



Prior Heath Infant School
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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Chivers

7th October 2021

Dear Parents,

What a busy few weeks it has been in school! Thank you once again for your kind words and support during our recent two day Ofsted inspection. They were very much appreciated by the staff.

It has been lovely to see the school back to some sort of 'normality' this half term and although there have been a small number of confirmed Covid cases within our school community, the children's education has fortunately remained uninterrupted. Our strict hygiene and infection control measures remain in place and we very much hope that cases will remain low.

Front of school development and office staffing

Further to my newsletter of 7th September, we said a fond farewell to our school administrator, Mrs Heslop, on 21st September as she left to take up a business manager position in another school.

We are currently reviewing the office roles and will be advertising for a new member of staff in the near future. In the meantime, we are fortunate to temporarily welcome back Mrs Pauline Searle who previously worked as school administrator at Prior Heath for a number of years. Mrs Searle will be in the school office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Mrs Ryan, Holly Class TA, will also be working in the office on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Mrs Dalford, Bursar, and Mrs Harris, Senior School Administrator, will continue in their roles.

The front of school development has been delayed slightly and we anticipate that this will be completed during half term.

Thank you for your support with the temporary arrangements that have been in place. We hope you will agree that the enhancements to the school will be worth the short term disruption caused by these building works.

Parent Interviews

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, parent interviews with your child's class teacher will take place after school on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th October, with later appointments being available on Wednesday 20th.

You will be able to book your appointment online using the Parents Evening application within your ParentMail Account or through the ParentMail App which is kindly funded by the PTA. Please note, you will need to be registered on ParentMail to be able to book an appointment – if you haven't yet registered, please contact the school office.

Bookings will be open from **7.00pm on Monday 11th October** and you should receive an invitation to book parents' evening which will appear as a notification in your feed or menu. You will then be able to select a date and time that is convenient to you. If you need help you can visit the

ParentMail help site: www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/ and click on 'Applications' and then 'Parent Evening Manager.'

Please note that bookings will close on Sunday 17th October. If you are unable to book your parents' evening appointment online, please contact the school office.

Each appointment will be for 10 minutes only, so if you feel that you will need longer, please see the class teacher concerned to make alternative arrangements. Due to the limited number of time slots available, there will be one appointment allocated per child; we are unable to offer multiple appointments. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Harvest Celebrations – Friday 15th October

You will have received a separate communication from Miss Bates, RE Co-ordinator, about our Harvest celebrations which will take place on Friday 15th October. The children have been invited to come to school dressed as something Harvest related (e.g. farmers, scarecrows or farm animals) and to bring a food donation for a local charity, The Besom Camberley.



Throughout the day we will be celebrating Harvest by enjoying a variety of cross-curricular activities. This will include a visit from Bethany Wood, Outreach Children's Worker from St. Paul's Church who will be attending our special Harvest assembly. We will take photos of our special day which we will share with you after the event.

Inset Days Reminder

A reminder that school will be closed for staff training on the following dates:

Thursday 21st October 2021
Monday 21st February 2022
Tuesday 19th April 2022
Friday 27th May 2022

PTA

The PTA AGM was held on 27th September and I would like to say a personal thank you to all those parents who gave their valuable time to attend.

The staff, children and I are very grateful to the PTA, parents and carers for their support. By providing additional funds for resources, the PTA helps the school to direct as much money as it can towards our staffing requirements, in turn providing as much support for the children's learning as possible within the allocated budget available to us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Trudy Cowley (Chair), Roz Bind, Verity Coles, Allison Hopkins, Lisa Judd & Joanne Williams (Vice Chairs), Tori McIntyre (Treasurer), Kripa Joshi (Secretary) and the whole PTA team for their enthusiasm and hard work on behalf of the school last year, which is very much appreciated. They brought exceptional skills and creativity to the team during some very challenging times.

