



AUTUMN 1 2020

NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mrs H Malbon
Deputy Headteacher: Miss K Huddart (KS1 Leader)
Assistant Headteachers: Mr C Richards (KS2 Leader)
Mrs R Rowbotham (EYs Leader)

Proverbs 3:5

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own
understanding;”**

This verse has given me much comfort in recent months when life has been so uncertain. It has been hard to make sense of what is happening and to understand the new normal we are living in. But, this verse reminds me that I don't have to understand. That God has the plan and that I can trust Him to work all things for good. As we start our new school year, I trust also that He has a plan for every child, family and staff member at Prior's Mill and I am excited to be a part of all that involves.

It was a pleasure to open school last week and welcome everyone back! The children were an absolute credit to you and adapted quickly to their new classrooms, teachers and routines. Included in this letter is some information and reminders about how we are implementing our safety measures and I would ask that you take time to read these through and continue to do all you can to help us keep everyone safe.

Settling in

After such an extended period away from school we all appreciate that children may need some extra support to feel settled and happy in class. Please remember that your child's class teacher is the first port of call if you have any concerns about your child, their work or their friendships. Under current restrictions, it's not possible for staff to be available to talk with you at the gates or inside school. However, if you leave a message at the school office for a class teacher to contact you, they will do so as soon as they have an opportunity. Miss Huddart, Mr Richards and Mrs Rowbotham can offer further advice and support to solve any problems or concerns.

We will not be holding face to face consultation evenings this term due to restrictions but you will receive a short, written report of how your child

has settled in, their current work levels and targets for the year, later this half term.

New Roof!

You will have noticed that the lower site roof work is not yet complete. There were several delays during the holidays and also a fair amount of rain that scuppered plans! We hope that everything will be finished in a couple of weeks but for now we have to live with scaffolding and reduced car parking space. Please do be careful as you walk the site. It'll be worth it when it is finished!

PD Days 2020-21

We have planned four of our five dates when school will be closed to children and staff will be undertaking training (please see below). The fifth date will be shared with you as soon as it is confirmed.

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Monday 2nd November 2020

Monday 19th July 2021

Tuesday 20th July 2021

Permissions and Contact Details

We are updating our records and permissions in line with GDPR regulations which require informed consent. We will shortly be sending home a Multi Consent Form that we need completing for **EVERY** child in school. The purpose of this form is to reduce the amount of times during the year we request separate permissions for things such as trips, events in school and use of photographs. We hope that by asking for your permission once it will significantly reduce paperwork and save time in the end. When your child is due to go out on a trip, we will inform you either by letter or via Marvellous Me but we will no longer collect specific permissions. No trips are planned at the moment but we are keeping this under review. If you do not wish your child to take part in a particular event, you will be able to discuss that with their class teacher. Please complete and return these forms as soon as possible.

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Breakfast and After School Clubs

These clubs will remain closed for the remainder of this half term whilst we settle into the new routines. I do appreciate that these clubs are a real help to a number of families and I apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

Attendance and Punctuality

From September all children are expected to return to school and so the usual attendance rules apply. Most of our children have excellent attendance and punctuality and we are very grateful for your support with this. Please ensure you inform the school if your child is going to be absent.

Please remember that registers close at 9am. Children must be in school by 8:40am and arrivals after that time are classed as late. Please contact the school office if you have any concerns regarding attendance or punctuality and we will endeavour to help or refer to our Attendance Officer, Mrs Cartwright, for further advice.

Holidays in Term Time

National regulations that changed in 2013 state that headteachers **may not** grant leave of absence in term time except in exceptional circumstances. We strongly advise that any holiday in term time should be avoided due to the impact on the child of the lost learning time. If parents still wish to apply for a leave of absence these forms can be requested from the school office. However, please be aware that absence will be unauthorised in the vast majority of cases.

Reminders

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is wearing the correct **uniform** and sensible footwear. Please remember that brightly coloured trainers are not acceptable for school uniform. Please do not 'jazz up' the uniform with decorative hair accessories or colourful and patterned socks and tights. Please use a discrete hairband or

bobble to keep long hair tidy. PE Kit should be brought to school as normal as lessons will begin this week. Please ensure the correct indoor and outdoor kit is in school, including appropriate footwear. Please see the Uniform Policy on our website for further clarification as required.

