

18/08/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

School opening September 2020

I write to you ahead of school reopening in September and following previous correspondence sent on 09/07/2020 and 15/07/2020. I hope that the following letter, which pulls all information together, will answer any questions you may have ahead of school reopening.

It is our expectation that all pupils will return to education in September, these expectations are no different to those prior to the summer holiday. It is important that pupils return to school so that they can restart their face to face education with their teachers.

Since the Secretary of State's speech on Thursday 2nd July, when the full reopening of school in September was announced, we have been preparing our plans to make this possible. I appreciate the feelings among you may be mixed, but I wanted to reassure you that we will be following all guidance published by the Government, we will work closely with the Academy Trust and that our processes and plans are in line with expectations.

The Priory School will officially reopen for pupils on Wednesday 16th September. This decision has not been made lightly but as a school we must ensure we are fully prepared for the academic year ahead and that all health and safety standards are met. In light of the current situation routine training, carried out by all staff members, will need to take place over a longer period of time to ensure all can be appropriately trained ahead of pupils returning. With this arrangement there is some flexibility to welcome a small number of pupils into school earlier to ease transition back into school life, this also includes our new starters induction. The parents and/or carers of these children will be contacted separately. Therefore, if there is no further correspondence from the myself your child will start school on **Wednesday 16th September.**

Classroom Organisation

Pupils will be grouped in their class groups and together they will form a bubble. Unlike normal arrangements pupils will not mix with those from other class groups or 'bubbles' for the foreseeable future. Pupils will have a designated number of staff members who will support and **Protect our school community: At this time all children, parents, carers and any visitors, such as suppliers, must not to enter the school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus.**

Headteacher: Mr Matthew Bloodworth-Flatt
Neville Avenue, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 2EH Tel: 01775 724080 Email: enquiries@priory-cit.co.uk / www.spaldingspecialschools.co.uk

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work with them daily. Each bubble has an allocated classroom and additional break out spaces essential for supporting pupils' individual special educational needs. Classrooms are arranged so all children sit facing the front. You will receive further information regarding classroom organisation and staffing distribution in 'Welcome Back to School' pack.

Breaktime

Each bubble will continue to have allocated breaktimes. These are planned so the numbers of pupils accessing recreational spaces are limited at one time. Each pupil will have an allocated area of the playground or field to use. It is important that pupils remain in their designated area.

Lunchtime

Children will eat their lunch within their classroom. Meals will only be provided for those pupils in receipt of free school meals. All other pupils should bring a packed lunch to school. For the foreseeable future pupils in receipt of free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch prepared by our kitchen. If your circumstances have changed and you are now entitled to free school meals please contact the finance department in school and we will do our best to give you any advice and information you may need.

Class Groups

A reminder of class groups for next academic year

Class group (2019 – 2020)	New class group (2020 – 2021)
Class groups for new starters will be finalised during induction	7F (Miss Farrar)
	7P (Mrs Perry)
7T (Miss Taylor)	8W (Mr Wilson)
7P (Mrs Perry)	8F (Mrs Freeman)
8L (Mrs Lee)	9P (Mr Precious)
8F (Mrs Freeman)	9AH (Mrs Amott and Miss Hebblewhite)
9PA (Mr Precious and Mrs Amott)	10T (Mrs Thirsk)
9A (Mr Allen)	10C (Mrs Cap)
10C (Mrs Cap)	11A (Mr Allen)
10T (Mrs Thirsk)	11L (Mrs Lee)

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Hygiene

A number of new posters will be displayed in each room reminding all pupils of good hygiene standards and the need to physically distance from others outside of their bubble. Soap and hand gel will be available in every classroom or at every wash station. Pupils will be reminded, and expected to, wash their hands before and after each breaktime, before and after lunch, when they arrive in school and before they leave at the end of the day.

Arrival and departure from school

Ahead of next academic year I continue to liaise closely with Transport Connect regarding arrangements for September opening. Where possible, I will be asking all parents and carers to transport their child to and from school. I feel this is the safest thing to do as we cannot guarantee that pupils will be transported within their allocated bubble and this is also suggested within government guidance.

We are advising all children who use transport to wear a suitable face covering for their journey.

Each child will have an allocated time for arrival and departure. For the small number of pupils who walk to school you will be allocated a time of arrival. Please do not arrive before the allocated time. There will also be a clearly marked space where you should wait until school opens. You must remain within your vehicle until instructed to leave by a member of staff.

As explained in previous correspondence on 20/08/2020 the following drop off and collection times are in place for any parent and/or carer transporting their child to school.

Drop off: Between 9:00am – 9:15am

Collection: 3:10pm – 3:20pm.

(Please note that if you have requested an alternative timeslot due to work or family commitments this remains in place.)

Please feel free to contact the school should you have any questions or queries.

Uniform

We kindly ask that pupils wear clean uniform each day that they attend school and recommend that they change out of their clothes as soon as they arrive home. Please remember that branded uniform will soon be available again through our new supplier. Until then you should

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purchase appropriate coloured uniform items from your local supermarket. (Navy jumper, blue or white polo and grey or black trousers/skirt/shorts).

For the foreseeable future your child should attend school in their forest school or physical education clothing on those allocated days. You will be notified of these days on Wednesday 16th September. I kindly ask that this clothing remains appropriate (e.g. no slogan t-shirts) and where possible is in keeping of the school's colours and uniform policy.

Items in School

As of September, we ask that pupils only bring required items into school including packed lunch and any items they use whilst on the bus. Pupils should not bring their own pencil case into school; all necessary equipment will be provided. All valuable electronic items will be stored safely within the classroom.

Pupils who display Coronavirus symptoms.

If a child or family member is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus they **should not attend school** and isolate for the recommended period as per government guidance.

Should a pupil develop symptoms whilst at school they will be isolated from others and parents/cares will be informed. You will be asked to collect your child and advised to obtain a test. Parents and carers of other pupils in that bubble will be informed that a child within that bubble has shown signs of coronavirus.

Should any pupil or adult in school test positive for coronavirus I will liaise closely with the Academy Trust who will advise the school on the steps we need to take.

Bespoke Arrangements

Given the amount of time some pupils have spent away from school we appreciate the transition back into school may be challenging. I have liaised closely with the pastoral team in school to discuss those pupils who require additional support and bespoke arrangements in September. Those parents and carers have now been contacted and a bespoke arrangement is now in place. If school have not contacted you yet you feel some form of bespoke arrangements will benefit your child please do contact the school.

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If your child's bespoke arrangement is a reduced timetable your child should not attend school until their first applicable day. For example, if the arrangement is that your child attends Monday, Tuesday and Thursday your child should first come to school on Thursday 17th September.

Pupils who have previously been shielding

For any pupils who has been required to shield, following health care professional's advice, a number of additional measures will be in place to ensure they are safe in school. This includes being seated at their own table and enhanced adult support and/or reminders to distance themselves from others and wash hands. In the best interest of your child please contact your child's GP or specialist consultant ahead of their return to school. These individuals are best placed to inform you of any further action that is required.

I understand the following above measures will significantly impact the usual school day for your child but the following is important to keep all members of our school community safe. It is important your child understands these new expectations prior to attending school in September. We will work closely with them over the first few days to help them adapt to and understand their new routines.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Bloodworth-Flatt
Headteacher

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