



# Pilgrim Primary Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We've been back to school now for 2 weeks and, on the whole, the children have settled back into school life really well. They have thrown themselves back into learning very enthusiastically and have clearly maintained their fantastic and positive attitudes.

## **Comic Relief 2021**

We have had a great day today with the children in their Hero costumes – good effort everyone! Please see a small sample of some of the great outfits that the children (and staff) have been wearing today in the accompanying photos. We have raised over £100 so far. Thanks for all your support for a fantastic cause.

## **Catch Up Funding**

Like all schools in England, we have received some additional money to provide additional learning for pupils we identify will benefit from some extra learning practise. This is called 'Catch Up Premium' funding. Now the children have fully returned to school we are using some of this funding to start offering some additional teaching sessions for pupils, both before and after school. These sessions are for children who staff have identified who would benefit from a bit more practise in certain areas; this could be to give them some more individual attention, a bit more practise of some basic skills or for those that we think have even more potential than they are currently showing.

Please do not worry if your child is offered these additional sessions. It does not mean that they are vastly 'behind' or that they did not do really well when learning at home during the lockdowns over the last year. More that, we want every child to meet their absolute potential and be confident and happy learners. We have been given the money to give our children a bit of a boost and that's what we want to do! Also, please don't worry if your child has NOT been offered an opportunity yet. We have more groups to set up and we will review the groups and who is attending throughout the rest of the year.

## **Parents Consultation Meetings**

Traditionally, we have an opportunity for parents and carers to attend a short meeting with their child's teacher in each long term, 3 times per year. At the same time, you receive a report from your child's teacher about their learning strengths, attitude and behaviour and target to improve. We would usually have had a Spring meeting by now but lockdown has prevented this. We are committed to keeping you updated on your child's progress but with only a week or so before the Easter Holiday and having not seen some children for

such a long time, we need a bit more time to work with your children to see how they are doing and to be able to identify their next steps.

So, we will be sending home the reports shortly after Easter and inviting parents to have a virtual meeting of a phone call with their child's class teacher in the second week of the summer term. In this way, we can be sure to give you the most accurate and up to date picture of your child. We will send more information about how to book appointments nearer the time.

### **Mathletics**

We are delighted to announce today that we are starting **Mathletics**; an online learning platform, where your child can learn maths through playing games, both at home and at school. The extra Mathletics practise at home can make a huge difference to your child's progress and attainment. Look out for an email with your child's login details and a brief overview of the main learning and playing areas. The children have had an introduction in school and are raring to go!

**I have included some very important safety advice information in the box at the end of this Newsletter which I urge you all to read and adhere to. Many thanks.**

Have a great weekend everyone and see you on Monday

Lisa Meek



### **General Safety Reminders**

I know that drop off and pick up times are really difficult at the moment but we must adhere to all safety measures during times of covid restrictions. I know that many parents are becoming frustrated with the actions of the small minority of parents who are not following school and government guidance at the start and the end of the day. This may seem like a long list of instructions but we cannot compromise the safety of children and adults when coming to the school site:

#### **Congestion outside gates**

- Please **DO NOT STAND IN THE ROADS** at pick up and drop off times
- Please **do not crowd the gates and entrances** – 2 m social distancing should be in place at all times
- Please **come on to school site to pick up your children when the gates open** (this eases congestion at the gate)
- If you have children who have different pick-up times, **you need to come at the latest pick-up time and collect all children in one go**

**PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY BEFORE GATES ARE OPENED FOR YOUR CHILD – THIS IS THE BIGGEST CAUSE OF PROBLEMS AND OVERCROWDING ON THE PATHWAYS AND ROADS**

#### **Please make sure that you supervise children and dogs at all times**

- Children should not be riding scooters in the middle of roads or children running in and out of the road
- Children should not be allowed to run into resident's gardens or driveways – parents need to keep children close by them at all times
- children should not be climbing on high walls around the school site
- **All dogs need to be on short leads and kept under control** – please do not bring dogs right up to the gate entrances (reminder; no dogs are allowed onto the school site)

#### **Traffic Congestion**

This week, I have had many complaints from parents, residents and members of the public about inconsiderate parking at drop off and pick up times. Whilst the vast majority of parents park respectfully, unfortunately there are still those who do not. This is making our roads unsafe and is causing a problem for the residents in our area – this is particularly the case for the residents in **Hastings Terrace**.

I have taken advice from the police who have asked that we start to take down number plate details to pass to them where cars are causing obstruction to residents/driveways and when cars are parked illegally so that they can contact car owners directly. I hope that it does not have to come to police getting further involved so please:

- Do not leave vehicles unattended on double yellow lines (if you stop on double yellow lines, you are not allowed to park)
- Do not park over any pedestrian pathways or over residents' driveways
- Do respond respectfully to residents who ask you to move your vehicle to allow them to walk or drive to or from their homes