



Prior Heath Infant School
Prior Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1DA

Headteacher: Mrs Ellen McClelland
Tel: 01276 25546
www.priorheathinfant.co.uk

Newsletter No. 3
21st October 2016

Dear Parents

Inset Day & Polling Day closure

A reminder that school will be closed for staff training on Monday 31st October, and will re-open after half term on Tuesday 1st November.

We have just been notified by Surrey Heath Borough Council that the school is required for polling on **Thursday 4th May 2017** and will, therefore, be closed to children.

Harvest

Thank you very much for your kind donations of groceries, fruit and vegetables for our Harvest Celebrations and thank you to all of the parents who helped to display, pack and deliver the goods. We would also like to thank Louisa Adams, Outreach Children's Worker, from St Paul's Church, for joining us. I would like to express a special thank you to all those who helped with the crèche either in the morning or the afternoon.

The residents of Ballard Court, Derek Horn Court and Whitebourne thoroughly enjoyed their visits from the children and parents on Thursday 20th October, and the gifts were very much appreciated. The Rotary Club & Saint Vincent de Paul Society and The Besom in Camberley were also very grateful for the donations of food. A selection of photos is attached.

New Menus – November 2016 to March 2017

Commercial Services have introduced new menus for winter 2016/spring 2017 and these are attached. Please note that as the first week after half term is a four day week, there is a separate revised menu. That same week is also National School Meals Week which is run by the Local Authority Caterers Association to "celebrate everything that is great about a school lunch". The menu for Thursday 3rd November is their Best of British Menu which all children are invited to join.

Information about Bullying

The week beginning 14th November is National Anti-Bullying week and, as in previous years, we will be participating. We aim to tackle bullying by trying to prevent it from happening in the first place and by tackling it consistently, fairly and effectively when it does. The activities that your child will be doing in school during the week are part of this preventative work, and will help all the children in the school to understand what bullying is, how it feels and what to do if it happens to them or they see it happening.

In your child's class or group, the focus will be on celebrating similarities and differences, because differences are often used as a reason for bullying – something that we make clear is unacceptable in our school. Young children are still at the stage of learning to manage their responses to new people and experiences and will notice and comment on things that are 'different'. This should not be discouraged. But we will be emphasising that the differences are part of what makes the world so exciting and interesting, not a reason to treat some people unfairly. Children will work on finding out what they can do when people are unkind or unfair

and think about how they can make their own classroom and behaviour kind and fair to everyone.

In this school we believe that bullying is unkind behaviour. It can include physical hurting and leaving people out as well as damaging people's things and making fun of people.

We don't allow unkind or cruel behaviour in our school but not all unkind behaviour is bullying. The key characteristics that turn unkindness into bullying are:

- that it is repeated and goes on over time;
- that it is deliberate and not accidental;
- that it involves the person doing the bullying having some sort of power over the person experiencing the bullying – usually at your child's age this power will come from being bigger, having a 'gang' of friends or having a toy or something that everybody wants to play with.

Children will often fall out with friends or say unkind things when they are angry. This is often perceived by children as bullying. We will be explaining to children that this is different from bullying.

We believe that most children both use and experience bullying behaviour at one time or another, and that all children can change their behaviour, with appropriate support.

Remembrance Day Poppies

Remembrance Day poppies will be on sale in school after half term. If you would like your child to have a poppy, please send them to school with a donation. Year 2 children take the poppies round to each class during the afternoon and the children who have brought in a donation are able to take a poppy home.

The Royal British Legion will also be providing a special fundraising pack for children. This pack will not be sent round to the classrooms but will be available in the office after school if parents wish to bring their children in to contribute to the Poppy Appeal.

Christmas Play

This year's Christmas Production will be held on the mornings of Tuesday 13th to Friday 16th December. Babies and pre-school children are such an active and vocal audience that they can be a distraction to those performing and also to the rest of the audience. Therefore, the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday performances will be adult only but babies and pre-school children are welcome to attend the Friday performance. A local company will be recording the performance on Wednesday 14th December and will produce a DVD for parents to purchase, if they wish. Copies of the DVD will need to be ordered in advance for delivery before the end of term. Further information will be issued after half term detailing all arrangements for Christmas activities.

Consultation on admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2018

Surrey County Council is consulting on admission arrangements for 2018 and it is a requirement that we send the following information to all parents. The consultation is as follows:

- proposed changes to admission arrangements for some community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2018
- the admission arrangements for all remaining community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2018
- Surrey's relevant area – this is the area within which schools must consult on their admission arrangements.

Full details of the consultation and the changes being proposed are available at [Surrey Says](http://www.surreysays.co.uk) (www.surreysays.co.uk).

Why we are consulting

We have a statutory duty to consult on admission arrangements if we intend to make a change.

The changes being proposed are as follows:

1. **Stoughton Infant School** - introduction of a sibling link with Northmead Junior
2. **St Andrew's CofE Infant School** – decrease in reception published admission number from 40 to 30
3. **Walsh CofE Junior School** - decrease in junior published admission number from 75 to 64

We also have a statutory duty to consult on our Relevant Area every two years. This is the area within which schools must consult on their admission arrangements.

How can I respond to the consultation?

The consultation on the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and the proposed changes will run from Friday 14 October 2016 to Thursday 24 November 2016. If you would like to take part please complete an online response form at [Surrey Says](http://www.surreysays.co.uk) (www.surreysays.co.uk). Alternatively if you would prefer to respond on a paper form, please telephone the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on 0300 200 1004 to request a copy. Please note that only response forms which are fully completed with the respondent's name and address will be accepted.

What happens next?

After the closing date, responses will be collated and presented to the County Council's decision making Cabinet on 31 January 2017. It will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposed changes as well as determining the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools for which no changes are proposed. Cabinet's decision will then need to be ratified by the full County Council on 7 February 2017. Once determined the final admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools will be placed on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable and relaxing half term.

Yours sincerely,



Ellen McClelland
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Monday-Friday	24 th to 28 th October	Half Term
Monday	31st October	Inset Day – school closed for staff training
Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	13 th to 16 th December	Christmas Plays 9.30 until approx.10.30am – further details to follow
Wednesday	21 st December	End of Autumn Term at 2pm – please note early closure
Tuesday	3 rd January 2017	Start of Spring Term
Monday-Friday	13 th to 17 th February 2017	Half Term
Monday	20th February 2017	Inset Day – school closed for staff training
Friday	31 st March 2017	End of Spring Term at 2pm – please note early closure
Tuesday	18 th April 2017	Start of Summer Term
Monday	1 st May 2017	Bank Holiday – school closed
Thursday	4th May 2017	Polling Day – school closed
Monday-Friday	29 th May to 2 nd June	Half Term
Friday	23rd June 2017	Inset Day – school closed for staff training
Monday	26th June 2017	Inset Day – school closed for staff training
Friday	21 st July 2017	End of Summer Term at 2pm – please note early closure