

Pilgrim Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mrs L Meek (BA Hons, PGCE)

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12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have welcomed back children from both Year 1 and Year 6. It was lovely to see more groups of children back in school; we currently have about a third of Foundation and Year 1 back in school and nearly half our Year 6 children joining us this week. It is really important to all staff at Pilgrim that the children are happy when they are in school so it has been great to hear so many positive comments from parents and children about their experience of school on their return.

Admissions going forward

All year groups:

Recently, the Government has announced that they **no longer expect that children in ALL year groups** will return to school before the end of the summer term. For the rest of this term, we will focus on how we best meet the needs of those children that are in school and support those that are still home-learning. Therefore, we will only be offering school spaces to those year groups that are currently open: Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6. Schooling for Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 will continue via Google Classroom or the paper learning packs (picked up from school on a fortnightly basis). The Government has now said that they would expect all children to be back in school in September for the start of the next academic year – although the detailed plans about the expectations for September are yet to be announced. I will keep you informed of this changing picture.

Admission to Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6:

On opening Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 'Bubbles' we contacted every family to ask whether they would like to take up the offer of a place and it has been great that so many families took up that option. However, I know that this decision will have been difficult for all families to make and we are now receiving a few requests for places from families that would now like a space for their child.

The process for making a request for a place would be to telephone our school office and request to put on a waiting list for a place. I would like to make you aware that:

- there will be limited spaces available – we have demands on both the amount of space and the amount of staff available whilst respecting the 2m social distance guidelines
- children may have to wait for a space until we have a big enough group to open up a new Bubble (we will not open a Bubble for only 1 child, for example)
- if demand for the limited remaining spaces is high then we will consider only offering part time places and/or use set criteria for admissions (rest assured that children who are already in school full time will continue to be offered full time provision)

Summer Holidays:

At the moment, the Government has not asked schools to make any special arrangements over the school summer holiday period, although I know that this is a real topic of discussion in the media currently. So, to be clear, we are planning for school to **be closed over the summer holiday period in the normal way**. This applies both to classroom/Bubble arrangements and Educare. If this position changes, I will, of course, let you know.

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Cancelled Non-Pupil Day July 3rd:

The scheduled Non-Pupil day which was on the original term dates for July 3rd has been cancelled. In light of the disruption to pupils' learning already caused by the Coronavirus this year, it would not be right to continue with this date for school closure for training.

Star Learners!

Class	Certificate awarded to:	Class	Certificate awarded to:
FSM	Oskar Czupa	4RH	Eduardo Gambino
FHT	Samuel El Mrabet	4SG	Ellie Horton
1MS	Inaya Amhed	5SR	Kornel Kovacs
1TH	Amira Scantlebury	5AS	Olivier Bylicki
2BF	Layal Alkhatib	6LJ	Alfie Bibby
2RG	Isaac Proctor	6TL	Ben Allison
3JD	Yamman Aljafer	4RH	Eduardo Gambino
3HG	Arshad Sagul	4SG	Ellie Horton

More baby news:

Just to let you know that Miss Hardington has had a baby boy. I am sure you would like to join me in offering her many congratulations! They are both doing well.

Finally, as we start to feel that schools are beginning a phase of recovery after lockdown, I would like to take a moment to recognise and thank the absolutely amazing staff team that is here at Pilgrim Primary. Over the last few months, they have all worked flat out to do their very best for the children and families of our school, often taking on responsibilities and roles that they would not normally do and without a word of complaint! We could not have responded to the many challenges that school faced in light of the Coronavirus outbreak without the positivity and total dedication of all our staff. I count myself very lucky to work with such an exceptional team here at Pilgrim and I very much hope that you feel the same way.

I am also very grateful for the support, patience and understanding that parents and carers have shown to school as we have adapted and changed over the last few months. There have been many simple acts of kindness and comments that have reminded staff what a tight community we belong to. Thank you all.

Wishing everyone a very good weekend

Mrs Meek