental wellbeing issues such as anxiety, stress, low mood and trouble sleeping. The website also signposts people to activities such as mindful breathing exercises, help reframing unhelpful thoughts and muscle relaxation.

The website: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters>

All colleagues are doing their best to support our families and children in these unusual circumstances. It is definitely a strange and challenging time, so it's ok if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. We are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. Remember, if you have any concern about helping your child learn or need any other support from the school, please do get into contact with us; should you need anything.

Learning Support:
support@leadinglearningtrust.org

General Enquires:
info.portway@leadinglearningtrust.org

Tel: 020 8472 7142- please note the office is open daily from 8.30am- 3.30pm (Monday-Friday)

Whilst we are not open fully, rest assured that we will continue to do our utmost to keep your child learning and our school community connected!

Best wishes,

Scott Chudley
Head teacher