



# Priory News

## September 2020



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year. The last school year was the most unusual one that we have ever experienced, and while the organisation of school is different this year, we are so pleased to be able to welcome all our children back this September. We've missed you all!

Before I go any further, I want to thank you all – for the hard work you put in supporting your children at home, with learning, and with ensuring they were happy too. You all found yourselves in situations you would not have dreamt of and you all rose to the challenge. You also took time to send us messages of support and encouragement too. Thank-you – they meant a lot.

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 quickly adapted to coming 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.

Finally, we are looking forward to this new school year and hope that the measures we have had to put in place will last for only a short while – so that we can return to more 'normal' school routines. To get there, we all need to work together, and remember to follow the government guidance in place.

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 support them.

Warm Regards,

Tracy Keefe

### Diary Dates

Meet and Greet	28 <sup>th</sup> September
Harvest Assemblies	15 <sup>th</sup> October
Parents Evenings	various weeks from 19 <sup>th</sup> October – 13 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>
Flu Vaccinations	9 <sup>th</sup> November
Children in Need Day	13 <sup>th</sup> November
National Anti-Bullying Week	16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>End of Term</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Spring Term Starts</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b>

### Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Miss Ingle and Mr Connolly to our teaching team this term, joining the Year 5 and Year 3 teams.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Hiom, Miss Dean and Miss Lake to our teaching assistant team too.

Miss Dean has also joined The BASE, as a new playworker.

### 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.

### ***Staggered Starts and End Times***

*The staggered starts and end times, which follow DfE guidance, are working smoothly. Thank-you for your understanding with these. During the last week, I had a few parents asking how long these will last for, and unfortunately, these won't be ending soon.*

*The timings are set to ensure that we keep our class 'bubbles' separate from each other. As part of this, we are managing them within the building too. Two classes share a cloakroom – this is a small area – and so, we need to keep to times to ensure they are not in contact with each other during drop-off and collection. This is important as should one class have to self-isolate, we don't want the other class to have to do so too.*

*Please help us with this by joining the queue for your drop-off / collection time.*

### ***Ready, Safe, Kind***

*Underpinning our values, and supporting children to 'Be The Best They Can Be', we are introducing three words to reinforce our expectations around school: **Ready, Safe, Kind***

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

### ***Meet and Greet***

*This year, our Meet and Greet sessions will be going online. The year group teachers are preparing videos for you, and we will place these on the school website for you to view. They are planned for 28<sup>th</sup> September.*

*They are a chance to hear from your child's class teacher about the expectations for your child's new year group.*

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

### ***Harvest Assembly***

*Our Harvest Assembly is usually one of the most popular events of the school year, with many parents wishing to attend. While we are not allowed to gather as a school for assemblies at the moment, we do plan to hold a 'virtual' Harvest for everyone to be involved in. More details about attending this will follow – please look out for the letter in the near future.*

*In the meantime, please save the date: **15<sup>th</sup> October***

### ***Parents' Evenings***

*Parents' Evenings this term will be held over a period of three weeks, and will take the form of telephone appointments at this time.*

*We will ask you to sign up for your appointment in the usual way, using our booking system. A letter will be sent to you nearer the time.*

*Appointment times will be between 4pm and 5.30pm each day of the week.*

*Class weeks are as follows:*

*Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> October: EW3, JE3, HW3, KB4*

*Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> November: JB4, MC4, CS5, AI5*

*Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> November: TR5, AG6, HR6, DF6*

### ***School Uniform and PE Days***

*We continue to encourage all our children to wear school uniform.*

***On PE Days, we are currently asking you to send your child in their PE kit. This should be a red polo shirt, and navy shorts. On colder days, they should wear jogging bottoms, and a red sweatshirt / cardigan over the top of this.***

*School uniform sets the tone for learning, and provides children with a sense of belonging to the school community. It also helps to alleviate peer pressure from having the latest fashionable items.*

*School Uniform can be purchased directly from [www.motif8.co.uk](http://www.motif8.co.uk)*

*If you do not have internet access, please send your order to the school office.*

*We also hold a selection of second-hand uniform in the school office which is available for £1.*

*If, during the year, you no longer need an item of clothing and it is still in good condition, please consider donating it to our second-hand uniform stock.*

### ***Summer Holiday Building Work***

*Over the summer holidays, the windows and door refurbishment work was finally completed. They have transformed our building, internally and externally, and we look forward to feeling a little warmer during the winter months.*

*We also redecorated DF6, CS5 and AI5 from top to bottom – they look fabulous learning environments for the children!*

*Our toilet refurbishment also continued, with CS5 and AI5's toilets being updated.*

### ***Absences***

*If your child is unwell for any reason, please inform the School Office as soon as possible, along with the reason for the absence – this can be done using Pupil Asset or by leaving a message on the telephone system: 01480 226730.*

*Should your child be experiencing any symptoms related to Covid-19, please do not send them, or their siblings into school unless you have had a negative test. Without this, your child should remain at home for 10 days.*

*Symptoms are: a new, persistent cough, a high temperature or a sudden loss of sense of smell or taste.*

*Should anyone in your household be experiencing symptoms, your child should not come into school and should self-isolate for 14 days.*

*If you have any queries about this, please call the school office.*

### ***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 dinner money.*

*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. While we have water fountains in school, these are not as accessible in lessons.*

*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.*

### ***Break-Times***

*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.*