

# Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - September 7<sup>th</sup> 2021



## Welcome back !

The children are already settled into their new classes with their teachers and have bounced back happily and are working hard. Welcome to our new children and families, we hope that you enjoy being part of our school!

## Arrangements for this term

A leaflet has already been sent home entitled 'Taking your child to Primary School' last Friday which outlines the updated guidance around COVID. If you did not receive this, please refer to our website. Please also see our updated risk assessment which you can find on the school website. I have also summarised below, the key information which has already been shared with families at the end of Summer term:

- Bubbles or separation of children is no longer necessary and social distancing is no longer a requirement.
- Schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing
- Face coverings are not required (the exception being where there is an outbreak based on advice by the local Director of Public Health)
- Schools must develop an outbreak management plan
- The following control measures are required in all schools:
  - Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
  - Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
  - Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
  - Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Testing
  - All school staff will continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September
- Risk assessments remain important
- Headteachers are entitled to refuse to admit a pupil who, in their view, appears to have symptoms of Covid-19 pending the pupil taking a Covid-19 test.
- Staff and pupils who are symptomatic must not attend school until they have a negative PCR test and anyone with a positive test must also self-isolate. The rest of the staff or class are to remain in school.

The arrangements for the start and end of the school day for Autumn term will remain exactly the same as they are now including the Malvern Road gate being closed on a morning.

## Some reminders

- Reading – children should read **every** night with parents. The home school reading log should be signed and returned to school the next day. Reading books are being sent home this week.
- Homework - we expect parents to support children with their homework, which is sent out at the start of each half term, starting this Friday. Homework is done via Google Classroom. Please note: logins and passwords will remain the same as last year for all children. New logins and passwords will be sent home to new Reception children and children new to school. We ask that if you are unsure how to upload work to Google Classroom, that you speak to your child's class teacher. Work should not be sent via the school office inbox thank you.
- If your child is unwell, it is a parent's responsibility to phone to school office to inform us why your child is absent. We ask that you do this as early as possible in the morning. There is an answer phone in the office if you need to leave a message. The office need to know what is wrong with your child and when they will likely return to school.
- We do not authorise leave of absence during term time and if you take your child out of school for a holiday, it is possible that you will be fined. Please refer to our Attendance policy on the school website.
- Packed lunches should not contain sweets or fizzy drinks - we are a Healthy School.
- Children should bring a water bottle to school every day to keep them hydrated throughout the school day. For children on packed lunches, this needs to be a separate drink to the drink in their packed lunch.
- For parents new to school, please do not drive into the school car park; cars must be parked outside the school and with consideration to the residents of the estate, thank you.
- When you need to send either a form, letter or money into school, please put this in an envelope **with your child's name and class** on the front then place this in your child's book bag. Staff get the children to empty their book bags in the morning and everything is sent to the office. Please do not queue to hand in forms at the school office thank you.

## Contacting school

I will be managing the school inbox due to reduced staffing in the school office and ask that parents only contact the school office **for essential reasons only**. We are being inundated by parents asking questions about information that has previously been sent home; all information will be placed on the school website which has copies of all communication sent home. Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

## Documents being sent home this week

**On PAPER:** Every September the school office send home a data sheet from SIMS containing parent contact information and other details; this will be on paper, via your child's book bag.

Please check that these contact details, including emergency contacts are correct, make any amendments, highlight your changes and return to the office as soon as possible. **Please note:** there must be **TWO** emergency contact names and numbers in case one emergency contact is not available if we need to contact them, thanks.

## Breakfast club

There is a daily charge of £1.50 for breakfast club starting at 7.45am for Reception to Year 6 children.

Please note that there are places available weekly on a strictly first come first served basis. The booking slots will only be available for one week in advance. You will receive a text each Monday morning to advise you that booking is open for the following week. Children must be booked into breakfast club in advance; all bookings must be made by the Friday for the upcoming week, and only children who have booked are able to attend. If you are new to the booking system and have any difficulties please contact the school office.

Please note that once the booking system is closed on a Friday, there will be no extra children admitted for that week due to staffing levels and ratio of staff to children.

If your child is attending breakfast club, please sign your child in on the register provided in the entrance porch. Please press the buzzer and then a member of staff from breakfast club will collect your child from the entrance.

## After school club

If you require a place at after school club, please ask for a registration form at the office. Currently school is running an after school club until October half term in order to determine if this provision is viable for school.

## **Nursery and Reception packs**

We are still waiting for all Nursery and Reception packs to be returned. These packs contain important information for the school office and also staff at the start of term. If you have not returned your forms, please do so before Friday this week, thank you.

## **Staffing**

The start of term sees some additional new staff in school.

Mr Fairley was our School Direct student teacher last year, and this year is his first year of teaching and he will be teaching Maths sets in Year 5 and 6, along with teaching Year 4 and Year 6 two afternoons each week.

Mrs Ward has had a beautiful baby girl called Ivy over the Summer holidays. Miss Scott will be the maternity cover for Mrs Ward whilst she is on her maternity leave.

Miss Storey will be teaching afternoon Nursery, and this will be based in the mobile classroom.

Miss Dean has been appointed as the replacement Admin Assistant in the office following Mrs Royle's retirement.

Miss Malone will be working in breakfast club, after school club and as a lunchtime supervisor.

Mrs Maguire will be providing us with some temporary support as Office Manager whilst Mrs Clarke is off work. I am so grateful to Mrs Maguire and Miss Dean who are both working extremely hard to learn systems and processes in our school whilst being new to school.

Lastly, Mrs Hogarth decided to retire over the Summer holidays and will not be returning to school. We'd like to thank her for her commitment to school. Mrs Hogarth was Breakfast Club Manager, lunchtime Supervisor and 1:1 SEN Teaching Assistant. We'd like to thank her for the years that she has worked in school, and wish her all the best for a very happy retirement.

## **PE kit**

As part of our COVID arrangements, last year we asked that all children come into school wearing their PE kit on their PE days. This year we will revert to what we always did prior to this, and ask that the children bring their PE kit into school and keep it on their peg until the end of the half term.

## **Jewellery**

For health and safety reasons, we ask that the children with pierced ears take out their earrings for any organised physical activity. If they cannot do this inde-

pendently, they will be given an alternative PE related activity in which to participate. We would be grateful if you could practice taking your child's earrings out so that they may do this in school by themselves. If you intend to have your child's ears pierced in the future, we would be grateful if you could do so in the Summer holidays, thank you.

### **Works over Summer**

During the Summer holiday, the Local Authority have replaced our central heating boilers. They have also installed emergency lighting throughout school. I'd like to personally thank Miss Lamb, our Chair of Governors whose initial letter initiated the Local Authority funding the cost of these works. I'd also like to thank Mr Patterson, who has managed the dozens of workmen on site extremely effectively over the 6 week holiday.

### **Dates for your diary**

Mon 6th Sept - After school club starts

Fri 10th Sept - Year 4 swimming starts

Tues 14th Sept - Newcastle Eagles Hoops 4 Health for Year 5 &6

27th Sept - Bike to School week

Fri 22nd Oct - Wear it Pink Day

Fri 22nd Oct - Break up for October half term

Tracey Taylor

Headteacher

7th September 2021