

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – January 27th 2022



Update

I hope that everyone is having a good week! I would like to update families on the current situation in school. After being hit quite hard just before Christmas with children testing positive, we are finding that the numbers of children testing positive is slowly dropping. We do know that there are still some children at home isolating, and I send our best wishes for a speedy return from everyone at school.

Unfortunately, we have been quite badly hit recently with staff testing positive; some staff in the Christmas holidays, and since the start of term there have been six members of staff off work. This has been quite difficult to manage, but we are optimistic that we are over the worst of it now, and all staff will have returned to school by next Monday.

Cash free

As of next week, our school will be a cash free school. We have been moving towards this for the last couple of years and unfortunately this means that we can no longer accept a dual system of cash and online payments. We will be no longer able to accept any form of cash or cheques for clubs, breakfast club or trips. If you require any support in learning how to use the online payment system, please contact Miss Dean in the school office for support. Thank you for your support with this matter.

School holidays this academic year

Last year, when we originally sent out to families the dates for the school holidays 2021-22, it did not take into account the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As you will be aware, there are an additional two bank holidays for the general public which fall within May half term. I can now confirm that this year due to the jubilee, schools only have to work 189 days instead of the usual 190 days, so May half term will now be the following dates. **(Please note that there are TWO Teacher Training days immediately after May half term)**

May half term – children break up Thursday 26th May and return to school Wednesday 8th June. This is due to two Teacher Training days on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th June.

School holidays 2022-23

The dates for school holidays will be sent home to families just after February half term.



Basketball – Hoops 4 Health

Tomorrow sees our Year 5 class at the Newcastle Eagles Vertu Arena, participating in the North Tyneside Hoops 4 Health tournament. The children will come home with a basketball kit tonight, which we would be grateful that you return to school washed by next Monday. Thanks you, and the best of luck to our three Year 5 teams!

Recently appointed staff

For those families who do not follow our school Twitter account, I am pleased to inform you that after a term without anyone in these posts, we now have two new members of staff! Mrs Lynch is our Finance Officer, and Mr Toward, who is our Site Manager. We are delighted that they have joined our staff team as they are both highly experienced in their roles, having come from local primary schools with many years of experience between them.



Trainee teacher

This term we have a trainee teacher called Mr Carr, who will teach in Year 2 along with Mrs Gibson and Mrs Blackett. Mr Carr is part of the North East partnership SCITT (school centred initial teacher training) programme based at John Spence.

Parents appointments Spring term



This term I would really like parents able to look at their children's books because with the disruption of the last 18 months and due to us having to use online parent meetings, I am conscious that parents have not seen their child's work for almost 2 years.

Therefore we have planned a separate opportunity ahead of parents' appointments in order that parents can attend school in small numbers, using allocated strict time slots in order to view the children's books in the school hall. This will be across two days, please see below:

TUESDAY 8th Feb – slots to look at your child's books in the hall

- 9-9.30 - Reception
- 9.40-10.10 – Year 1
- 10.20-10.50 – Year 2
- 11-11.30 – Year 3
- 1.30-2.00 – Year 4
- 2.10-2.40 – Year 5
- 2.50-3.20 – Year 6

WEDNESDAY 9th Feb - slots to look at your child's books in the hall

9-9.30 – Year 6
9.40-10.10 – Year 5
10.20-10.50 – Year 4
1.10-1.35 – Year 2
1.45-2.10 – Year 1
2.20-2.45 - Reception
2.55-3.20 – Year 3

For this to still be managed safely, I have to point out that:

- only ONE parent may attend to view the child's books
- parents will not be able to stay longer than the allocated class slot
- Every parent coming into the building must still wear a face mask.

NB. You do not have to book an appointment in order to look at your child's books

The following week on Tuesday 15th February, we will have online Zoom parent meetings (hopefully for the last time) starting in the afternoon. A link to the parents' appointment booking system will be sent out separately.

Dates for your diary

Fri 28th Jan – Year 5 Hoops 4 Health basketball tournament all day

Thurs 3rd Feb – Y5/6 hockey @ JSCHS 4pm

Mon 7th Feb – Children's mental health week

Tues 8th Feb – parent book look in hall

Wed 9th Feb - parent book look in hall

Wed 8th Feb – Heights & weights Reception & Year 6

Tues 15th Feb – Parents appointments (pm)

Tues 15th Feb – Year 2 multi skills competition @ JSCHS

Thurs 17th Feb – Year 1 multi skills competition @ JSCHS

Fri 18th Feb – break up for half term

Mon 28th Feb – Children return to school

Tracey Taylor
Headteacher

January 27th 2021