

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – July 10th 2020



Dear families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As the Summer term comes to an end, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on the plans for next week and on what we know of plans for schools reopening in September.

The last week

Just a reminder that **school is only open for Y6 on Friday 17th July until 1pm**, as stated in the newsletter dated 23rd June. We are closed to ALL other pupils.

Free school meal vouchers

Families in receipt of free school meal vouchers will continue to receive a weekly voucher over the summer holidays. Please note, these are not for all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2, but only for those families who have applied and registered as eligible free school meals. Thanks to Mrs Clarke for organising the vouchers for our families.

Annual reports

If your child is not currently in school, their annual report will be posted out on Monday. If your child is in school, you will receive the report via pupil post. Please note that the reports are of a much more condensed format due to schools being closed since March.

School reopening in September

You will be aware that the government published their guidance for the reopening of schools in September. Since then, we have been planning for the return of all classes, including bringing in our new children to Nursery and Reception. We have sent out new starter information to Nursery & Reception children about the arrangements for a staggered intake so that the children get used to the staff and classroom setting in smaller groups. In addition to this, we will be sending out a postcard to each child from their new class teacher since we have been unable to do our usual move up day arrangements.

What to expect in September

School will reopen on Wednesday 2nd September for ALL children. (Tuesday 1st September is a teacher training day)

We will operate in year group bubbles so that children mix with a limited number of children across the week.

Assemblies and other whole school gatherings will not take place unless we receive guidance allowing this. Instead, class assemblies will take place.

As we have in place now, we will need to continue with staggered starts and finishes to the school day to limit the volume of parents/carers on the yard at any one time. This will need to be factored into your daily routine. Next week we will share these with you as soon as we have them in place and send out a letter to each class informing them of the start and end time to their day.

Break times for the classes (bubbles) will be staggered to reduce the amount of year group bubbles on the yard at any one time.

Home times will continue to be staggered to limit the volume of people on the yard at any one time.

School lunches

In September, we may still not be able to mix bubbles of children in the hall for their school lunch, and the children may still need to stay in their own class bubble. If the children stay as a bubble, they will eat their lunch in the classroom. This will be a hot meal, and catering staff will help serve the meals to the classrooms using disposable cutlery

Breakfast club

We are currently unsure if we are able to offer breakfast club as it is not possible to adhere to the government guidance if we do, as we would be mixing the children. If we are able to start breakfast club as soon as school starts, if government guidance is updated or changed, we will send out a text over the holidays.

Greggs supported breakfast club

When we do re-launch breakfast club, we will do so as a Greggs Foundation supported breakfast club. This means that the Greggs foundation (charity) will provide us with unlimited bread and also provide us with a grant to be able to buy other breakfast food for the children. Since this is the case, we are now in a position to be able to reduce the cost of each breakfast club session to £1.50 instead of the current £3.50. The £1.50 charge contributes towards staff costs, and this reduction in cost to parents we hope will be a pleasant surprise. Certainly we are delighted to be supported by Greggs!

Breakfast club will continue to run for the same hours: 7.45am – 9am, and will operate as a 45 place provision, on a first come, first served basis. The booking system will go live once we have informed families in the Autumn term and know the date that we are allowed to re-start the provision.

After school clubs

Each half term we will offer a wide range of after school clubs in sports, arts etc. These are usually made up of children from different year groups, and as such we would not be able to offer these under the current government guidance. We are

considering clubs that may be able to run as single year group clubs, but we will keep families updated on this as the new term begins.

Looking ahead

Dependant on government guidance, schools may not be able to hold the usual seasonal events such as Harvest coffee mornings and Christmas performances. Please be assured that if we can do it, we will, but if the current restrictions are in place we may need to think differently about how these seasonal school events are celebrated.

Autumn term parents evenings

These meetings usually take place straight after October half term holiday. If face to face meetings are allowed they will take place. If not, we will find an alternative way of sharing the information that we usually share at the start of an academic year.

Home learning

In the last week of term, home learning will just cover three days & we ask that the children's work is done by the Wednesday. This gives parents time to send class teachers a piece of work, and teachers time to give castle points before the end of term.

And so.....

I have shared our plans and thinking for September as it currently stands. We will add detail and amend plans *only if* the guidance is changed, and hopefully by informing you of our plans at the first opportunity, it gives you all plenty of time to plan, become comfortable with and prepared for arrangements for next term.

Our overriding priority is the wellbeing of our children, and the children who have returned to school this week have been so excited, hard-working, settled and thrilled to be back at school. They are resilient and have quickly adapted to the new routines. For any child who may struggle with the transition back into school, we have Miss Clark, our Thrive practitioner at hand for supporting any children who may require additional support, and we have been delivering whole bubble Thrive (a whole school approach to support children's social & emotional needs) lessons this week & we will continue to do this as we come back in September.

For our lovely families who will be moving on as their Year 6 children move on to High School, I would like to thank you for seven wonderful years of knowing both you and your child. It is always sad when we have families who have been involved with our school for many years. We will miss you very much; your support over the last seven years has been fantastic. We wish you and our Year 6 children all the very best for the future, and look forward to giving the children a fun celebration of their time with us next week!

In the meantime, staff are planning to make September as enjoyable and fulfilling as we can, with a mix of new learning and structured support to plug gaps in understanding. I will inform parents as to the plans for our catch up programme once it is in place, and really look forward to seeing you all in the Autumn term. Until then, I hope that you all enjoy a lovely Summer holiday and thank you for

your understanding, enthusiasm and extremely supportive messages over the last four months. It has definitely been a one-off, but your amazing support has made it so much more manageable.

Thank you again

Tracey Taylor
Headteacher

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