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23rd July 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I thought I would write out to you today instead of a weekly bulletin as we near the end of a very challenging year for all and look ahead to plans for September. Welcome to our parents/carers who have a child starting with us in Year 3 – we very much look forward to working with you.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continued support and patience at such a difficult time for us all. We have been so touched by all your messages of support, your tolerance of last-minute changes and your adaptability to all the new changes. I know that I speak on behalf of the staff team when I say how much easier it has made things – a real example of the Priory community working together.

At the time of writing this, as a country, we have moved to Step 4 of the coronavirus road map. This means that when we return to school in September we will see school return to a more 'normal' way of working. The latest Government guidance for schools puts an end to some of the protective measures you will now be used to but not all. We have revisited our risk assessment to adjust it to reflect the changes and have compiled an outbreak management plan so we are prepared if we have to return to any form of bubble closures or lockdowns which I think will be very unlikely. As Covid will not be completely eradicated by the time we return in September the following control measures will still be in place in school to control the spread of infection.

- 1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone- continue with frequent and thorough hand washing
- 2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes- continue with our enhanced cleaning schedule
- 3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated – keep windows open to improve natural ventilation
- 4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing cases of Covid 19.

However, the other protective measures we have had in school will no longer be required. There will be no requirement to work in bubbles and keep year groups apart anymore and we can gradually move towards whole school events in school. Therefore, I will outline below what a typical school day will look like at Priory in September as this will be useful to our new parents whose children join us in September but also to all parents because I'm not sure any of us can remember what the school day was like pre-Covid!

Tues 31st August and Wednesday 1st September are INSET days so **all children will return to school on Thursday 2nd September to start at 8.55am**. There is no requirement to stagger the school day from September. Face coverings will no longer be required although you may still choose to wear one and there is no requirement for social distancing at the school gates.

Before/after School Provision - If you need before/after school provision this will be provided at Phoenix Infants school by Lime Trees. Please contact them directly for places. **Call: 0115 9313562 Email: helo@thelimetrees.co.uk** There will be provision in place to walk our Priory children down from Phoenix ready for the school start and up to Phoenix for after school care. **Please note – there will be no other breakfast club run at Priory.**

Start of the day - The school gates will be open at **8.50am**. A member of staff for each class will greet you at the gate. **Year 3 and 4 will come into school through the 2nd Avenue gate and Year 5 and 6 through the 3rd Avenue gate.** The children will come straight into class after washing their hands and other staff members from their class will help them settle to their first activity at 8.55am when school officially begins.

Break time 10.45am -11am – all children will be able to mix together at breaks and we will build that up gradually over the first couple of days. Snacks, ranging from 25p up to 70p are available to buy during break time.

Lunch time 12.15 -1.15 – children can bring a packed lunch or you can pay online for a school dinner through School Money. Our new Year 3 parents/carers will receive a log in during the summer to set up a School Money account. We use School Money to also pay for trips and other in school activities so setting up an account is important.

If your child is eligible for free school meals a dinner will be provided for them. **All children in infant school are provided if they wish with a dinner free of charge so if your child is new to Priory and you think you they are entitled to a free school meal you will need to apply for this in Year 3. Here is the link to apply https://emsonline.nottscc.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en or call 0300 500 80 80**

End of the day – all children will leave school through the gate they came in at **3.15pm**.

P.E – your child's class teacher will contact you before the first P.E lesson to tell what day your child has P.E on. **On that day they will come to school in their P.E kit rather than their uniform.** A reminder our P.E kit is white t-shirt, navy blue or black shorts, trainers, navy blue/black tracksuit (in colder months)

Water – please ensure that your child comes to school with a bottle filled with water every day.

Parents/Carers in school – we are looking forward to welcoming parents/carers back into school but will be watching local infection rates carefully and watching how things are in the first few weeks before setting up whole school events. We also know that some of our parents have enjoyed the flexibility of virtual events so we will look at offering a mixture of the two going forward. You will be able to catch up with staff at the school gate v briefly everyday- we have a text system for quick communications or you can call the office 0115 9526100 to book an appointment if that is needed.

Positive Covid cases and self-isolation

If your child has symptoms of coronavirus in September they should not attend school and follow public health advice regarding self-isolation. We will send home any child or staff member who develop symptoms of Coronavirus whilst at school and ask them to get tested. It will not be necessary for the whole class to isolate if someone tests positive in their class as children and adults who are double vaccinated are no longer expected to self-isolate after 16th August if they have been in close contact with someone with Covid but will be advised to take a PCR test.

Apologies for the lengthy letter – I hope it has been useful and will help you to prepare for September. As always if you have any questions or concerns please contact as I am sure I will have forgotten something you need to know or you might just need some clarification around some point.

I wish you all a very relaxing holiday and I look forward to the new school year and hopefully a more settled one. Take care and stay well.

Warm wishes

Alison Brown Head Teacher