My thanks also to all parents who are involved with the PTA for their commitment and dedication on behalf of the children, parents, staff and governors. We are very fortunate at Prior Heath to have parents who do so much for the school and the children benefit a great deal from the extra resources the PTA is able to provide. They have helped to fund a range of resources and events for the school which include: LED Smartboards, sides for the canopy in Year 2, the visiting theatre group at Christmas and our online parents evening booking system. These are only a small number of resources the PTA has provided to the school to enhance the children's learning.

We are delighted that Allison Hopkins has agreed to take over the role of PTA Chair this year. She will be supported by an experienced core team of volunteers including: Verity Coles (Vice Chair), Jo Williams (Treasurer), Roz Bind (Secretary) and Sarah Foley (second hand uniform).

Children in Need

This year we will be supporting the 'Children in Need' charity by inviting the children to come to school on Friday 12th November wearing their home clothes, preferably including something spotty or stripy, in exchange for a suggested donation of £1. We politely request that the children do not come into school wearing face paint. Please ensure that your children's clothing and footwear is suitable for a normal day at school which will include playing outside at break times. If your child usually has PE on a Friday, please also ensure that their clothing is suitable for physical activity and includes trainers.



Illness

At this time of year and throughout the autumn/winter it is usual to have a few cases of illness in school.

If your child has any Covid-19 symptoms, please arrange a **PCR** test as soon as possible. The main symptoms are:

- A high temperature.
- A new, continuous cough.
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste.

If the PCR test result is negative, your child can return to school as soon as they are well enough. If the test is positive, please follow the advice you will be given by NHS Test and Trace.

In order to minimise the risk of any other bugs spreading, please note the following:

- Children should not be sent to school if they are unwell.
- Children who have contracted a sickness virus and/or diarrhoea should not return to school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours from the last bout of illness, as advised by Public Health England.
- If children are feeling unwell at school they will be sent home.
- Please remind your child of the importance of hand washing after using the toilet and before handling food.

If your child is absent due to illness or unforeseen circumstances, please leave a message on the absence answerphone, including your child's name and class and the reason for their absence, or speak to the school office by 9.30am on the first day of absence. If they are not well enough to return to school after two days, please inform the office again. Alternatively, absence can be reported using the ParentMail App. When your child returns to school, a letter of explanation will be required for our records in addition to any messages that have been left. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Please find attached an updated list of diary dates.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Chivers".

Mrs L. Chivers
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Friday	8 th October 2021	Prospective parents (Sept 2022 intake) meeting & tour at 9.15am
Friday	15 th October 2021	Harvest Day
Tuesday & Wednesday	19 th & 20 th October 2021	Parent interviews with class teachers after school
Thursday	21st October 2021	INSET Day – school closed for staff training
Friday – Friday	22nd to 29th October 2021	Half Term – please note this includes the additional holiday on Friday 22nd October in lieu of the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday in May 2022
Thursday	11 th November 2021	Prospective parents (Sept 2022 intake) meeting & tour at 9.15am
Friday	12 th November	Children in Need spotty / stripy mufti day
Monday	22 nd November 2021	Flu immunisation in school
Monday	22 nd November 2021	Prospective parents (Sept 2022 intake) meeting & tour at 5.30pm
Friday	17 th December 2021	End of autumn term at 2.00pm – please note early closure
Tuesday	4 th January 2022	Start of spring term
Monday – Friday	14th to 18th February 2022	Half term
Monday	21st February 2022	INSET Day – school closed for staff training
Friday	1 st April 2022	End of spring term at 2.00pm – please note early closure
Tuesday	19th April 2022	INSET Day – school closed for staff training
Wednesday	20 th April 2022	Start of summer term
Monday	2nd May 2022	Bank Holiday – school closed
Friday	27th May 2022	INSET Day – school closed for staff training
Monday – Friday	30th May to 3rd June 2022	Half term
Friday	22 nd July 2022	End of summer term at 2.00pm – please note early closure