

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – April 20th 2020



THANK YOU

First and foremost, we would like to say a HUGE thank you to all of our keyworker families. We are proud and thankful for the amazing work you are doing!

Priorities

We hope that you are all well, coping and staying safe. It is quite unbelievable that we are now at the start of week 5 of lockdown. We think of you often and miss the children so very much. Many of you will be working from home, and will know all too well that home learning is tricky to manage for one, and even more difficult to manage if you have more than one child. Home learning is also a big ask of you and we are grateful for everything that you are doing at home with the children.

It is our feeling that these should be the priorities at home during this time:

- To make sure that your child/ren are happy & content. The children's emotional wellbeing is the absolute top priority for us
- To spend quality family time together
- Make sure that your child remains active & healthy
- That you read books to your child and also listen to them read
- That the children do their online home learning

As you know, we have tried to provide online learning that does not intend to replace teaching in school, but rather to provide you with some activities that the children will benefit from. We also provide additional suggestions via Twitter ([pg_primary](#)) This is not to overwhelm you, but instead we hope to provide additional suggestions that your child can do if they choose to.

Missing the children!

We are aware that children have reacted differently to the situation that we find ourselves in. Many children may be accepting & matter of fact, many may be enjoying the time at home. A great deal will miss staff and school, and sometimes there will be some of our children who struggle with not being at school.

For this reason, we will be contacting every child in school next week through Zoom online, which allows us to chat with your child so that we can see each other. We really would like to check in with each child and see how they are doing. It will be wonderful to talk to them after all of this time!

For this to happen, we will be doing the following:

- **A test email will be sent out to all families on Tuesday 21st April.** Please check your email. If you have not received the test email by 3.30pm, please contact the school office at office@pggps.co.uk to give us your correct email address.
- Then, each class teacher will email all the parents of their children, with a day & time for an online chat with your child. There will be an attachment in this email with a help guide for parents with what you need to do.
- Class teachers will contact your child on the named day and time. Please bear with us in terms of timings. We intend to call the children for a 5 to 10 minute chat each, but ask you to be present in the background while your child speaks to their class teacher.
- I will be using Zoom to speak to the School Council. A separate email will be sent to you with when this will take place; it will not clash with when your child is speaking to their class teacher.

In addition to speaking to the children, our aim is that Miss Clark who is our HLTA for Wellbeing, Guidance & Support, will contact families who currently meet with her half termly for EHA (Early Help Assessment) meetings, in order to provide family support via a Zoom online 'meeting.' More information to follow.

Staff

At this current time, we have 5 staff shielding for 12 weeks and 1 member of staff isolating for 2 weeks, with another member of staff absent post-operation. School is not closed; we have been open for families of critical workers and vulnerable children including over the Easter holidays. We remain open for these families, and ask that if your shift pattern changes, you contact school at office@pggps.co.uk

We have an absolutely fantastic staff team as you already know. When they are not in school, staff have been putting work together for home learning. We are also continuing work on completely revamping every subject in our curriculum. This will be uploaded to the website shortly. In addition to this, we have also been preparing new content for the school website to upload under the section 'information for parents.' This is all whilst managing and juggling their own families and children. I cannot thank the staff team for all of their continued dedication to our school.

Robinwood residential

Our Year 4 children were due to visit Robinwood in Cumbria for a residential this June. Unfortunately, Robinwood have had to close their outdoor centre and the visit needed to be rearranged. Mrs Royle has managed to find dates for next Summer, so it is now rearranged for June 23rd to 25th 2021. Thanks to Mrs Royle for sorting this out; we are delighted that Year 4 will still get to go, even if it has to be when they are in Year 5.

New starters for September

We haven't forgotten about all of our new starters for this September. But sadly, we have had to cancel the Nursery home visits that were due to happen either side of Easter. Mrs Lawrence & Miss Beavers will be in touch shortly if your child is

due to start our Nursery. Miss Knowles & Mrs Spowart will be in touch with families of children due to start Reception in September.

The 'new to Nursery' and 'new to Reception' packs have been copied & will be delivered over the next few weeks. We are considering using Zoom to meet families and children new to Nursery & Reception. More information to follow.

On another note, the Admissions team in North Tyneside have sent us our list for Reception class for this September. We are aware that some parents of Nursery children have not been given their first choice of our school. This concerns us that your child has not got a place in our Reception class, however the admissions policy is managed by North Tyneside Council. If this is the case, please follow the appeals information on the letter from Admissions.

Preston Grange has got Talent

Thank you so much for the videos already submitted for this year's online PGHT. There are some fantastic entries so far! We will be sharing every entry for you to see either on Twitter or on our website later this week. Each video needs to be maximum length 2 minutes, and sent to either the school email or submitted via Twitter message. We would ideally love some more entries from Key Stage 1! The deadline is 12 noon this Friday.

Free School Meal vouchers

If your child currently receives a free school meal, they are entitled to free school meal vouchers which may be used at local supermarkets. The roll out of these vouchers has been fraught with complications. The Department of Education has devised an online system for administering the vouchers, but the site keeps on crashing. We are unable to do anything unfortunately, but we have been informed that as soon as vouchers are ready for distribution to parents, they will be backdated. We will keep you informed as soon as we hear any news.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, April 21st 2020

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