



SPRING 1 2021

NEWSLETTER 1

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

Philippians 4:7

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that whatever you did over these last couple of weeks, there was some opportunity to rest and recharge your batteries and find some moments of peace.

I have left it as late as possible to send this letter today in order to be able to respond to any national changes. However, given that the PM is not due to make any announcement until 8pm tonight I have decided to send this letter as if life were ‘normal’ as some information is better than none. I will of course update you when I am able.

COVID

Welcome back to our spring term after what has been quite a confusing holiday in terms of information about schools. I’m afraid I have often been as frustrated as anyone with the recent events and I know that things could change again either as a result of a further national lockdown or the legal challenge mounted by teaching unions over workforce safety. Information is not shared with schools any earlier than with the public so updates will come out as soon as is practically possible when we hear new information. I can only apologise for the inconvenience this causes and hope you can understand that we will work as fast as possible to address any sudden changes. Ultimately, the safety of your children and all staff remain our highest priority and any changes to our operations must always reflect this.

Our updated risk assessment is available on the school website. Our main measures continue to be grouping the children in class bubbles, maintaining distance from other groups including through staggered break and lunchtimes and a robust hygiene routine in school for all people as well as equipment. Classrooms are ventilated in line with guidance. This means that they can get

chilly! Please make sure your child brings a jumper to school to help with this. As last term, we do ask that adults wear face coverings when dropping off or collecting children from school. Staff may also wear visors during the day when working with children. Please also remember to observe the one-way systems in place and to keep your distance when moving around the site. Unfortunately, we do need to keep face to face contact between staff and parents down to a minimum so please telephone the office or email office@priorsmill.org.uk with any queries and a member of staff will get back to you to assist.

In line with Tier 4 Restrictions, please can I draw your attention to the following government direction:

Meeting others safely

In general, you must not meet socially or carry out any activities with another person. However, you can exercise or meet in a public outdoor place with people you live with, your support bubble (or as part of a childcare bubble), or with one other person.

You should minimise time spent outside your home. When around other people, stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household – meaning the people you live with – or your support bubble. Where this is not possible, stay 1 metre apart with extra precautions (for example, wearing a face covering).

You must not meet socially indoors with family or friends unless they are part of your household or support bubble.

It is so important that we all do our part to follow the restrictions in order to keep our school community as safe as possible.

Reminders

- Children should stay at home if anyone in your household has symptoms of Coronavirus, is going for a test or awaiting test results.

Minds to learn; hearts to care!



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- Please inform us and we will advise you of school protocol.
- Once test results have been received, please inform us of the outcome before sending your child back into school. If you do receive a positive test result – please contact the school as soon as possible. For out of school hours – please email our dedicated mailbox: tests@priorsmill.org.uk
- Alerting school to any positive test results at the earliest opportunity is essential as we have procedures to follow which may impact on children and staff.
- If someone tests positive for Covid 19 in your household, all other people living in the home must isolate.

Attendance & Punctuality

Current government guidance remains the same and expects that all children of primary age should attend school as usual. It also sets out that children and young people whose parents or carers are clinically extremely vulnerable should continue to go to school. I understand that these are very concerning times and you may have individual family situations that cause you to be more anxious about sending your child to school. It is essential that you inform us of any absence and the reasons as we are legally required to record attendance.

Can I also remind all parents that children should be on site by **8:40am**. Arriving late to school is unsettling for children and disruptive for the class. Please do all you can to be on time every day. Thank you.

Remote Learning

You are aware that we are using SeeSaw as our main approach to remote learning in the event that children cannot attend due to self-isolating. This will also be our approach if school was to close to the majority of pupils. If you are unsure about how to access the platform or need to request a new login, please contact the school office as soon as possible so that we can put things in place. If

you have more than one child in school they will each need their own login. If they are using different devices they can all access the platform at the same time. However, if they are sharing a device, it will be necessary for one child to fully logout before their sibling starts to work. If access to devices is a barrier, please let us know and we will make other arrangements.

Further information can be found in our Remote Learning Policy on the school website:

<https://priorsmill.org.uk/remote-learning-through-seesaw/>

Prior's Mill - Next Steps

It is still my hope that alongside navigating the ever changing COVID landscape, we will be able to begin some focused work this term on the next stage of our school's development journey. As mentioned in my final letter last term I am keen to build on what I learned about school in the autumn and work with children, staff and parents to strengthen our school even further. A starting place for this is reviewing our current school vision and the values that underpin what we do and also to review some of our key policies. Your views are integral to this work and I hope that you will respond to a short survey I will be sending out soon with your views and ideas.

PD Days

Please note that our 3 remaining PD Days when school will be closed to children are:

Monday 12th April, Monday 19th July and Tuesday 20th July 2021.

Key Dates

12th February	Last day of half term
22nd February	School reopens
26th March	Last day of term
12th April	PD Day – school closed
13th April	School reopens
3rd May	Bank Holiday – school closed
28th May	Last day of half term
7th June	School reopens
16th July	Last day of school year

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