



Priory News September 2021

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to the new school year. It has been a delight to welcome the children back to the new school year and see their excitement as they started their new classes. They are looking very smart in their new school uniforms!

We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing time during the summer holiday. A very warm welcome to our new families – in Year 3 and also, in other year groups too. They have impressed us with how they have come into school independently – we are very proud of them, and I am sure you are too. We will help them to continue to settle into their new school but in the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

This first newsletter contains information about routines, our curriculum and some events taking place this term.

We are working hard to get back to a more normal school life, while being mindful of the levels of transmission which are still rising in our country. This will continue to guide some of our decision-making.

By working together, we aim to support the children in our school to be the very best they can be. Please let us know if there are any changes to circumstances that might affect your child, so we can ensure they have the right support in place.

Take care,

Tracy Keefe

Diary Dates

- Meet and Greet Sessions 16th September
- Friends of Priory AGM 21st September
- Year 6 Viking Day 30th September
- Year 3 Town Walk 6th , 7th, 8th October



- National Poetry Day 7th October
- Flu Vaccinations Session 1 8th October
- Bike Shed Refurbishment 11th - 15th October
- Year 6 Tag Rugby Festival 19th October
- Half-Term 25th - 29th October
- Training Day - School Closed 1st November
- Year 5/6 Girls' Football Tournament 2nd November
- Parents Evenings 2nd, 3rd, 4th November
- Year 6 Bikeability 8th - 11th November
- Individual Photographs 11th November
- Panathlon Festival 16th November
- HR6 Class Assembly 17th November
- Flu Vaccinations Session 2 26th November
- JE5 Class Assembly 1st December
- End of Term 17th December

Staffing

We are delighted welcome Mr Hodgkiss and Miss Lygo to our teaching team this term, joining our Year 4 and Year 3 teams respectively.

We are also eagerly awaiting the news of Mrs Wells' baby who we hope will arrive any day soon!

Pupil Asset

As a parent, Pupil Asset is the way to receive all letters from the school, text messages, make payments, and give consent.

If, for any reason, you are experiencing any difficulty with Pupil Asset, please drop into the school office – as soon as we are made aware about an issue, we are able to promptly find a solution to rectify it.

Covid-Related Information

We are continuing to help reduce the risk of transmission through regular handwashing opportunities throughout the day, and continuing to keep windows open to keep the building ventilated. There is also increased cleaning of central areas taking place.

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

As you know, other children will not be required to self-isolate should your child be confirmed as having Covid, but we are still required to report all cases in our school to the DfE and the Local Authority - this enables them to monitor infection rates and support schools as appropriate.

Should we have an outbreak in school, we will begin to put in place additional measures to help to reduce any spread and will advise you of these at that point.

Arrival and Collection Times

We have been monitoring the drop-off and collection arrangements for the classes as these have changed slightly this year.

Arrival - please remember we now have two different start times to our school day:

Year 5 and 6 should arrive for 8.35am and their registration takes place at 8.40am. Y5/6 children arriving after this time will be marked late in Years 5 and 6.

Year 3 and 4 should arrive for 8.45am; their registration takes place at 8.50am. Y3/4 children arriving after this time will be marked late in Years 3 and 4.

Please remember that before your child's arrival time, children remain the responsibility of their parents.

Collection

We have seen that the system for Year 5 and 6 is working well, but that it does become quite busy and crowded for Year 3 and 4. To help ease this, please can we ask you to do the following:

- Year 3 parents - please come through the roundabout gate to collect your child once you see your child's class has arrived - coming through as a queue. Please do not wait on the playground - it helps us all if it is a one-way system through at this point. It also makes it easier for the teacher to see who they are handing over to. Once collected, please then leave through the double gate back onto the roundabout.

Year 4 parents - please come through the double gate - queuing on the right hand side of the double gates to come through, and then leaving through the Bean Close gate.

If you are collecting a child from Year 3 and Year 4, please start at the Year 3 gate and then rather than leaving through the double gate, move across the playground to Year 4 - collecting and leaving through Bean Close.

Attendance

School attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils. This means that we expect children to come to school every day, unless they are unwell.

Should you feel you have an exceptional reason why your child is not able to come to school, you may request this by completing a 'Request for Leave in Exceptional Circumstances' form - available from the school office. An exceptional circumstance is usually something that is **rare, significant, unavoidable and short**. A decision will be made based on the information provided and a decision given as quickly as possible.

Please note that holidays are not considered to be an exceptional circumstance. This is in line with DfE and Cambridgeshire LA guidance. Where a child does not attend school for the purpose of a holiday, a penalty notice is likely to be issued.

Should your child test positive with covid, or be required to self-isolate because of a covid-related reason, then your class teacher will provide remote learning - **but only if this criteria is met**.

School Life

Meet and Greet

This year, our Meet and Greet sessions will be take place outside on the playground. The year group teachers will meet parents and talk about routines and important information about the year ahead. It will be a great opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and will take place on 16th September.

A letter with details of booking a place for the session was sent home via email. Please ensure you have signed up, and completed LFT with a negative result before the day. On the afternoon, we will welcome parents through the roundabout gate for their session.

We hope you will find these useful. If you do have any questions following the afternoon, please email the office, or put a note in your child's log book.

