



## Priory Junior School

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24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents,

### Re: Re-opening of Schools on 8<sup>th</sup> March

As we now know, the government have announced that they plan for schools to reopen to all children on 8<sup>th</sup> March, and as such, we have been reviewing our plans, using the guidance from the DfE, in preparation for everyone's return to school.

We are looking forward to seeing all the children again and very much hope that we are now on the road to more promising times.

We are now writing to you with the details about school life from the 8<sup>th</sup> March – to help you prepare.

For children who have not been in school this term, we know that they may be feeling a mixture of feelings about returning – some may be excited and some may be anxious too, and for some, they may have a mixture of both these feelings. These feelings are completely natural – and we are sure that once they return, they will settle quickly into the routines of school life.

The routines we have in place to support social distancing will remain in school. This letter will outline the key routines and structures that remain in place at this time. Most of these will be familiar to your child/ren from the Autumn term.

### Class Bubbles

Your child will continue to work and play in their class bubble. They will not be able to play / mix with other children in other classes at this stage. Classes will continue to have separate drop-off and collection gates/times. One adult should bring your child to school and drop them off at the gate, when the member of staff asks them to come through. Children will continue to use one of the hand sanitizers to clean their hands before going into the building.



## Drop off and Collection

As you drop off, you will need to go through the playground and leave through the central gate or Bean Close gate. To collect your child at the end of the day, you will again need to queue at the same gate (by the roundabout), and the class teacher will send your child over to join you. You will then leave through the central gate.

**For all parents coming to the school, please ensure that you join the queue at your gate and remain 2m away from others. You should continue to follow the wider social distancing expectations in place at this time. If you are bringing younger children to the school site, please keep them with you at all times.**

Drop-off and collection times and gates will remain the same as the Autumn term:

Drop-off Time	Collection Time	Roundabout Gate	Bike Shed Gate
8.30am	3pm	EW3	HW3
8.35am	3.05pm	JE3	MC4
8.40am	3.10pm	KB4	JB4
8.45am	3.15pm	HR6	DF6
8.50am	3.20pm	AG6	AI5
8.55am	3.25pm	CS5	TR5

## Siblings

As before, if you have siblings, please drop-off both children at the time of the earliest child. Please collect them at the time of the latest child – your child's class teacher will keep hold of siblings with earlier times.

## Roundabout

As the roundabout will continue to be used as a pedestrian route, it will remain closed to traffic during drop-off and collection times. We would encourage families to walk to school as much as possible. Please do not use the entrance of the roundabout to drive into at this time. The bike sheds will continue to remain closed at this time.

## Hygiene

Children will continue to be reminded of handwashing, and opportunities built into the school day for this. Access to each set of toilets will be limited to two classes at the most sharing these facilities. 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 thoroughly on an ongoing basis. There will be no access to the water fountains in school during this time – please ensure your child brings a water bottle with them.



## 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 be provided. For equipment that is in frequent use, children will have their own personal set of equipment. This will be kept at their place throughout the day. They will not share this with anyone else.

School equipment that might be used by others in a different class will be sterilized after use.

## Playtimes

Children will have time to play outside, and this will be within their class bubble. They will continue to play in a zoned area of the playground / field, and will be able to make use of play equipment. We will continue to keep the games that children can play under review and adjust as guidance allows.

## Lunches

If you would like your child to have a school lunch, there will be provision from ABM, our school caterer. Please book and pay for this a week in advance as usual.

Children attending school who are eligible for a free school meal will now receive this and vouchers will no longer be sent.

All children will eat their lunch in the classroom at this time.

## 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 their PE kit. Please remember that PE kit is navy shorts and a red t-shirt. They may wish to wear jogging bottoms and sweatshirts while the weather is still cool.

## Learning routines / Assemblies

We will continue to teach a broad and balanced curriculum to the children. Some activities will continue to be adapted at this time – particularly music and PE. For Year 5 children who were expecting to swim this year, we are currently unable to offer this.

School trips are not allowed at this time, and so the children will remain on site for all learning activities.

We are still unable to meet together for a school assembly in the hall, but will continue to make use of technology to enable us to hold assemblies.



## 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. All other members of the household should self-isolate for 10 days.

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, including at the weekend. This can be done by emailing the school office via Pupil Asset.

Should a child or adult test positive for COVID-19, then the school will follow the Health Protection Team's advice and this will mean that the child's class will be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 10 days. During this time, the school will provide the class with remote learning. Because of this, we are continuing to limit the number of classes that staff may have contact with in school.

## Wider Social Restrictions in Place

We know that this time has brought many challenges to us all, and we are pleased that children are being prioritised in the return to school plans by the government. However, during this time, it is vitally important that families continue to keep to the restrictions that are still in place and expected of us all at any time. Therefore, we expect you to play your part in this and make sure that you and your family are keeping to these – **this will help to keep all staff and families safe in school too.**

Finally, the Spring term has been very different for us all – for children at home and for children in school. Thank-you for all your support with remote learning – we have been incredibly proud of all the hard work of our children and know that this doesn't come without challenges for everyone.

We are very much looking forward to seeing the children again, and helping them to settle back into school routines.

Keep safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Keefe

