



Prior Heath Infant School

Prior Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1DA

Tel: 01276 25546

Email: info@prior-heath.surrey.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Chivers

5th October 2023

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to see the Year R children settle so happily into our school. The children in Years 1 and 2 have been wonderfully demonstrating our school value of responsibility by helping the younger children, particularly during lunchtimes.

Health & Safety within the school grounds

In order to keep everybody safe within the school grounds, please could I politely remind you of the following:

- Children should not play on any of the outdoor equipment before or after school. This includes the stage area outside the Year R classrooms.
- If children ride their bikes or scooters to school, they need to walk these through the school grounds rather than riding on them.
- Children should not walk or run through the staff car park unattended at the beginning or end of the school day. Children must be accompanied by an adult in the staff car park as staff and delivery vehicles use it throughout the day. Please use the pedestrian access at all times unless you need to visit the school office.
- Finally, children must not walk around the wall outside the office as it is very high and they may seriously hurt themselves should they should fall off.

Thank you for your support.

Year 2 football skills festival

On Wednesday 4th October, 20 Year 2 children, accompanied by myself and Mrs Nelson, took part in a football skills festival (at Coworth Flexlands School) alongside a number of other local schools. Throughout the afternoon the children competed in a range of activities, demonstrating our school value of Teamwork brilliantly! As a result of their hard work and footballing ability, they managed to achieve the most points during the festival and were placed first! Well done to all of the children who took part!

Story sessions with Bailey the dog



We are incredibly fortunate that Bailey (Mr Stokes' therapy dog) visits our school several times a week to read with individual children. However, as there are 180 pupils at Prior Heath it is not possible for every child to have a turn. Therefore, Bailey is now going to be visiting classes on a Wednesday afternoon and will sit and listen to the end of day story with the children. As there are 6 classes, Bailey will visit each class once a half term. Please note, a risk assessment will be completed for these sessions. Bailey will be sat on his own mat during the story and will be kept on his lead at all times. If you would prefer that your child does not take part in these story sessions, please speak to the class teacher by the end of this week.

Parent Interviews

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, parent interviews with your child's class teacher will take place after school on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October, with later appointments being available on Wednesday 18th.

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 9th 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: <https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/> and click on 'Applications' and then 'Parent Evening Manager.'

Please note that bookings will close on Sunday 15th 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 13th October

You will have received a separate letter from Mrs Shah, RE Leader, about our Harvest celebrations which will take place on Friday 13th October (a copy of the letter is attached). 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 Larby from St. Paul's Church who will be attending our Harvest assembly. We will take photos of our special day which we will share with you after the event.

Book bag key rings

Teachers have requested that children do not put large key ring attachments on their book bags as they are a distraction and do not fit in the storage drawers in the classroom. Thank you.

Inset Days Reminder

A reminder that school will be closed for staff training on the following dates during the current academic year:

Monday 30th October 2023
Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Thursday 28th March 2024
Monday 3rd June 2024

PTA

The PTA AGM was held on 18th 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 Allison Hopkins (Chair), Roz Bind and Selena Ramsey (Vice Chairs), Inga Lebednykiene (Treasurer), Sarah Conquer (Vice 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.

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: the Christmas entertainer, music workshop and author visit during 2022/23, the building blocks, stage and digging pit for the playground, whiteboard pens, ParentMail parents' evening package and water coolers. 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 Selena Ramsey has taken on the role of PTA Chair this year. She will be supported by a core team of volunteers including: Sarah Conquer (Vice Chair), Inga Lebednykiene (Treasurer), Tori McIntyre (Vice Treasurer), Kripa Joshi (Secretary), Sukh Lees & Indy Chana (sponsorship & grants), Victoria Gorissen & Claire Hawkins (uniform), Victoria Gorissen (website manager), Laura Saunders and Laura Loughrey (refreshments), Jodie Sutch (noticeboards), Simon Taylor (poster designer). The class reps for the year will be:

Chestnut:	Kate Proctor
Willow:	Rebecca Oldaker
Holly:	Victoria Gorissen
Oak:	Kripa Joshi & Claire Hawkins
Cherry:	Sophie Henderson
Rowan:	Kate Proctor

Children in Need

This year we will be supporting the 'Children in Need' charity by inviting the children to come to school on Friday 17th 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 child's clothing and footwear are 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.

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 the NHS.
- 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.

Be Your Best: Active Surrey's healthy lifestyle support for families

Be Your Best is a children's weight management programme which offers families judgement free support to make small changes to improve each child's complete physical and mental wellbeing.

Families who enroll on the programme receive tailored one-to-one sessions, alongside online group sessions. These cover a wide range of topics including: becoming a more active family, portion size, managing screen time, positive body image and much more.

The Be Your Best programme is open to families with a child aged 0-12, above the healthy weight range, living or going to school in Surrey. It is led by Active Surrey in partnership with Children and Family Health Surrey and the University of Surrey's Dietetics Department.

Families are welcome to self-refer and further information can be found on the Be Your Best website: <https://www.bybsurrey.org/>

Diary Dates

Please find attached an updated list of diary dates.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L. Chivers
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday	9 th October 2023	Parent interview booking system opens on ParentMail at 7.00pm
Thursday	12 th October 2023	Prospective parents (Sept 2024 intake) meeting & tour at 9.15am
Friday	13 th October 2023	Harvest Day
Wednesday & Thursday	18 th & 19 th October 2023	Parent interviews with class teachers after school
Monday – Friday	23rd to 27th October 2023	Half Term
Monday	30th October 2023	INSET Day – school closed for staff training
Thursday	2 nd November 2023	Prospective parents (Sept 2024 intake) meeting & tour at 9.15am
Tuesday	14 th November 2023	Prospective parents (Sept 2024 intake) meeting & tour at 9.15am
Friday	17 th November 2023	Children in Need – spotty/stripy mufti day
Wednesday	22 nd November 2023	Prospective parents (Sept 2024 intake) meeting & tour at 9.15am
Monday	27 th November 2023	Prospective parents (Sept 2024 intake) meeting & tour at 5.30pm
Friday	15 th December 2023	End of autumn term at 2.00pm – please note early closure
Tuesday	2nd January 2024	INSET Day – school closed for staff training
Wednesday	3rd January 2024	School re-opens for the Spring term
Monday – Friday	12th to 16th February 2024	Half term
Wednesday	27 th March 2024	End of spring term at 2.00pm – please note early closure
Thursday	28th March 2024	INSET Day – school closed for staff training
Monday	15th April 2024	School re-opens for the Summer term
Monday	6th May 2024	Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday – Friday	27th to 31st May 2024	Half term
Monday	3rd June 2024	INSET Day – school closed for staff training
Tuesday	23 rd July 2024	End of summer term at 2.00pm – please note early closure