Welcome to Portland Class 2026



We would like to welcome you to Portland Class!

Your child will be taught be myself, Mrs Hall and our class LSAs who will be one to one with one of our children, Mrs Shilton, Mrs Viegas, Mrs Dunne and Mrs Andrews.
The most important thing for us is that your child feels happy and safe at school. We will do all we can to settle them in and make them feel very special.

If you need me, you can catch me at the end of the day (when I have seen all of the children out) or if it is a private matter, please ring the office to make an appointment and I can give you more time. If you have any- thing you would like to share with me, such as achievements from home or memorable experiences, you can share them on Seesaw or email me. If you have any concerns or worries, don't hesitate to get in touch, you can message me on Seesaw or email on shall11@sheepymagna.leics.sch.uk.

Reading

Reading is key to succeeding as they say! Some children will pick it up quickly, others will take more time. Our aim is to foster a love of reading with all children, whatever their ability or interests. If you would like to learn more about Reading and Phonics in the Early Years and how you can help your child learn to read, I will be holding a session on Wednesday 2nd September at 2:15pm at school.

Reading Rewards & Book Changes

If children read 4 times at home during the week, they accumulate reading rewards. **Please write in your child's diary when you have read with your them**. This way, we know when we can change books and if they have earned their reading reward. I can't stress enough the difference it makes if you read with your child regularly, daily if possible. We will take all diaries out of bags on a Monday and a Thursday. We will change books on these days, however **please send diaries and reading books in every day**.

Phonics

We begin teaching phonics in the first week of school using the 'Sounds Write' scheme. We will send sounds and words home regularly for you to practice reading, sounding out and writing with your child.

Many parents worry about not saying the sounds properly, they are called 'pure sounds'.

If you have some time, the online parent course provided by 'Sounds Write' will give you a good understanding of how we teach your child to read. If you are interested, the link is below:

https://www.udemy.com/course/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/

You can also download the Sounds Write App on Apple devices or play free games on the computer such as Phonics Play and Teach your Monster to Read.

Writing

Our literacy lessons combine reading, writing and speaking and listening. Your child will be given handwriting lessons to develop correct letter formation. This begins with gross motor activities and progresses to fine motor activities when they are ready. Please encourage children to hold their pencil correctly at home, encourage correct letter formation (starting in the correct place) and most importantly encourage them to have a go'.

Maths

Our maths lessons will involve lots of fun practical maths where we will be practicing basic number skills, subtitising, counting objects, finding one more/ one less, adding and subtracting, doubling and halving. The more opportunities you expose your children to the better, look out for numbers in the environment, count anything. We will be playing with sand and water to talk about size, weight and capacity. Baking is a great practical activity to do with your child. Talk about how many jugs of water it would take to fill the sink, make your best estimate then do it. We will be solving problems and playing games. We will learn about shapes and patterns in our environment. Talk to your children about all the different shapes in our daily lives, expose them to words like 'cube' and 'cuboid'.

Physical Development ****P.E kits to be worn on Mondays and Fridays please****

We have two timetabled P.E lessons a week. The children learn to negotiate space, develop motor skills, game play, ball skills and the importance of keeping fit. In addition to this, the children will be given the opportunity to develop their motor skills using the scooters, hover boards and balance beams amongst other things. We also sometimes do Cosmic Kids yoga sessions to develop core strength and balance.

Show and tell

Children are encouraged to bring in objects that are special to them, achievements from home, anything they want to talk about. If children bring in a toy to show, it must stay in their bags until it is time for Show and Tell. Toys are acceptable for the first half term as it links nicely with our topic but after this, children are encouraged to bring photos/ objects from days out, certificates etc. I will let you know which day this will take place on once the timetable is in place.

Forest Friday

Every Friday, we enjoy outdoor learning, either on the school grounds or in the Glade at the back of school. We can be outside for a couple of hours so please consider the weather and dress children appropriately (whether that be with sun cream and a sun hat or a raincoat and an extra pair of socks). We have a welly rack at school, we encourage you to leave a pair of wellies at school at all times.

What to wear

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday —full school uniform, black shoes and a pair of trainers to wear outdoors. Monday and Friday —P.E kit, indoor and outdoor shoes (please wear black school shoes on p.e days and change into outdoor trainers for p.e)

Seesaw

Seesaw is an app which enables me to contact you. It can be a great conversation tool and should keep you up to date with the daily goings on. This is where I will post group messages and photos. This is how we can contact each other with questions and messages.

A few other things to remember!

- Drop off is 8:40a.m and collection is 15:15 pm
- Remind children in the morning whether they are having sandwiches or hot dinners, so they can let us know when we are doing the register.
- Please ensure your child has a pair of indoor shoes **and a pair of outdoor shoes** (please only send your children with laces if they can do them themselves!)
- Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies in school too.
- Please label all clothing, shoes, drinks bottles etc with their name.

  It makes it easier for them (and us)!
- Put a change of clothes in their bag if there is a chance of an accident through the day, even from playing in the water.
- Send your child's diary and reading books in every day.
- Remember to write in your child's diary each day as you hear them read.
- Bring a named water bottle every day.
- Most children bring a snack from home for breaktime (fruit is available throughout the day)

We are looking forward to teaching your child this year. Here's to a fabulous year!

Mrs Hall