

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Clifton Avenue, Billingham. Stockton-on-Tees, TS22 5BX

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk



8th January 2021

Dear Parents

I hope everyone is as well as possible after the very challenging week we have all had. I would like to thank you all for your understanding and support for us in school as we have worked to implement the government direction to restrict attendance in school. We have all appreciated positive emails and encouragements that have come through the school mail box, SeeSaw and conversations we have had with some of you; thank you very much.

SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESSES

I was able to email earlier today to confirm that all booking requests for next week have been accommodated. Moving forward we have created new email accounts to help streamline communication and direct queries/information more efficiently. Please do note and use the following:

OFFICE	For all general enquiries including requests for contact with a member of staff or for support with remote learning	office@priorsmill.org.uk
TESTS	To notify school of any positive pupils COVID test results	tests@priorsmill.org.uk
During Restricted Attendance/Partial Closure		
BOOKINGS	To request a place for Reception to Y6 Attendance during Lockdown	bookings@priorsmill.org.uk
PRESCHOOL/ NURSERY	To request a place for Pre-School or Nursery Attendance during Lockdown	nurserybookings@priorsmill.org.uk

The booking mailboxes will be monitored from Monday morning until the deadline of 4pm each Thursday. Confirmation emails will be sent on the Friday regarding the week ahead. **All requests for places need to come to these inboxes to be considered.** Please refer to my earlier newsletter from this week with details of information to include if you are making a request for the first time.

REMOTE LEARNING

We are really pleased with the way SeeSaw has worked this week; the majority of children at home have engaged with some or all work set by teachers and we have been able to address barriers as they have arisen. As my children are older, I haven't had to face the challenges and stresses of home learning personally but I can well imagine how hard it is balancing this priority against your own responsibilities, including working from home in many cases. Staff in school will do all we can to support you, encourage your children and overcome any difficulties as you settle into a daily routine that works for you.



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The government have made it clear to schools that remote learning is an expectation not an option and therefore we will be following up on children who have not accessed or completed work. The expectation is that KS1 children should complete a minimum of 3 hours a day and KS2 should complete a minimum of 4 hours a day. There is no set time expectation for Early Years children. This work time can and should include activities such as daily reading, practising of key skills such as phonics and times tables as well as practical activities such as physical and creative tasks.

As mentioned previously, we have a small number of devices that we are able to loan and can provide printed resources if this supports you and your child in overcoming any barriers posed by working electronically.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

As per government guidance, school will continue to provide meal options for all pupils who are in school. Meals will be free of charge to all Reception and KS1 pupils, and to those KS2 children who are eligible for benefits related free school meals.

For pupils eligible for free school meals who are **not** attending school, we will continue to provide food hampers on a weekly basis. Please ensure that you confirm with the school office (office@) whether you would like a hamper as these contain fresh produce that needs to be ordered and stored appropriately. Confirmation needs to be received by 9:30am each Monday and hampers will be available for collection each Tuesday.

WELLBEING

This continues to be a really hard season for everyone and I'm sure we have all had our days on the 'Corona-coaster' where we have had the very highs and the very lows. Your children have shown amazing resilience in the way they came back to school in September and created a sense of normalcy for us all by getting stuck back into school life. This second absence from school may set off a variety of emotional responses as they re-adjust either to a return to home learning or being in school without their friends. Please do get in touch with us if you are worried about your child's well being and we can either provide some support ourselves or via our specialist provision or via signposting you to useful resources. I have included some weblinks below to some useful online resources:

- [Young Minds](#)
- [Govt guidance for parents on supporting children's mental health and well being](#)
- [NSPCC – mental health & parenting](#)
- [Anna Freud - national centre for children and families](#)

Above all, we need to do all we can to stay safe and look after each other. I wish you all a lovely weekend – we may get yet get to have our daily exercise in the snow!

Kind regards,
Mrs H Malbon
Headteacher

