

Spring 1 2021 Newsletter



Dear parents and carers.

Well, it is almost a year since I wrote a [letter](#) about the possibility of a lockdown and we are still in one. Who would have thought? Our way out of this pandemic are the [vaccines](#) and I do urge that you take up the offer when your turn arrives. Please ignore all the anti-vaccine media out there. I certainly will be rolling my sleeve up when I can!

***Please note that I add a number of hyperlinks in my newsletters so please do click on them for more information if reading this online. They are all highlighted and underlined.*

Remote Offer: I have been really pleased and humbled by how many of you have responded to our quick [FORM](#) telling us how well we are doing. I have shared all your comments with staff and, where we are able to, have responded to some of your ideas. We have a 4.74 out of 5 average.



Laptops to Loan: We still have a number of really nice laptops to loan out to families. If you are struggling with your device, please contact the office. We also now have a very small number of 4G routers should you not have Wi-Fi. These routers are simple to use and use 4G. It does not cost you anything.

The Eight Foundation: A big thanks to the [Eight Foundation](#), a local charity, for their gift of choccies for our staff. It went down a treat! The Eight Foundation has been set up as the chosen charity for [Amazon Smile](#). Every time you shop through Amazon Smile you can choose the Eight Foundation as your chosen charity where 0.5% of your purchases will go to the foundation.

Staffing: Mrs Moral, a year 5 teaching assistant, will be returning to school from maternity leave at the start of March. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Ballantyne, who has been covering the maternity leave, for being amazing! You are a breath of fresh air and we hope to see you again in the future!



Return to school: The Prime Minister is making an announcement on the 22nd February about his 'road map' outlining his plans for coming out of lockdown. The 8th of March is the earliest date that has been considered for the remainder of children to return to school. We will keep you updated but usually find things out when you all do. Currently we have 25% of children in our school on a daily basis.

Lateral Flow Tests: As you aware from my [letter](#) dated 28.01.20, all staff who are working in the school take a test twice a week which gives a COVID result in 30 mins. We are finding these really useful in keeping us all safer.



Catch Up: There is a lot of news in the press about ways schools can help children catch up following the lockdowns. We already have a catch up programme in place however this is in addition to this. There are debates that this may be in the form of a longer school day, summer school programmes, tuition programmes, repeating the school year for the minority as well as increased well-being support. At the moment this is just speculation.

Attendance: We are averaging 89% of good or better engagement with our remote learning. This is above the national average and we are pleased with this. I feel this is a result of the live daily offer we provide. Thank you to all of you for helping your children engage in this offer by getting them up on time, dressed and ready for learning in front of the device!

Thank you for also supporting us when we have to speak to the very, very small number of children who do not follow all of our live lesson etiquette. 99.9% of children do follow our simple rules.

Half Term COVID Case: Please could you email coronavirus.schools@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or telephone 023 9284 1717 should your child test positive in the half term. They will contact me so to do the usual close contact track and trace. Please remember that the whole household must isolate for 10 days following a positive COVID case.

Our Community Support page: Please do click on our [community support page](#) for any top tips.

Reading Competition: Check out our competition! Starting from Friday 12th February, children have a month to read as much as they can on Bug Club. The child that completes the most Bug Club quizzes or Rapid Reading Activities in each year group will win a £10 Amazon Gift Voucher! Visit our school [Bug Club](#) page for details!

Wall of Fame: Please continue to follow us on Facebook whilst also catching up on our [Wall of Fame](#) assemblies on our You Tube channel.

Screen Free Friday: Our next 'Free Screen Friday' is Friday 26th February where we set children fun activities that can be done during the day. Log onto TEAMS as per usual for instructions.

