



Friday 3th September 2021

Coronavirus Arrangements at Parkgate Infants and Nursery September 2021

Dear Parents,

We have had a fantastic week in school- I have just walked around the school and it was lovely to see children who are settled and enjoying their learning. Welcome back old parents and welcome to the parents of Reception and Nursery (the newest members of our parkgate community). We would like to welcome Mrs. Brook to Year 2 and Miss Johnson and Miss Smith who are teaching in Year 1. Miss Coleman has also joined us as a teaching assistant in Reception.

Communication

On a Friday afternoon we would normally send out our weekly newsletter. This will resume next Friday and includes lots of information about what has or is happening in school (including who has received the star of the week for that week). This is sent by email so please check your 'junk' email box as this is often where it ends up.

I send 2 or 3 heads newsletters throughout each half term. These are generally sent on Mondays and as with most letters are also sent by email.

Parents often ask about what children are learning in school. Please visit the website where you will find both a weekly blog and curriculum information sheets (these will go online next weekly).

Parents Evening

We are considering what parents evening will look like this term. We are currently deciding if this will take place in person or online. Please could you complete a survey by clicking on the link below as your views are really important to us as we make this decision.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s0pctfLgik-LEqeObFR7jxUdh2e1fh1MoN7Wm_XnDGxUMDU5Q0wzSzFMTUNFOENYQUFMUERWSDBMMY4u

Meet the Teacher

Next week we have our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions:

- 7th September 2021- 4.30- Meet the Teacher Year 1 (on Zoom)
- 8th September 2021- 1.30- Meet the Teacher Nursery (on Zoom)
- 8th September 2021- 4.30- Meet the Teacher Reception (on Zoom)
- 9th September 2021- 4.30- Meet the Teacher Year 2 (on Zoom)

These are sessions to 'meet' the teacher, find out how your child's new year group works and ask any questions. A link to attend these zoom meetings will be sent next week.

Parent Reps

We would like to set up a group of parent representatives. There would be 1 parent representative for each class and their role would involve:

- Regular meetings with school leaders. This meeting will be quite informal and will be an opportunity for the parent representatives to find out what is happening in school.
- Being a point of contact for all parents and carers e.g. If parents would like any information about school meetings or projects then they can contact the parent representative.
- Welcoming new parents into the school community.
- Sometimes supporting teachers with communicating to other parents.

If you are interested in becoming a parent representative for your class then please email admin@parkgateinfants.herts.sch.uk by **Friday 10th September 2021**.

Violin Lessons

We offer violin lessons to children in Year 2. These are provided by the Hertfordshire Music service and would take place in groups. You will need to pay the Music service for these lessons but if you are interested then please contact the school office.

COVID Arrangements

As detailed in the letter sent at the end of term, we have updated our Covid risk assessment. Please see below details of what school looks like this term:

'Soft Start'

The removal of bubbles also means that we will no longer need a staggered start and end to the school day. All children (including Nursery) will start school at 8.55. We know that this will have an impact both on parking around the school and on the number of parents on the playground and will therefore be introducing a 'soft start'. Children can arrive at school anytime between 8.45 and 8.55 and will go straight into their classroom. The doors will shut at 8.55 and children arriving after this time must come into school via the school office. Please be aware that any child arriving after 8.55 will receive a late mark, if children arrive after 9.05 then they will receive a U mark (if children receive 15 U marks then the local authority may issue a fixed penalty notice).

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will all be collected at 3pm from their classroom doors. We know that many parents have appreciated the drive being open to allow a one-way system in and out of school. This will continue in September- the drive will be shut for cars between 8.45 and 9.00 each morning and between 3.00 and 3.10 at the end of the day.

Nursery children will go home at 11.55. The children should be collected from the top gate. Please wait until a member of staff brings the children to you.

Isolation

We will continue to ask children to not come to school if they have any symptoms of Coronavirus. If your child has symptoms then you must book a PCR test (a test that is sent to a laboratory for testing). The current symptoms are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

I know that it can be disappointing to hear that you or your child needs to isolate however I would ask that you follow the guidance to keep our school community safe.

Home Learning

This will continue to be set on Seesaw for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Uniform

Our uniform policy is available on the school website. We will be continuing to have windows open in school in September. It can become cold in school over the winter so we would like to remind parents that they can buy a fleece from our uniform suppliers which can be worn in school (they must be burgundy with the school logo).

I would also like to remind parents that:

- Grey jumpers or cardigans are no longer part of our uniform policy.
- Children can only wear plain stud earrings in school. They must not wear earrings with hanging parts or stones of any sort. If you are planning on getting your child's ears pierced over the holidays then please make sure that you choose earrings that match the uniform policy.
- Hair longer than shoulder length should always be tied back.
- Children can wear tights or socks. They should not wear both. We also ask that parents **do not** send children to school with cycling shorts.
- Watches- children are able to wear a watch to school but they must be able to tell the time.

Attendance

A reminder that school attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. If children are required to self isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 they will be recorded using an X mark (authorized absence). Children that are quarantining or isolating will be provided with remote learning.

Other Measures

- **Regular cleaning regime:** We will continue to wipe down regularly touched surfaces in school throughout the day. The classrooms are thoroughly cleaned by the caretaker and cleaning team at the end of the school day.
- **Good Hand Hygiene:** Children are asked to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the school day.

17th September 2021- Jeans for Genes Day (Children wear Jeans to school)

24th September- 9.30 – Parent Rep Meeting

Wb 27th September- Harvest Week (Information to follow)

5th October 9.30- Year 2 Curriculum Open Morning

6th October 9.30- Reception Curriculum Open Morning

7th October 9.30- Year 1 Phonics Open Morning

Wb 18th October- Parents Evenings (information to follow)

Kind Regards,



Mr Gwyn Pritchard
Headteacher