

Pilgrim Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mrs L Meek (BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH)

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25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Celebration Assembly

Today we had our first virtual Celebration Assembly of the year using Google Meet. The children had chance to see the other classes on screen and join together to celebrate their achievements. This week, we awarded a Star Learner certificate to someone from each class in recognition of an aspect of great learning. Congratulations to the following children who received an award:

Year 1	Missy P	Alya M
Year 2	Gracie M-C	Alicia-Maie H
Year 3	Hollie G	Sarah T
Year 4	Muhammad F	Olivia G
Year 5	Anna M	Jemima T
Year 6	Toby J	Balen R

Next week, it will be over to the children to give a 'Pat on The Back' award to someone that they choose from their class. I look forward to hearing the compliments that they give to each other.

Further guidance about testing and isolation

Accompanying this Newsletter is a letter from Dean Ashton, our Trust CEO, with a useful summary of all the ways parents can access testing for their child should they present with one or more of the Covid-19 symptoms. Please take your time to read it and keep it somewhere safe and to hand.

I particularly want to emphasise that if your child has been off school because they have symptoms of Covid-19 or they are isolating because a member of their immediate family has symptoms of Covid-19, then they cannot return to school for the period of either 10 or 14 days (see guidance in the letter) OR WHEN PROOF OF A NEGATIVE TEST CAN BE PROVIDED TO SCHOOL. There can be no negotiation on this as we are following strict guidance from Public Health England.

Pick up and drop off times

On the whole, this is going well. Thank you to the parents and carers of our Year 5 and 6 children who use the gate on Penrose Street – things are working much better now that you come onto the playground to drop off/collect your children. The pavement is now much less crowded and our residents who live on Penrose Street, opposite the gate, are not being disturbed by crowds on their door steps and directly in front of their windows. I really appreciate your cooperation with this.

Late drop offs

The number of late children every day is still proving challenging to manage and is something that I would still ask you to help us with. Each year group has a 10 minute window to get through their gate and as we have now got the routine much smoother, there are very few queues – most of the children are into school in minutes. We are having far too many children, far too regularly, being late and then having to go through the process of individual booking in at front reception. It is not

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easy for your child to start their school day in this way and it is difficult for reception staff dealing with so many late arrivals at this already busy time of day. I hope we can see an improvement in this next week.

School Photographs

Unfortunately, we are unable to have the school photographer in to take our usual autumn term school photos due to the Covid-19 restrictions. I know this is disappointing but I will let you know if and when this changes in the future.

Access to technology and the internet at home

Coming home with your eldest child today should be a bright yellow letter which I would like every family to complete and return to school. The letter requests information about the level of access for your child(ren) to technology and the internet at home. This information will enable us to understand the best approach to remote learning for your child, in the event of them having to self-isolate at any point in the future. It will help us plan swiftly for the switch to home learning should this be required. The responses that you give will be held centrally for school use only and will not be shared with other parties. I thank you in advance for your completion and return of the form (by Wednesday 30th September, please).

General Reminders

- Please bring a coat to school now the weather is becoming wet and colder – we do try to get the children out to get fresh air as much as we can during the day
- Only water in children's water bottles for classroom use please
- On PE days, children are very welcome to wear tracksuit bottoms/leggings/joggers (dark colours only please) and wear their school jumper over the top of their PE T-Shirt. We don't want the children to be cold during the day!

Thanks for all your continued support and have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Lisa Meek