

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - September 6th 2016

Welcome back

We hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely Summer holiday. We are delighted to see the children back at school; they have returned to school smartly, ready for the new term and have settled back into school life very well.

We are delighted to welcome our new Nursery children and their families to our school. We have waited a long time to open our school based Nursery and I would like to thank the Governors for all of their hard work, and the support from our families in making this possible.

We would also like to welcome all of our new Reception children and their families to school. We hope that the children will be very happy at our school.

Some new additions to staff this year: we would like to welcome Mrs Castling to Reception class as class teacher this year. She previously taught at Lingey House Primary School in Gateshead. Finally, we would like to welcome Mr Russell to our school. Mr Russell is training to be a Primary School teacher through the School Direct route, in which he is based at a host school for a year (in Year 6 with Miss Daley) and he also does teaching placements at other schools nearby.

After school clubs

All after school clubs will start the week beginning September 19th and will run for 5 weeks. The after school club letter is being sent out today. Thank you to Miss Knowles for organising the clubs for the children.

PE kits

We used to inform parents when each class have their two PE sessions per week, but prefer now that you send your child into school with their PE kit on a Monday. We then encourage the children to leave it on their peg all week and bring it home on a Friday. This enables us to have full kit in school, should there be any timetable changes for PE. Thanks for your support with this matter.

There is a change of swimming slot for autumn term and Year 4 will require their swimming kit each Friday, as they will be swimming from 2.15pm until 2.45pm.

Medical forms

At the start of the new school year, we ask all parents to call into the school office if your child has a medical issue that we need to be informed of at school. You will be given a form

to complete, which is a medical health care plan, which we require as a matter of priority ready for the new term. This paperwork is in line with our managing medicines policy, and request full updated details about your child's medical needs, so that we start the school year with everything up to date. If your child has a medical need and you have not requested a medical form, please contact the school office as soon as possible, thank you.

Nursery and Reception packs

Please can all Nursery and Reception parents return the pack that was given out before the end of term by the end of this week, thanks. This pack contains a range of permission slips, contact information, questionnaire to return etc. We need all of them to be returned so that class teachers can collate all of this information about our new children.



Reminders for the start of term

- Tuck shop runs on Friday mornings after 'well done' assembly. Children are to bring no more than 50p thank you.
- Please use the footpath around the car park when leaving the main entrance.
- Please park considerately for our local residents, as there is no access to the school site for parent parking or drop off, unless for accessibility reasons (please see the school office if you require this, and have a blue badge)
- Please send all forms and money into school with your child via their book bags, and encourage them to hand these to their class teacher at morning registration time.
- Please see our school website on www.prestongrange.primary.co.uk for all up to date news. There is also a fortnightly newsletter on a Tuesday which is uploaded to the website to download. Should you require a paper copy, please inform the school office, otherwise it is presumed that you will download the newsletter from the website each fortnight.
- Please encourage your child to cycle or scoot to school, there is 'parking' on site at the front of school. They should get off them once they enter the school site however, and push their bike or scooter.
- School is unable to authorise any term time holiday, other than in exceptional circumstances. Should you require a leave of absence form for your child, please see the school office.
- Earrings must be removed for PE. If your child cannot remove their earrings, they will be given a parallel PE activity to do.
- If you have any questions, queries or problems, please do not hesitate to ask for help either at the school office, or either speak to myself or make an appointment, thank you.

Thank you

We would like to recruit some further DBS cleared parents for our register, so that we can continue to offer the wide range of activities we do in school, as the adult to pupil ratios are high especially in Key Stage 1.

We are grateful for those parents who have come forward and have already seen Mrs Clarke in the school office about getting DBS cleared. It is a simple process now, and only takes approximately one week to come through. The reason that we have to have everybody DBS cleared specifically for our school is for safeguarding reasons; we safeguard our children by carrying out the DBS clearance on everybody who works with them. We really appreciate the parents who have volunteered so far, and if there are any of our new Reception parents who would like to offer either occasional support or regular support to our school (eg. hearing readers, offering to accompany trips) please see Mrs Clarke in the office, thank you.

SATs 2017

We would ask that you do not take your Year 2 or Year 6 child out of school during the month of May, or in the time leading up to the assessment period thank you. Next year there will be statutory assessments for both classes during this time. Year 6 will be sitting SATs during the full week of May 8th, and Year 2 will be sitting new formal tests around the month of May. More details about the statutory tests for both Year 2 and 6 will be sent out later this half term.

Also, Year 1 children have a phonics test generally in the week of June around the week of June 20th. Again, we ask that you do not take your child out of school during this time, or in the time leading up to this, thank you.

Contact details

The school office will be sending out a parent/emergency contact form over the next week or so. We would be grateful if these could be returned **by Friday 16th September** at the latest thanks. Please ensure that all contact details and phone numbers are up to date and correct before you send these into school so that we have completely up to date correct details for the new school year, in case we need to contact you. Thank you.

Water bottles

Children should bring a water bottle to school, which they may re-fill from the water fountain in school. Our preferred school water bottles are available from the office at a cost of £1.50. Please make sure that you label the water bottle with your child's name clearly. In particular, new Nursery children and Reception children should have a water bottle particularly if they do not drink milk. Children are encouraged to drink regularly across the school day as this aids their concentration and keeps them hydrated. Please see Mrs Clarke or Mrs Royle in the office to buy a water bottle thanks.

Twitter

As parents will be aware, we currently have two forms of communication for school news currently; a fortnightly newsletter on a Tuesday which can be either downloaded from the school website, or requested as a paper version from the school office. Or, our school website also shares photos, news items and stories on www.prestongrange.primary.co.uk

As of the week beginning 19th September, we will be launching a Twitter page for school. The aim of this is to share news directly press' from each class in school. We aim to share two tweets from each class in a week, as well as instant snippets of news ongoing across the week. Arrangements will be confirmed in the next newsletter, and we hope that parents will value this communication in addition to what we currently offer.

Breakfast club

As of the start of term, Mrs Conaty and Mrs Hogarth will run breakfast club; Mrs Hogarth is also a lunchtime supervisor at school.

New playground equipment

Just before the Summer, we ordered 4 sets of football posts for the field for Key Stage 2 children to use. The goalposts are timetabled to ensure that access to the posts is fair. There are also two sets of posts for Key Stage 1 children.

In addition to this, we have bought some rugby posts, which will be put up by the end of this week. We also asked the children what other equipment they would like. They requested the following equipment, which we have also bought: cricket stumps and bats, hockey sticks and balls, rugby balls, extra basketball hoops, badminton rackets and net, volleyballs, French skipping ropes, skip balls, cones, skipping ropes and a range of bats and balls. Unfortunately we had to stop at the request for a swimming pool and running track, as much as we would love them, due to the funds running out!

Lunchtime Supervisor

We currently have an opening for a lunchtime supervisor. Please contact the school office if you are interested in applying for the post.

Dates for your diary:

Mon 12th Sept - deadline for after school clubs sign up

Mon 19th Sept - Clubs start this week

Tues 20th Sept - Osiligi Warriors in school (African dance troupe)

Wed 21st - Year 6 first aid course

Fri 23rd Sept - Jeans 4 Genes Day (non uniform day)

Fri 21st Oct - Break up for half term

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, September 6th 2016