Jewellery and **nail varnish** are not allowed. If your son/daughter has had their ears pierced over the summer break, please make sure that the earrings are removed for P.E. sessions from the start of the school year. If they cannot be removed due to healing, they should be covered with tape before arriving at school.

Dogs are not allowed on site at any time.

Please also note that **mobile phones** should not be used or visible at all when you are in school except by agreement in worship or performances.

Medical Information

Please inform the school office if your child suffers from asthma. All children who require inhalers to control asthma should have them in school, i.e. in a pocket or bag, on a daily basis. Parents/carers are requested to check that inhalers are valid and in working order on a regular basis.

Please also ensure you inform us of any allergies your child has, particularly if this requires medication to be stored in school.

Key Dates

2nd September	School re-opens to children
16th & 17th September	Y3 Pedestrian Training
25th September	Non-uniform day – in place of Macmillan coffee morning
15th October	Flu Immunisation YR-6
23rd October	Half Term
2nd November	PD Day - school closed to children
3rd November	School re-opens to children
18th December	End of term

Don't forget to keep **Marvellous Me** to hand for celebrations of your children's achievements and for key messages.

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COVID-19 PROCEDURES IN SCHOOL

Pupil Well-Being

We know that children may feel nervous or anxious about returning to school and adjusting to life during the pandemic. We are placing as much focus on their social and emotional well-being as on their academic learning and will work with you regarding any specific issues that arise.

Reducing Transmission

In order to reduce the number of contacts between staff and children and children with each other, classes are kept separate in their 'Bubbles'. Y1-Y6 are sitting side by side, facing the front in their classes and they each have their own pack of individual equipment. Shared resources are kept to a minimum and are cleaned regularly. In Early Years, children are accessing a more usual play-based curriculum with an enhanced cleaning regime around shared resources.

Classes have staggered playtimes and lunchtimes and use a designated area of the playground for outdoor play.

Worship is taking place in class Bubbles. Children will have Bubble PE and Bubble singing in the halls where there is plenty of space to spread out and avoid close contact.

Children in Y1 – Y6 have lunch in their classrooms with a designated lunchtime supervisor. Children in Early Years eat in the hall in group Bubbles, again with consistent, designated staff.

Hygiene and Handwashing

There is a regular routine of handwashing for both children and staff. Hand gel is also used. Children clean their hands at each transition point e.g. change of activity, break times and before and after lunch.

In addition to the cleaning undertaken at the end of the day, staff are cleaning down surfaces and commonly used areas throughout the day.

Movement Around the School

This is kept to a minimum and a 'Keep Left' approach is taken around corridors and the stairs. This is for children and adults. Access to the toilets is also

controlled to ensure only the number allowed in each area use the toilets at any time.

Curriculum

Teachers are providing a full curriculum with an emphasis on reading, writing and maths to help identify and address gaps in learning. Teachers will be carrying out some structured assessments in a few weeks once the children have settled further in order to set targets for the rest of the year.

Infection Management

If a child shows symptoms of Coronavirus, a member of staff will escort him/her to the medical room whilst parents are contacted. The member of staff will wear PPE and keep a reasonable distance but will ensure that the child is reassured whilst waiting. Following collection, the area will be thoroughly cleaned and the staff member will return to normal duties.

ACTIONS FOR PARENTS

Do not send your child to school if:

- they are showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms:
 - ✓ *a new continuous cough*
 - ✓ *a high temperature*
 - ✓ *a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)*
- someone in your household is showing symptoms

Please make sure to:

- arrange a test if you or your child develop symptoms.
- keep school informed

In order to keep numbers on site to a minimum and avoid congestion:

- Only one adult per child on site please
- KS2 children should enter the site alone
- Please 'keep left' around paths
- Do not walk through KS2 playground
- Please do not congregate or stop to talk to each other. Thank you.

Our start and finish times are tightly spaced in order to keep waiting time to a minimum for parents with more than one child in school. We are carefully monitoring how busy the site is and if we have too many people on site at these times, we may need to consider increasing the time gaps for different phases.

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