

# Pilgrim Primary Academy

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03/07/2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels very strange writing this but we are fast approaching the end of this academic year! As such, this newsletter includes lots of information about end of term arrangements and also, some very general information about plans for the start of the new academic year in September. It is important to say that any planning in preparation for September is based on the assumption that the current situation with Covid-19 (in terms of the R-Rate and infection levels) remains the same. Obviously, in the event of a spike in cases nationally or a localised increase in infections, Government guidelines will be revised and our plans will have to be revisited in line with any changes.

Currently we have been able to have our Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils back with us, joining the children in EduCare who have been in school throughout the period of lockdown. It has been lovely to have more children back in the school building and using our school grounds once again. In the last week or so, we have had about 50% of the children from those year groups back and in total we have been averaging about 105 pupils in school each day. The children have been fantastic in adapting to their new routines and working in their bubbles. The staff team have all enjoyed getting to know their bubble and the children seem happy, eager and settled.

The children who have continued with their learning at home have also been doing great things. Thank you to all parents and carers who have continued to support your child's learning – we know it is a very tough job but it is so important for your child. Please keep sending in photos of what you have been getting up to, especially some of those things that you have been doing in addition to the school learning that has been set. I have found out just how many of you have hidden talents – keep on sharing your learning through Google Classroom or send it to [contactus@ppsonline.org](mailto:contactus@ppsonline.org) so we can celebrate it on our social media.

## **Plans for September**

No doubt you will have heard that the Government has announced plans that all children will return to school in the coming September for the start of the new academic year. Yesterday the Department for Education sent guidance to schools to support the planning for this.

I am currently in the process of designing our plans for September with the Leadership Team here at Pilgrim and colleagues within our Academy Trust. Our Risk Assessments and procedures will be revised in light of the guidance for full re-opening in September to ensure that we are fully ready to receive a greater number of children. I hope to be in a position to outline those plans to you more specifically as soon as they are put in place. However, what is already clear is that:

- The idea of children working in bubbles will remain but these will very likely be bigger bubbles to enable all children to return
- Robust hygiene arrangements will remain in place; increased hand washing, additional daily cleaning, coughing/sneezing into tissues, the use of PPE where advised to, etc.
- Staggered entry and exit times, separate lunch and breaktime arrangements will need to remain in order to minimise the contact between bubbles
- Strict protocols will be maintained around pupils or adults who feel unwell or present symptoms of Covid-19

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It is very clear that it will not be 'business as usual' for schools in September so we need to keep working together to follow Government advice and guidelines so that our pupils can return to school in the safest way possible. I will update you further in due course.

## End of term arrangements

**Class allocations for next year** – Next Friday (10<sup>th</sup> July) we will send all parents and carers an email to inform them of their child's new class teacher for 2020.

**End of year (annual) Reports** – Before the lockdown period, you will have received your child's Spring Term report and had an opportunity to attend a parent consultation with your child's teacher. We have also produced end of year reports for each child which will be sent out via email on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. As I hope you appreciate, these cannot be written with the level of detail that we would usually include but we have done our best to give you an accurate picture of your child this year, including their engagement with learning during the lockdown period and some areas to consider as targets to focus on in the future. Attendance figures and individual subject data will not be included in the reports due to this information being unavailable.

**Transition arrangements** – Sadly, this year there will not be the opportunity for your child to spend time with their new teacher in school in the usual way. Instead, this year, each teacher will post a welcome video to their new class on Google Classroom and the website for the children to see.

Also, we will be having a 'transition week' starting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, with children completing some activities for their new teachers in preparation for their move to their new year group in September. Those children working on paper packs will also be able to come to school to pick up their child's transition paper pack on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July ready for the following week. Children accessing the Goggle classroom will also have exactly the same resources available on line to them during the week of the 13th. Transition activities will involve reflecting on the children's achievements during the year, including their favourite memories and experiences and celebrating how far they have come.

**Leavers Celebration** - On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> there will be an additional celebration of **our fantastic Year 6 pupils** which we will share with all children in school virtually. Even though we cannot all be together for a Leavers Assembly this year, we still want to we make a real 'song and a dance' about this brilliant bunch! Our aim is that the whole school community all watch the presentation at the same time...wherever they are. Year 6 parents, please await further details, specific to your child, from the Year 6 team.

## Learner of the week

FHT	Ethan L	FSM	Oskar C
1MS	Logan C	1TH	Perin S
2BF	Miguel D	2RG	Sam B
3HG	Sasha W	3JD	Yasmine S-M
4SG	Danny A	4RH	Lexi C
5AS	Lincoln C	5SR	Aleyna U
6LJ	Abdullah A	6TL	Avin R

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## **Families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM)**

I am pleased to say that we have had confirmation that the Government is extending the FSM voucher scheme to cover the summer holiday period (6 weeks). We will be sending those families who have been receiving vouchers a separate letter next week to confirm the arrangements for this (dates to expect vouchers, etc.). School's understanding is that, on the children's return to school in September, the voucher scheme will stop and we will revert back to meals being provided in school by our catering team in the kitchen.

Finally, sorry for all the information overload! Lots of dates and information for you but if you have any queries please make contact via Google Classroom, emails to [contactus@ppsonline.org](mailto:contactus@ppsonline.org) or pick up the phone to us here at school. There will be more information coming from school over the coming few weeks, particularly around the arrangements for September so please look out on the website and in your email in box.

Wishing you a lovely weekend, everyone and please stay safe as restrictions ease tomorrow!

Very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Meek'.

Mrs L Meek