

'Living life in all its fullness'

St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Church Lane

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Tel: 01275 372066

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Website: www.stmarysprimaryportbury.co.uk



Monday 14th September 2026

Prory Class Newsletter - Term 1 2026

Dear Parents & Pupils,

Welcome back. We certainly hope you have managed to have a restful summer break and are starting to feel settled in to new school routines. We are excited for the year ahead. Below, you can find a brief and useful explanation of various structures, routines and expectations for the coming term.

READING

We expect children to read aloud, at least 5 days a week, at home for around 10 minutes. This might fit into your bedtime routine, whilst supper is being prepared or even before coming to school in the morning. Reading regularly can help increase your child's achievements in many subject areas. Please continue to support this by recording your signature in their reading records every time your children read – comments need only be made if you feel necessary. Reading diaries are checked weekly. We understand that this can be difficult for the best of us, especially as your child gets older, so just a page or two aloud would be sufficient then they can read to themselves for the remaining time. Reading is important for developing language skills, encouraging a thirst for knowledge and enhancing a child's concentration, which are all vital skills. If any book is lost or damaged, the school will ask for financial compensation. As in national libraries, we expect all of our school books to be cared for. If you have any of our school books, please return them when they are no longer in use.

SPELLING



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We are following the ULS phonics spelling scheme and have sessions regularly throughout the week. We no longer send spellings home. However, if you would like some spellings to practise with your child, please do speak to us and we can arrange this.

PE

Sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week (Term 2 TBC). Pupils need to wear their PE kit to school on these days. We appreciate that we are heading towards the autumn and winter so we will welcome navy tracksuit bottoms/sweatshirt or hoody to kit when temperatures drop. Can we remind you that children should wear the ST Mary's PE kit with daps or trainers (no football kits, neon colours or other alternatives). We would like to take this opportunity to suggest that some children may be ready to wear antiperspirant deodorant, particularly on PE days. We will leave this to your discretion; they will not be able to spray after PE sessions, however.

HOMEWORK

This is a useful part of pupils' home learning, and it helps to reinforce the work we do in class. The children will receive a maths homework book (from Term 2) following the maths scheme we look at in lessons, as well as short reading and SPAG tasks (from Term 2). We recommend to spread it out throughout the week rather than attempting to complete it all at once – little and often is key. Parents can support their children with homework; however, this should only be a little support – if children are unable to complete homework, then please record a note for me in their books. Once homework is established, I (Mrs Scott) will run a homework lunch time club, where children can choose to attend and have support with particular questions, or just to have some time to complete the tasks. Children who regularly don't complete



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their weekly homework will be expected to attend the weekly lunch time club. Homework will be due in on Mondays, and will be sent out on Tuesdays.

Thank you for your anticipated support. We look forward to working with you all this academic year. If you should need to speak with us outside of school hours regarding your child's education, please can I ask that you send me a message on the Priory Class email or contact the school office by telephone or email. We look forward to the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Scott and Miss Hutchings



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