World Book Day 2021 will be celebrated this year on [Thursday 4th March](#) and despite everything that is happening, we still want to make this a great day for the children where we celebrate a love of books and reading



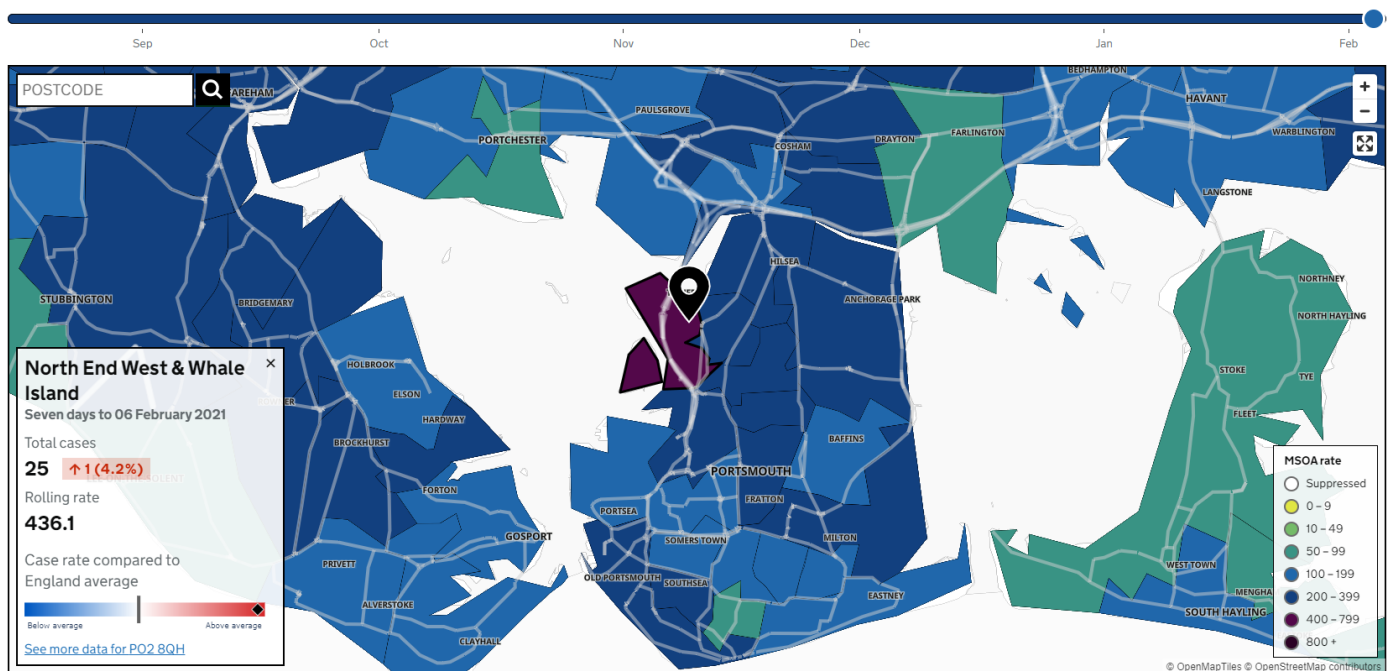
The poster is for the 'Bug Club Competition Time!' and features a green background with a bug character. It includes the following text: 'Your Challenge is to complete as many quizzes as possible on Bug Club!', 'The child who completes the most quizzes by Friday 12th March 2021, in each year group, will win a £10 Amazon Voucher!', 'The quizzes are accessed by clicking on the bugs within the books. They help your teacher to see that you have read and understood the book.', 'We'll also be counting the activities that you complete in 'Rapid Reading' books if your teacher has picked those for you to read!', and the website 'www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login'.

Last year's World Book Day was a huge success and although we won't all be together; we will still be taking part in the following activities to make sure this is a fun-filled day for all.

Food Vouchers: We have put our half term request in for the half term holiday vouchers for children in receipt of free school dinners. You should receive those in the half term via your email from Edenred. We have not been given details of vouchers for after half term or for how long yet. This does take the office a long time to set these up so thank you for your patience.

COVID new cases: New cases of COVID in Portsmouth continues to remain high however cases are thankfully falling. Please see the [interactive map](#). As of the 6th February, the Stamshaw area still have high cases in Portsmouth. Be safe please!

Seven-day rolling rate of new cases by specimen date ending on **06 Feb 2021**



We will be back up and running remotely on Monday 22nd February for the Spring 2 term and open to the 25% of children identified.

We break up for the Easter break on a Thursday next term. Thursday 1st of April will be the last school day.

This is not an April Fool's joke! 😊

Please see the [term dates](#).

Please take care over the half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rob Jones



Headteacher