



Prior Weston Primary School and Children's Centre

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Head Teacher: Fiona MacCorquodale

Letter from the Head – 11/9/2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now at the end of our first week of having the children back, and what a great week it has been! It is so wonderful to have the school full of children again, and for them to be reconnecting with their learning. We had over 90% attendance this week and improving every day. ☺ I hope that they are all settling into their new classes now that the transition is complete. I would like to thank you all for your patience and cooperation in helping to make the drop off and pick up as smooth as possible – there are still a few tweaks but there has been a significant improvement on Monday.

Drop off and Pick up:

As mentioned, things have continued to improve throughout the week with the drop off and pick up of the children. A few things from you would really help to make things go even smoother. Firstly, please try to be on time for your child's collection time – this has a really big impact on the number of children from different year groups waiting in the foyer area. To stop parents from having to wait around between times, we have arranged for siblings to leave with the youngest child in the family. A reminder, pick up times are:

3:00 – 3:15:	Babies and Toddlers	Whitecross St door
3:10	Nursery and Reception	Whitecross St gate
3:15	Year 1	Fortune Park entrance
3:20	Year 2	Fortune Park entrance
3:25	Year 3	Fortune Park entrance
3:30	Year 4	Fortune Park entrance
3:35	Years 5 & 6	Fortune Park entrance and some children 'Home Alone'

We have unfortunately had some complaints from the general public and Islington Parks about the path in Fortune Park being blocked by parents at the end of the day. Because of this, we have been asked if parents could wait in the grassy area of the park before their collection time and wait to be called into the entrance area for collection. This is a much larger area than the pathway and so will also help with social distancing.

Lunches:

Next week, the classes swap their type of lunch over. Those who had a hot meal this week will switch to packed lunches for next week and vice versa. Years 3, 4 & 5 will have a hot lunch in the school hall next week and Year 1, 2 and 6 a packed lunch in their classroom. Menus were sent out yesterday. We continue to work with our lunch provider, Caterlink, to improve the appeal of the packed lunches to the children. They are working hard to try and get the balance right between a good, nutritious lunch, and one the children would like to eat. If you would like to send your child in with a packed lunch from home instead of them getting a school one, that is fine. If you have any further queries re lunches, please contact Bernie.

Meet the teacher meeting:

We are very aware that the new arrangements in place mean that many of you have not had the chance to speak to your child's new teacher yet. For day to day communication, you can use Dojo or Seesaw or let someone on the door know if you want to speak to someone. We are also arranging virtual 'meet the teacher' session for Wednesday 23rd September. This will be a chance to



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talk to the teacher about how your child is settling in, how they got on during lockdown, and any other relevant information you'd like to share. Like parents' evening, you'll be able to sign up for a time slot and will then be sent a virtual meeting link.

Playground:

Good news! The works to develop the upstairs playground starts on Monday!!! The works were delayed due to various COVID related things, but we are over the moon that they will now be starting and in 5 – 6 weeks, we will have a fabulous new playground where 'Tellytubbies' currently is. I plan to take some regular pictures of the work so will be able to share them so you can see how things are progressing.

There will be a few days when things are a bit noisy for some classes – we are getting ear defenders for the children, should they need them. It will also be exciting for them to see how the site develops over the coming weeks. Obviously, that part of the playground will be completely fenced off with no access for the children, but we have not been using that area anyway since the start of the COVID pandemic due to playground regulations and some of the equipment being broken.

Rain Before Rainbows – Family Homework:

Earlier in the week, the e-book 'Rain Before Rainbows' was shared with. It is a project all classes started the year doing. Every year group from babies up to Year 6 are producing some artwork for us to display along the Whitecross St corridor. We hope that Richard Cloudesley and Bright Start will also contribute to this. To make it a true community endeavour, to transform this large white corridor to one of joy and hope, I am also asking you as families if you would like to contribute in any way. Last year, you completed 'Family Homework' about your families, which is still displayed in the foyer. This year, I am asking for any 'Rain Before Rainbows' inspired artwork, writing or poetry to display in the corridor. I can't wait to see what the very creative Prior Weston families produce together.

Newsletter:

As things return to something more like normality, the daily updates will not continue. Myself, or someone in the team, will write to you with any important information, but I am pleased to announce that the weekly newsletter will restart next Friday! ☺

Information to come:

Although the daily updates will stop, there will still be some more information coming out to you next week, including:

- Kickstart are going to send out some information on what PE lessons look like at the moment and what Hayden is doing with the children in their PE lessons.
- Details on what is in place in each year group to help the children reconnect with where they were when the school closed in March. I am reluctant to use the phrase 'catch up' as many children have not fallen behind, and many more will quickly get back to where they were.
- Details on the topics and content of what your children are learning this half term so that you can support this at home.

It really has been a joy and a pleasure to have you all back on site this week. I hope the sun stays out and you all have a great weekend. Stay safe and well, everyone.

Best wishes,

Fiona MacCorquodale - Head Teacher ☺



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