



Prior Heath Infant School
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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Chivers

11th October 2024

Dear Parents,

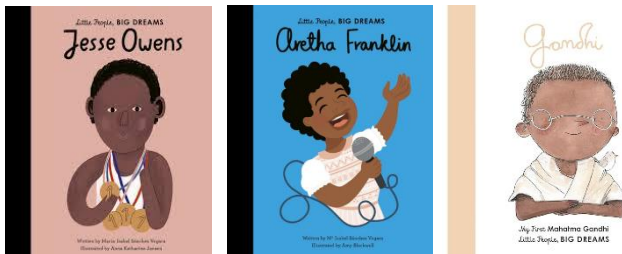
It has been lovely to see the Year R children settle so happily into our school. The children in Years 1 and 2 have been wonderfully demonstrating our school values of kindness and responsibility by helping the younger children, particularly during lunchtimes.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you to all of you that have contributed towards our resources fund and / or donated a book from our wish list for our new school library. Your generosity is **very** much appreciated and will make such a difference to the children at Prior Heath.

Black History Month

To mark Black History Month, this week, in our KS1 assemblies, we have been sharing and celebrating the impact of black heritage and culture. The children have been challenged to complete some research of their own and have been encouraged to share anything that they create on our assembly board, situated in the hall.

In our new school library there are many books celebrating key figures from throughout History which include the Little People, Big Dreams collection. If you haven't had a chance to explore these wonderful texts with your children, they would make lovely stocking fillers!



Practising skills at home

Please could I politely request that you continue to practise and reinforce toileting and handwashing skills at home with your children, where necessary. We are finding that an increasing amount of teaching time is being lost to supporting children with these skills. Should you require any additional support in this area we are here to help! Please contact our SEND Manager, Mrs Nelson, via our school office, and she can signpost you to information / services that may be of use.

Please may I also ask that you help your child to be as independent as possible when eating by modelling to them how to use their cutlery effectively. Thank you.

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.

Parent Interviews

As mentioned in my previous newsletter and email, parent interviews with your child's class teacher will take place after school on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October, with later appointments being available on Wednesday 23rd.

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 at **7.00pm on Monday 14th 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 20th 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 18th October

You will have received a separate letter from Mrs Shah, RE Leader, about our Harvest celebrations which will take place on Friday 18th 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 two local charities: The Besom Camberley and The Hope Hub.



Throughout the day we will be celebrating Harvest by enjoying a variety of cross-curricular activities. This will include a visit from a representative 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.

Illness

At this time of year and throughout the autumn/winter it is usual to have a few cases of illness in school. We also have been informed that we have a case of Scarlet Fever in Reception. Please find attached a separate letter and fact sheet about Scarlet Fever.

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. However, if your child appears to be only slightly ill, send them in to school. We have staff who will contact you if their condition deteriorates. Please refer to the NHS Guidance: [Is my child too ill for school?](#)

- 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 become 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 by 9.20am either on the absence answerphone, via the ParentMail app or email info@prior-heath.surrey.sch.uk. The message should include your child's name and class and the reason for their absence.

Inset Days Reminder

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

Monday 18th November 2024

Friday 4th April 2025

Tuesday 6th May 2025

Monday 30th June 2025

The school will also be closed on Monday 5th May 2025 which is a bank holiday.

PTA

The PTA AGM was held on 2nd October 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 Selena Ramsey (Chair), Sarah Conquer (Vice Chair), Inga Lebednykiene (Treasurer), Tori McIntyre (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. The funds raised last year have enabled us to install our wonderful new library.

We are delighted that Selena Ramsey (Chair), Sarah Conquer (Vice Chair) and Kripa Joshi (Secretary) have agreed to continue in their roles this year. They will be supported by a core team of volunteers including: Grace Sekumade (Treasurer), Saran Phalora (Vice Treasurer), Indy Chana (sponsorship and grants), Victoria Gorissen (website manager), Claire Hawkins (uniform), Laura Loughrey (refreshments), Jodie Sutch (noticeboard). The class reps for the year will be:

Chestnut:	Christina Dodkins and Jessica Woods
Willow:	Hollie Francis and Rose Yalcin
Holly:	Lisa Dunsby and Becky Wreford
Oak:	Kate Proctor
Cherry:	Sana Azal Jalgaonkar and Jodie Sutch
Rowan:	Kripa Joshi and Claire Hawkins

The PTA are also looking for a volunteer co-ordinator and raffle co-ordinator together with additional volunteers for the refreshments team. If you are able to help with these roles, please contact Selena: ptachair@prior-heath.surrey.sch.uk.

Coats

Please ensure that your child brings a coat to school EVERY day, even if there is no rain forecast. Much of our learning at Prior Heath takes place outside and we want every child to be suitably dressed so that they are able to join in with all outdoor activities.

Children in Need

This year we will be supporting the 'Children in Need' charity by inviting the children to come to school on Friday 15th 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.



Diary Dates

Please find attached an updated list of diary dates.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mrs L. Chivers
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday	14 th October 2024	Parent interview booking system opens on ParentMail at 7.00pm.
Tuesday	15 th October 2024	Prospective parents (Sept 2025 intake) meeting & tour at 9.15am.
Friday	18 th October 2024	Harvest Day. Children are invited to attend school dressed in Harvest related clothing.
Friday	18 th October 2024	PTA Pirates Landing event from 3.45 to 5.30pm.
Wednesday & Thursday	23 rd & 24 th October 2024	Parent interviews with class teachers after school. Bookings open on ParentMail at 7.00pm on Monday 14 th October.
Monday – Friday	28th October to 1st November 2024	Half Term.
Thursday	14 th November 2024	Prospective parents (Sept 2025 intake) meeting & tour at 9.15am.
Friday	15 th November 2024	Children in Need. Children are invited to come to school in spotty or stripy clothing.
Monday	18th November 2024	INSET Day – school closed for staff training.
Tuesday	19 th November 2024	Prospective parents (Sept 2025 intake) meeting & tour at 9.15am.
Friday	22 nd November 2024	PTA Bingo Evening for parents – further details to follow.
Wednesday	27 th November 2024	Prospective parents (Sept 2025 intake) meeting & tour at 5.30pm.
Friday	20 th December 2024	End of Autumn term at 2.00pm – please note early closure.
Sunday	29 th December 2024	PTA Pantomime event: Sleeping Beauty at New Victoria Theatre, Woking. 1.00pm performance.
Monday	6th January 2025	School re-opens for the Spring term.
Monday – Friday	17th to 21st February 2025	Half term.
Thursday	3 rd April 2025	End of Spring term at 2.00pm – please note early closure.
Friday	4th April 2025	INSET Day – school closed for staff training.
Tuesday	22nd April 2025	School re-opens for the Summer term.
Monday	5th May 2025	Bank Holiday – school closed.
Tuesday	6th May 2025	INSET Day – school closed for staff training.
Monday – Friday	26th to 30th May 2025	Half term.
Monday	30th June 2025	INSET Day – school closed for staff training.
Tuesday	22 nd July 2025	End of Summer term at 2.00pm – please note early closure.