Be The Best You Can Be

Our assemblies at the start of this term have been focused on our school vision - for everybody to Be The Best You Can Be. We are exploring the values we want children to develop during their time at Priory Junior School - to be great members of our school community, with an enthusiasm for learning and a desire to contribute to school life, helping others, getting involved and being kind and friendly.

Underpinning our values, and supporting children to 'Be The Best They Can Be', we continue to have three rules in school which are represented through three words - for everyone to be **Ready, Safe, and Kind**

We will be talk about these in assemblies, in class and around school to help children understand and keep to these expectations around school.

Our Values



Harvest Assembly and Class Assemblies

Our Harvest Assembly is usually one of the most popular events of the school year, with many parents wishing to attend. This half-term, we are gradually building up to year groups meeting for assemblies in the hall, with the aim that we will begin to meet again as a whole school together in the not so distant future. This is something we are really looking forward to.

We plan to hold our harvest assembly in two parts - with Year 3 and 4 together and Y5 and 6 together. At this point, we will not be inviting parents along to this one as it would be extremely busy in the hall. We hope you understand. However, we are beginning to plan to hold class assemblies and will be inviting parents to attend these - as we can then ensure you are spaced in the hall to enjoy the assembly. These are planned to begin to take place after the half-term:

HR6 - 17th November

JE5 - 1st December

We will invite parents to sign up to attend their child's class assembly - keep a look out for the letters after half-term.

Break-Time Snacks

Children may bring a healthy snack (**fruit or vegetables**) for break-times.

Sweets, chocolate and crisps are **not permitted**.

All equipment for play is provided by the school, and you should not send children with any additional items.

Nut-Safe School

Please remember we are a nut safe school and as such, we ask that you do not send any food that contains nuts into school. In this way, we can help to keep children with nut allergies safe.

School Dinners

School dinners cost £2.30 per day and £11.50 per week.

Payments can be made using Pupil Asset and must be made in advance for school dinners.

If you have any difficulties with payments, please contact either myself or Mrs Tully.

Water Bottles

A little reminder that children should bring a water bottle to school each day so that they can have a drink of water throughout the day. We no longer have water fountains in school for hygiene reasons.

Water helps to keep the brain alert and helps children to remain focussed and learning.

Jewellery

The only jewellery permitted in school is a watch and stud earrings. Earrings cannot be worn for PE, including newly pierced ears – this is county policy. Earrings are not allowed to be taped over for this purpose.

Please make sure your child is either able to remove their own earrings for PE, or they do not wear them on PE days.

Basic Skills Quality Mark

Towards the end of the summer term, we were assessed against the Basic Skills Quality Mark and were delighted to be awarded this for the seventh time. The award recognises the school's commitment to the teaching and learning for english and maths. Within the report, the assessor drew out the following points as being noteworthy:

- All actions are underpinned by the strong school ethos: *Be The Best You Can Be*;
- School leaders maintain a clear view of the school context and its learners and have clear vision for the future;
- Rigorous processes in assessment, review and evaluation lead to concise next steps;
- Planning in English and mathematics provides inclusive provision, whilst taking account of the learning needs of all pupils;
- Governance aligns well with expected roles and responsibilities which leads to strong partnerships.

The Best Ways to Communicate With Us

There are lots of ways to get in touch with us. We are keen to build a strong partnership with parents - so please do get in touch.

If you want a quick word with your child's class teacher, the best ways to get in touch are through emailing the school office: office@priory.cambs.sch.uk, or putting a note in your child's log book (don't forget to remind your child to hand it in).

You can usually grab a quick word with your child's class teacher on the playground at the end of the day too.

You can also telephone the school office to leave a message too: 01480 226730. We will get back to you as soon as we are able,

Please do not leave messages for teachers through your child's SeeSaw account - as we sometimes project SeeSaw pages onto the screen in lessons.

Parent Helpers

We greatly appreciate the support from having parent helpers in class. We are aiming to be able to welcome parent helpers back into school after half-term. If you are able to help, please make contact in the first instance with your child's class teacher. Then, we will invite you to complete our parent helper safeguarding checks with us, and arrange for your support to start after half-term.

The BASE's New Home

After a a long period of planning, we were thrilled that the installation of a new building for The BASE started during the summer holiday. It arrived on a series of lorries, and was lifted carefully into position. We are eagerly



anticipating it being handed over to us - which we expect to take place at the end of the week.

The building will provide a fantastic space for the children attending The BASE each day to make use of before and after school, and will be easily accessible from the school playground. The children and staff are all very excited about it, and they have been busy discussing what spaces and furniture they would like to find inside.

We offer sessions at The BASE from 7.30am each day, and until 6pm after school. If you are interested in your child attending, please contact the school office who will provide you with the registration form.

....and other building work....

We also had much more taking place over the summer holidays too. Three more classrooms in the school were refurbished along with the final set of toilets too.

We have installed LED lights in the hall which has made it brighter and should be more environmentally friendly too.

Mr Shaw, our caretaker, was also busy ensuring the school was ready for everyone's return. The area outside JE5 had its paving extended - to ensure it was accessible to all. We are rejuvenating our garden area - and plan to create an outdoor learning space there over the coming months. The transformation of this area has now begun with the removal of the old paving, plants and gazebo.

Contact Us

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