

Pilgrim Primary Academy

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10th January 2022

NEWSLETTER: Jan 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and to a new year. The children have returned positively and cheerfully (despite all the rain!) and have already started to get stuck into their new learning topics for this term which are outlined here:

	Theme name	Focus books		Theme name	Focus books
Y1	What is life like in the UK?	It's a No Money Day by Kate Milner Peace at Last by Jill Murphy	Y4	What's Eating You?	Krindlekrax by Phillip Ridley
Y2	Changes	The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins	Y5	The History of Time and Space	Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Bryce
Y3	The Stone Age	Ug: Boygenius of the Stone Age by Raymond Briggs	Y6	Make a difference- History Heroes	Macbeth by William Shakespeare (various versions)

EYFS: Will be learning about **materials, homes and jobs** that people do in our community. The main story will be **The Three Little Pigs**.

Parents/Carers of children in Years 1-6 should have already received the Knowledge Organiser that links to your child's new theme before Christmas break. On return to school last week, you will have been sent the Theme Homework choices for this half term and the Theme Overview, which outlines in more detail the content of each subject taught within the theme. More information about the subjects and the curriculum content covered in these and all our themes can be found on our website under the Learning tab or via this link: <https://www.pilgrimprimaryschool.co.uk/web/home#learning>

Covid Related Updates and reminders

Of course, we return at a time where covid cases continue to increase and I anticipate staff and pupil absences will be a challenge to us all this term. I would like to say **thank you** to all parents and carers who continue to keep us informed about the outcomes of any symptoms their children may have, any lateral flow testing and PCR tests - this is a crucial part of keeping pupils and staff as safe as we can. I also appreciate your patience, as we often have to ask many questions and have to request that you take additional action when a case is suspected or confirmed.

I want to remind you that we are **only allowing essential visitors into the main school building** at the moment which means that you will not be able to come into the building unless absolutely necessary. This is challenging for all of us and not at all the way in which we would like to work together as we pride ourselves in our 'open door' approach to communication at Pilgrim. I very much look forward to when this element of covid restrictions can be lifted.

No doubt we will need to continue this highly cautious approach for the coming weeks or months so thank you for all the extra precautions you are taking, for keeping your distance and for keeping us very well informed.

Additional cleaning and Risk Assessments:

I would like to reassure you that we are maintaining our enhanced cleaning regime on a daily basis which involves all touch points and tables in the classrooms being cleaned regularly throughout the day and corridors, toilets and shared areas having an additional clean at midday. Our Risk Assessments and operating procedures are under continual review and always revised in line with any new Government or DFE guidance. Our latest Risk Assessment packs and Management Operating documents can be found on our website in the Covid-19 section or by following this link:

https://www.pilgrimprimaryschool.co.uk/web/management_plan_and_risk_assessments

Ventilation:

We are regularly changing and refreshing the air in school by ensuring the rooms are adequately ventilated. This means that the windows (and sometimes the doors) are open to allow fresh air in and old air out. We try to do this, as much as possible, when the rooms are empty of pupils (at break and lunchtime, for example) but this can leave the rooms quite cold at times. Please can you ensure that your child has a warm jumper or cardigan and even an extra layer in school (hoodie, another jumper) in case they are feeling the cold. Also, please provide warm, thick coats to wear outside in this colder weather so that your child does not get too cold on the playground.

School Main Entrance - Reception Foyer area:

We are still operating a strict social distance policy at school. During our busiest times at the start and end of the day, I have noticed that our reception foyer is becoming quite crowded which has the potential to make maintaining a social distance difficult.

The children from Years 5 & 6 use this entrance to come in and out of school between 8.50-9.00am and again at 3.15pm and they need to be able to do this safely. So to enable this to happen, parents/carers will be asked:

- To reduce the need to come into this area by telephoning or emailing any queries to the office whenever possible (01752 225319/ contactus@ppsonline.org)
- If you have to come to the front office, **to wait until after 9.00am or after 3.15pm** to enter this area
- To only come into this area if it is free of other adults or children and not to queue inside the foyer (please wait instead in the fresh air outside until the office hatch is free)
- To ensure children come to school on time to avoid the need for children/adults queuing when arriving late and being signed in

Please also note; MASKS/FACE-COVERINGS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILST IN THIS AREA - please do not come in without one (unless medically exempt).

I understand that this is inconvenient but cases are rising in Plymouth and across the country; I am sure that a few extra minutes waiting and following these requests will help children, staff and yourselves remain as safe as possible whilst on site and help reduce the risk of coronavirus infection, especially at busy times. THANK YOU.

Our Parent Support Advisor & New Parent/Carers Board - playground

You might have noticed a new board that has appeared in the playground, on the school wall, in the area between the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. It contains information about school and other services that might be of use to you. The board is being managed by our Parent Support Advisor, Mrs Donna Harris. Despite it being difficult having visitors into school due to Covid restrictions, Mrs Harris is still working very actively for our parents/carer community and is always available to you should you need any help, advice (or just have a general question about school or parenting matters). Donna is on the playgrounds most mornings so feel free to catch her, you can ask any member of staff if you would like to see her or you can drop her an email by using the contactus@ppsonline.org email address and she would be happy to help.

Spring Term Clubs

The majority of school clubs will start next week - beginning 17th January. Information will be sent separately via letter this week outlining which clubs are on offer and how to sign up for them. We allocate places fairly on a 'first come first served basis' whilst also trying to make sure that everyone who has requested it, can access at least one club each term if at all possible. There is

always a small charge for the club which contributes to covering the staffing costs but all clubs are subsidised by the school to allow them to run at the lowest expense to parents as possible. The clubs are sometimes costed at slightly different rates depending on the number of weeks they run and the staffing costs (this information will be available on the Club letter coming out to you).

This term, as well as clubs being offered by our own staff, we are working with an external sports coaching provider to provide some of our sports clubs. This will allow us to build up the amount and the range of sporting clubs we can offer, making best use of our outdoor spaces such as the playgrounds, the Multi Use Games Area and the field.

We ask that children make a firm commitment to attending their club as we often have waiting lists for them. If a child does not attend a club without explanation on more than one occasion (i.e. is not ill or absent from school that day) or if their conduct is unsafe or inappropriate, then their place might be offered to another child.

Winter PE Kit reminders

As children will continue to take part in PE sessions both indoors and outdoors, in these colder months please could you make sure that your child comes to school with either their school jumper/cardigan or a suitable warm sports top. This must be in addition to their normal PE T-shirt which should be a plain T-shirt (no logos) in the colour of their house team or the official PE T-shirts which can be purchased at the School Uniform Shop on Mayflower Street.

Children can wear dark leggings, jogging bottoms or tracksuit bottoms (black, grey or navy) as shorts will not be suitable until the weather warms up again - thank you.

New Staff - welcome

This term, we say hello to **Mr White** who joins us as a Sports Teaching Assistant and **Miss Beattie** who will be working as a Teaching Assistant in Year 3 within the Lower Phase team.

Dates for your Diary

Flu Immunisation (Reception - Yr 6)	Tues 25th January
Half Term:	Mon 21 st February – Friday 25 th February
Non Pupil Day:	Mon 28th February
Easter Holiday:	Mon 11th - Friday 22nd April
Start of Summer Term:	Mon 25th April

Have a good week,



Mrs L Meek