

# Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – April 20<sup>th</sup> 2021



## Congratulations!

At the weekend, Miss Beavers one of our Higher Level teaching Assistants got married and will now be known as Mrs Ward. We would like to wish both Mr & Mrs Ward a really happy future together!



White PE T-Shirt - Embroidered with Preston Grange Primary School Logo

£3.75 £4.95

VIEW



Bluemax Shorts Red

£4.00

## PE

From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April onwards, we will be asking that ALL Key Stage 2 children come into school in their PE kit on the following days. This is to save time in getting changed, and to avoid the issue of not having ideal changing facilities as the children get older.

Year 3 - Thursday

Year 4 - Monday

Year 5 - Wednesday

Year 6 – Wednesday & Thursday

Joggers may be worn on top of PE shorts coming to school, and school sweatshirt as normal.

Please note: if your child is in an after school club, they will need full PE kit. **If they don't have their kit at school with them, they will not be able to attend the after school club.**

Please note that it is only Years 3 to 6 where this applies for now. I would ask that **all** children in Key Stage 1 have their PE kit at school for the start of each week. There is a growing amount of children without PE kit and it is taking a great deal of office time in phoning parents to ask for PE kits to be sent into school. Key Stage 1 children and reception children need to have their kit in school all week. They should bring it in on a Monday and out should be on their peg for the half term. PE is part of the curriculum, and correct PE clothing should be worn.

If you are unsure of our PE kit, it may be ordered from Emblematic if you wish the kit with the school logo on (<http://emblematic.co.uk/schools/pgps>), otherwise it is a plain white t-shirt and red shorts.

On another note, there should be **no** jewellery worn in school, particularly earrings. Children should not be wearing earrings at school for health & safety reasons. All it takes is for another child to catch their ear accidentally, and it will result in a nasty accident.

### **Improvements to the school site**

We have had a new ramp fitted to the mobile classroom over the weekend. Mr Patterson has removed the decking planters in front of school, in preparation for some new bike storage.

This week we learnt that the Local Authority have awarded us GOLD award for Health & Safety, following an audit last week. We are delighted with this news; we were previously Silver level, and the Health & Safety committee of Governors and I, as well as Mr Patterson of late, have worked really hard over the last two years to achieve Gold standard. Thank you to all involved in helping us achieve this.

### **Parents meetings**

This week all families have been invited to meet with your child's class teachers via Zoom. This is an extremely important meeting, and we ask that all parents attend the meetings. Staff will be sharing information about your child's current attainment following the difficult year that we have had.

### **Reading**

A child in Reception was recently overheard to say that they weren't reading their reading book at home 'because it was the teachers job at school to do this'.

In school, children will be taught to read, however, as they are first learning to read, their reading requires practice and this is something that parents are required to support. As they move through school, children need to be reading both out loud and to themselves so that they learn to love books and in order to become fluent readers. We ask parents to sign in their home reading records when they have read and this works extremely well.

Reading is the one KEY skill that your child needs in order to be able to access the rest of the curriculum and to enable them to make progress in all other subjects. Therefore I cannot stress how important it is for you to practice with your child and listen to them read at home every day.

Your child's progress and attainment at school relies on THREE key partners working together, namely; school, home and the child. Due to lockdown, there is a significant number of our children behind in their reading and this is a concern and so we ask for your support more than ever. Thank you to all of our families currently supporting their children in their reading; it makes an enormous difference.

All parents have received a letter from English Lead Mrs Jones recently about the importance of reading, and Reception parents also will have received power point slides about how to support your child in reading from Miss Knowles; if you would like another copy of this power point, please contact the school office.

### **Home School Agreements**

Ahead of Summer term, we will share with parents our updated Home School agreements. These are documents that all schools produce to share the expectations of each key partner in your child's learning, namely what you can expect from school, along with what we expect from parents and what we expect of the children. These home-school agreements will be shared with parents in order that everyone is clear

what is expected of them. This will be a positive step following lockdown and the difficult and disruptive year that we have had, but also it will also seek to establish a clear understanding of expectations from September onwards.

### **Year 6 end of year arrangements**

At the end of the school year, we plan a range of activities for our Year 6 leavers before moving up to High School. At this current moment in time, we are uncertain as to what restrictions there may be in terms of our usual activities, and whether they may go ahead due to still being within our COVID risk assessment. It is still early days and we will inform parents when we are in a position of being able to plan for the end of the year, but we have to be mindful that the usual activities may have to be altered.

### **Robinwood**

Parents of Year 4 and 5 will be receiving a letter this week to update you on the residential visit that is planned for June.

### **Scholastic books**

This week you will receive a Scholastic book magazine from school. If you would like to order any books, please return the order form by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April with cash or cheque, thank you.

### **Homework**

Due to the success of using Google Classroom during lockdown, we intend to carry on using this for homework going forwards. As of next week (Fri 30<sup>th</sup>), staff will put weekly homework on Google Classroom each Friday, and this work will need to be completed by the following Friday. Homework will focus on Maths, English, Reading, Spelling & times tables. Teachers will monitor the homework and feedback from homework will be built into teaching in class, in line with our feedback policy.

### **Regular dates**

Each week until the end of Summer term, Newcastle Eagles will be providing basketball training to all classes.

Mr Pilkington from John Spence Community High School will be teaching PE in Year 5 for the term.

'Catch up' for children requiring extra support with their work will continue until the end of Summer term. Miss Higgins will be working with Year 3 and 4 children each afternoon, Mrs Chambers will be working with Year 1 & 2 children each afternoon and Miss Hussain will be working with Year 5 & 6 children each afternoon.

### **School lunches**

Please see below a message from Catering regarding school lunches:

### **ParentPay Parent Update – urgent please activate your account**

Thank you to everyone who has already registered with ParentPay.

If you have not received your activation email, please first check all e-mail addresses you provided to your child's school together with your junk mail folder before you contact us at [parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk) Please include your child's name and school in the email.

## **Check your account**

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are entitled to free meals, however, during the change from one system to another, meals were charged for on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April in error. This is being rectified, and a credit adjustment will be actioned on your account if your child had meals on these 2 dates. Please accept our sincere apologies for this error. You don't need to contact us about this.

## **Contact us at: [parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk)**

ParentPay is managed by North Tyneside Council Catering Services, not your school. Please ignore any advice on the ParentPay website to contact your child's school about school meal payments. The correct email address to contact us at [parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk) Please include your child's name and school in the email.

## **Attendance**

In line with our Attendance Policy (please see our website), we constantly monitor all children's attendance. Our school target attendance is 96.5%, and if your child's attendance falls below this, you will be invited to attend an attendance meeting in school.

Should your child's attendance fall below 89.5%, your child will fall into the Department for Education's 'persistent absentee' category and your case will be referred to the Local Authority.

We actively discourage families from taking holiday during term time at any time, but especially this year due to the disruption already to children's learning. If you take a holiday during term time, you must complete a leave of absence form from the office and are liable to be fined. Please see our attendance policy on our website for more information.

## **Dates for your diary:**

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Apr – The Big Pedal starts

Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Apr – The Big Pedal ends

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Early Bank Holiday

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May - May half term starts

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> June - **Teacher Training Day**

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> June – Children return to school

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> July – Break up for Summer holiday

Tracey Taylor  
Headteacher

April 20<sup>th</sup> 2021

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