

Dear Parents & Carers,

Firstly, I want to say a big thank you for the wonderful welcome and response that I have had during my first term as Head of Co-op Academy Portland. I am so incredibly proud to work in partnership with such an amazing community and feel so lucky to spend time with your children every day. The team at Portland is nothing short of remarkable and I'm sure you will all join me in thanking them for all of the hard work that they put into enhancing your children's lives and experiences.

Reflection

This last term has been a busy one indeed. I just want to list some of the wonderful experiences that the children have had and celebrate some of the amazing work of our school and team:

- Classes have visited the St. James Centre library
- We've had an Eco trip to the Recycling centre in Liverpool
- The Community Hub at the front of the school has officially opened
- Volunteers from local Co-op stores have painted our outside walls
- A local business has provided iPads to some of our classes
- Parents Evenings with a whole host of support services from ADDvanced Solutions, Koala Northwest, the Hive, our community team, SEND team, phonics team and Mental Health lead
- An award for our mental health work through My Happy Mind
- Four newspaper stories for our Eco tree planting, Wirral Big Dip (to promote positive mental health and wellbeing) and our three Wirral Co-op Primaries joining forces to raise money for Mind charity by completing a sponsored Spinathon as a staff team
- Two Co-op Academy Trust competitions where our children represented Portland in a Spelling Bee and GoIT event over in Manchester
- Volunteers from our site management company repointing walls, digging out bushes and repairing play equipment
- Weekly support from the Mental Health Support Team for our children and classes
- Regular sporting events in partnership with local high schools
- Exotic animals and Spring animals in school with the children
- An incredible World Book Day with our very own Chocolate Factory
- A Pupil Parliament trip to raise funds for our school
- Every child has received an Easter egg to take home with them at the end of the day

Next Steps

After the break, we will have brand new flooring throughout our Early Years and freshly painted walls; as well as History and Geography murals spanning the KS2 corridor. There is a plan in place for all KS2 classrooms to be decorated and we cannot wait for the difference this will have on the environment for our children.

We have had 16 new children join us since January and our pupil population is growing every week. Looking ahead to September, we are set to have our first oversubscribed Foundation 2. Please await phone calls from Mrs Shannon regarding places for September for F1 starters (Apply here if you haven't already: [complete our enquiries form](#)).

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Children will return to school on Tuesday 22nd April and it is essential to have all children on the playground from 8:30am as Spelling and Phonics lessons will be starting straight away.

I will publish term dates over the next couple of weeks for the next academic year but we are still upholding our two week half term as an extension to the usual October break.

As always, if you have any questions, please come and speak to one of the team. You will find one of us on gate duty at the beginning and end of every day and we are always happy to support you.

Thank you for an incredible half term, have a wonderful break with your brilliant children and see you in two (and a bit weeks)!

Mr. Leathers