



Priory News July 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our final newsletter of the year, and what a year it has been. Last September now seems a distant memory when we all excitedly gathered at the gates, ready for the re-opening of school. Since then, we've experienced a school year with many restrictions continuing to be in place - something I don't think any of us would have imagined would be the case last September.

I have continued to be so proud of our school - of our staffing team for their tireless work in supporting the children through the many changes the year brought, of our children - for their dedication to their learning and demonstrating courage, determination and resilience, and to all our parents - for your continued support, including taking on the demands of remote learning too. I hope that we all take some time now to stop and appreciate all we have achieved together. The summer holidays have nearly arrived and it will be a good time for everyone to relax and recharge, ready for a new school year in September.

You should now have received information about how we plan to organise school in September - as we begin to restore more of a normal school life at Priory Junior. Recognising that the levels of transmission are currently rising in our country, and taking into account the DfE's guidance, we intend to move gradually in our steps. We trust you will all understand this and I thank you for your support in this.

Take care, stay safe and be kind.

Tracy Keefe

Diary Dates

- Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - 22nd July
- End of Term - 22nd July
- Autumn Term Starts - 2nd September

Staffing

As we approach the end of this term, we wish Mrs Wells the very best as she commences her maternity leave.

Mrs Raw and Miss Burley will also be saying goodbye to us this week - and we wish them the very best for the future, and thank them for their dedication to Priory Junior School.

Covid-Related Information

In September, we will continue to help reduce the risk of transmission through regular handwashing opportunities throughout the day, continuing to keep windows open to keep the building ventilated and increased cleaning of central areas.

Should your child have symptoms of Covid, you will need to ensure your child remains at home and get a PCR test for them. Symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a persistent new cough
- a loss of sense of taste or smell

We are also aware that the Delta variant may have other symptoms too, and we will advise you if we feel it wise to get tested to rule Covid out.

Please let us know as soon as you get the results from this by telephoning the school office on 01480 226730 or emailing: office@priory.cambs.sch.uk

Safe Routes to School

Keeping the area around the school site as free from traffic as possible at the start and end of the day will help us all to make it safer for all families on their journey to and from school.

Can you help by doing one of the following:

- Walk or cycle to school
- Park a little further along Longsands Road and walk the final part of the journey
- If you have a little more time, could you park at Priory Park car park - and make use of the traffic-free path up to Longsands Road by Priory Park?
- If you have to come to school, ensure you do not leave your car in front of the barrier where you are endangering other road users.

School Life

School Timings Consultation

Our consultation with parents about the proposed changes to the timings of the school day for Year 5 and Year 6 children has now ended.

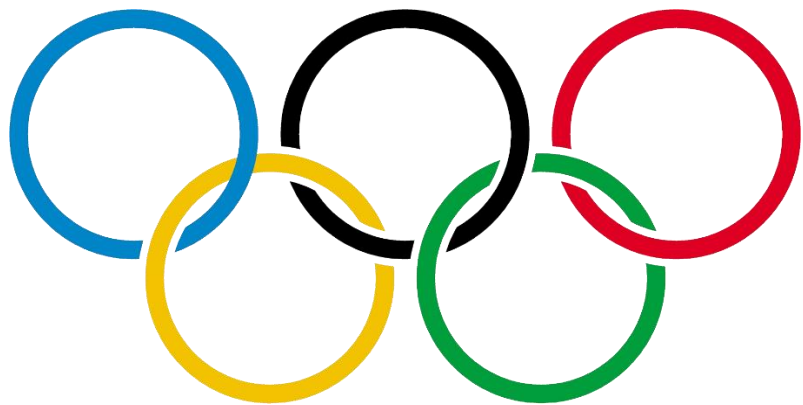
Thank-you to everyone who contributed to the consultation. We considered the comments made to us very carefully. Nineteen parents responded in total. Of these, 6 told us they were in favour of the changes, 4 against and 9 were unsure.

A common theme in some of the comments related to timings of other schools, particularly Priory Park Infants and Longsands Academy - as these are the schools that are closely connected to our families. We have consulted with both schools regarding the proposed changes, and have worked closely with Priory Park Infants to ensure that our timings will not affect families who have to travel between the two schools.

We understand that there may be some affect on the Year 5 and 6 timings which relate to collection by older siblings at Longsands. Any child who will be collected by an older sibling will be able to wait with a Y5/6 teacher for their sibling to arrive.

We will, of course, monitor the changes that we are introducing for September. We hope that they will continue to keep the calm start and end to the school day that we have been able to establish over the last year.

Well done everyone for taking on the Walk to Tokyo challenge! We have arrived - just in time for the Olympics!



We wish all our Year 6 children the very best, as you move onto secondary school - you will all be brilliant!



Sports Day was a little different to usual this year, but the children were still able to compete in their classes, and take part in a variety of sporting activities. It was great to see their enthusiasm and competitive spirit! For the first time ever, we also awarded every child with a medal too - bronze, silver and gold medals for classes in each year group.

We have quite a few thank-yous too!

Thank-you to:

- *Poppy's Tea-Rooms for helping us out with our school meals this past week.*
- *Friends of Priory for providing our Year 6 children with an End-of-Term BBQ, as part of our Year 6 Leavers' Afternoon.*
- *Friends of Priory and Iceland for providing us with ice-creams for all children as an end of term treat.*

This final half-term of the year has seen us being able to return to providing some of the enriching opportunities we value so highly, in school trips.

Year 3 have visited Paxton Pits and I think my favourite evaluation of this day came from a member of JE3 who told me 'that was the best school day on record - ever!'

We've had swimming lessons continuing and virtual visits to the Roald Dahl museum too.

For Year 6, we were very conscious of the loss of the residential trip that is a key part of the Year 6 experience. We found a way to provide them with an amazing, and hopefully, memory-lasting experience in a day-trip to Grafham Water Centre. Hopefully, you will enjoy some of the photos here from the day.



Contact Us

If you do have any questions, please contact us by emailing: office@priory.cambs.sch.uk

Have an enjoyable Summer! See you in September.