



## Priory Junior School

Longsands Road, St Neots. Cambs PE19 1TF

Email: [office@priory.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@priory.cambs.sch.uk)

Tel: 01480 226730

Fax: 01480 226731

Headteacher: Tracy Keefe B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

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Dear Parents,

### Re: Return to School in September

As we approach the final days of the Summer term, we are now in a position to share with you the arrangements that will be in place for our school return in September. We have been reviewing the guidance from the DfE, along with the arrangements that are currently in place in school.

While we are pleased that restrictions are easing, we remain focused on ensuring that school remains as safe as it can be at this time. We are also aware that half of the school children will not have experienced a 'normal' school life at Priory, once we reach September.

Please read through the following information carefully, to help you and your child be ready for how school will be when we return from the summer holiday.

### Drop-off and Collection Times / Procedures

Thank-you to everyone who has contributed to our survey about changes to the timings of the school day for Years 5 and 6. We have considered the responses carefully, and discussed at our Full Governing Body meeting too.

We received 19 responses to the survey, with 6 parents stating they were in favour, 4 not in favour and 9 not sure.

### The timings for the school day will remain as proposed.

These will be as follows:

	Years 5 and 6	Years 3 and 4
Gates open for:	8.35am	8.45am
Registration	8.40am	8.50am
Collection	3.10pm	3.20pm



To help spread the arrival of children across the site, we would strongly encourage you to use the gates as follows:

Year 3 and Year 5 - Roundabout gate

Year 4 and Year 6 - Double gate (on roundabout) – this is currently being used as an exit gate.

If you come by the Bean Close gate on your way to school, you are welcome to use this gate to come through in the morning too.

### **Collection Arrangements**

At the end of the school day, the class teachers will lead their classes out in the way that they do now, and **parents will need to come through their collection gate:**

- Roundabout gate for Year 3 and 5;
- Double gate on roundabout for Year 4 and Year 6
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The class teacher will then let your child go to you.

**Year 6 children** – if you would like your child to go home independently (ie. without an adult collecting), please complete the form [here](#).

### **Bikes and Scooters**

We will be re-opening the bike sheds and children may bring their bike or scooter to school. The gates to the bike sheds will be opened at the start and end of the day.

**We expect all children to wear a cycle helmet if coming to school on a bike or scooter.**

### **Roundabout**

The roundabout will continue to remain closed, as we are continuing to use it as a pedestrian route. We strongly recommend that you do not travel to school by car, but find alternative approaches. If travel by car is unavoidable, then we would strongly encourage you to park further away from the school site and walk the final distance. This is the safest way to keep our school safe for all families.

### **Siblings**

If you have a child/ren in more than one class, they will be expected to arrive at the earlier time with their sibling. This arrangement is to help parents manage the different timings.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to allow early collection of siblings at the end of the day (ie with an earlier class), as they will need to stay for their school day. However, we will have a waiting station for siblings who will be waiting for the later collection time. This will include children who may need to wait for their older sibling from Longsands Academy to collect them.

### **Hand Sanitiser Stations / Cleaning Hands**

On the playground, we will continue to have morning hand sanitizer stations for the children to use before going into the building. These will be on the benches along the middle and side of the playground still.



## Hygiene

Children will be reminded of handwashing, and opportunities built into the school day. They will also be reminded of not touching their eyes, nose and mouths. Access to each set of toilets will be limited to a minimum number of classes sharing these facilities – this will be three classes at the most.

Children will also be provided with a good supply of tissues in their classrooms.

There will continue to be increased cleaning during the school day, so that all frequently touched surfaces eg. banisters and door handles will be cleaned more than once during the day.

## Equipment in School

The only things that children will be able to bring into school will be:

- A filled water bottle
- A packed lunch (if not having a school dinner)
- Sun-hat
- Waterproof coat
- Their inhaler (if they need one)
- School library book and log book

All other equipment will continue to be provided. For equipment that is in frequent use, children will continue to have their own personal set of equipment. This will be kept at their place throughout the day and they will not share this with anyone else. They will store this in their locker at the end of the day.

## Class Bubbles?

You will no doubt have seen that the DfE announced that bubbles in school will end. This will be the case for Priory Junior School. However, to support your children – both in adjusting to larger groups again, and in monitoring the situation, we will move gradually away from this routine as outlined below:

## Playtimes

We will initially open playtimes up to playing as a year group, and will continue the use of playground and field zones for this. Following review (half-way into our first half-term), it will be different again as we then intend to open playtimes up to playing across year groups.

The timings for our playtimes will be staggered for Year 3 and 4, and then for Year 5 and 6 – the children have told us how much they like this.

We will continue to provide the children with their own class' play equipment and their own skipping ropes. Team games will be allowed.

## Lunchtimes

The hall will return to use for dining purposes, but we will continue to keep year groups eating in sittings. We will run an extended lunchtime to manage this – Year 5 and 6 will have lunchtime from 12 – 1pm while Years 3 and 4 will have lunchtime from 12.15 – 1.15pm.

Lunches will be provide on site by ABM, our school caterer, and we will share information about menus at the start of September. Please book and pay for this a week in advance as usual.



## Assemblies

We will begin to return to assemblies in the hall over time, with year group assemblies taking place together first, as we begin to build towards a whole-school assembly together. The children have also told us that they have liked our online assemblies too, so we intend to keep some aspect of these in the future too.

## Uniform / PE Kit

The children will need to wear their school uniform to school, unless it is their allocated PE day. On PE days, they should come to school wearing the **school uniform PE kit**.

This is a red polo shirt, and navy shorts. In colder weather, they may wear navy jogging bottoms and a red sweatshirt for outdoor PE.

By wearing the school uniform PE kit, it will continue to create a sense of belonging and pride in our school.

We will let you know which days are PE days when we return to school in September.

## Contact with school staff / office

Should you wish to talk to a member of staff, please email or telephone the school office. Members of staff will telephone or email you if they wish to discuss anything with you too.

## Symptoms of Coronavirus

If your child presents with COVID-19 symptoms, please keep your child (and any siblings) at home and follow medical guidance. Further information and a link to booking a test may be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Children who develop symptoms should remain at home for 10 days. From the 16<sup>th</sup> August, other members of the household will not need to self-isolate if they have been double-vaccinated or are under the age of 18.

If your child should develop symptoms in school, we will move them to sit in a room on their own, and call you to collect. Should your child have a medical test for COVID-19, please let us know the results as soon as possible. Should a child or adult test positive for COVID-19, then the school will follow the advice of Public Health England, including any decisions about anyone in close contact.

We are pleased that some of these changes are beginning to open up the school experience more to our children. We are taking a graduated response in opening up and we hope that will build the confidence of all our children and school community as we take the next steps together.

Should any guidance change from the DfE / government over the summer holidays, we will ensure you are kept up-to-date with any implications it has on the changes we are making.

We are very much looking forward to the new school year, and helping them to settle into their new classes and our new routines. Thank-you for all your support this year. We have greatly appreciated it. We hope you are all now able to have a restful and relaxing summer holiday. Keep safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely,  
Tracy Keefe

