

“You can learn something new every day if you listen”

Dear Parents/Carers,

Praise Assemblies

Well done to all our pupils who received Praise Certificates for ‘Courage’, ‘Collaboration’, ‘Creativity’, ‘Reading Progress’, ‘Friendship’ and ‘Star of the Half Term’!

COVID-19

May we remind you of the current NHS guidance regarding testing and self-isolation:

- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. This still applies even if you have received one or more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. **A Lateral Flow Test is not appropriate when someone is displaying symptoms, a PCR MUST be booked.**
- Anyone who receives a positive result from a Lateral Flow Test will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. Anyone who receives a positive lateral flow test result should report their result on the government website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and must self-isolate immediately. It would be much appreciated if you could forward any positive test results to school via office.admin@perryfields-pri.sandwell.sch.uk
- Anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation 6 days after the date of their initial positive test (Day 0) if they receive 2 negative lateral flow test results, 24 hours apart, on days 5 and 6.
- **If you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months you are not required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. You should take lateral flow tests for 7 days as you may become infectious even if you're fully vaccinated or do not have symptoms. Children under 5 do not need daily rapid tests.**

We are aware that guidance is likely to change next week and will share any information as we receive it.

Swimming

Swimming, like P.E. forms part of the National Curriculum. All children are expected to be able to swim 25m unaided by the end of KS2. As such, on **Tuesday 1st March** all children in **Sapphire** class will go swimming. All children in **Denim** class will go on **Tuesday 8th March**. Once all of Year Five have been assessed, a group of non-swimmers from Years 5 & 6 will be selected to continue with swimming lessons from Tuesday 15th March.

Good Hygiene

Whilst the shadow of COVID-19 appears to be fading, please remember germs still exist! We are continuing to ensure the children thoroughly wash their hands on a regular basis and ask that you encourage your child/children to do the same.

Online Safety

A parent has made us aware of an app called Qustodio that they use. This allows parents to block inappropriate apps, games and websites. Children can view child-friendly sites and potentially harmful content is automatically blocked, preventing exposure to mature content, gambling, violence and other threats. It also allows parents to monitor your child's digital activity, browsing history, YouTube views, screen time and more.

Health & Safety

Please note, glass water bottles are not allowed in school. Any breakages could result in serious injury.

Attendance

If your child is too ill to attend school, could you please notify us by using the message function via the school telephone number (option 2) or via the Parentmail App, not via e-mail. Messages need to be sent **before the beginning of the school day** where possible. Please ensure you give the reason for absence; 'illness' is not sufficient for our records. Unless the absence is of a nature where there is a required amount of time to be out of school, we do ask that you **contact us every day**.

ParentMail

As previously communicated, we are now using ParentMail and Class Charts as our main communication channels. Unfortunately, there are still some parents yet to access these. If you have not already signed up, could you ensure you do so as soon as possible. Reports will be sent out via Class Charts and you will be informed of any First Aid treatment that may be carried out via this method, along with information regarding behaviour. The majority of correspondence is now sent via ParentMail so it is imperative that you access the App regularly.

Free Swimming for Sandwell Residents

If you live in Sandwell and are aged 16 and under or 60 plus you can register online to access free swimming at your local pool. Those aged 16 and under can swim for free during school holidays. Those aged 60 plus can swim for free every day until 1pm. Please visit the Sandwell Leisure Trust website to register.

On-site Car Park

Despite numerous requests, we still have a number of parents, particularly those whose children attend P.O.S.H. club, who are driving on to the car park to drop off children without parking in a space first. This is causing a knock-on effect to members of staff and/or visitors who then have to wait to be able to park and/or leave after dropping their own child off. If you must access the car park to drop your child off, could you please park appropriately for the convenience of all other drivers. If there are no available parking bays on site, please do not park on double yellow lines or stop in front of the building. This is a health and safety risk as it prevents access to the site. Please always park with other car park users in mind. **Likewise, do not park in the disabled bays unless you are a Blue Badge holder.**

In addition to which may we remind you that consideration should be shown to residents on Apsley Road and the surrounding area when parking around school. We do advise residents to contact the police when they cannot access their property. Added to which we did receive an email of complaint this week regarding some intimidating behaviour.

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Sale of Toast

We are pleased to announce we are resuming selling toast at break time. The cost will be **25p per slice**. We will also have fruit available, also costing **25p per item**. If your child would like to buy toast or a piece of fruit at break time, please send him/her with the **correct amount in coins in a named purse, wallet or envelope**. These cannot be paid for via ParentMail.

Dental and Medical Appointments

Our attendance records need to show details of all pupils who attend medical appointments, whether at a doctor’s surgery, hospital or dentist etc. In order for the correct information to be recorded for all pupils, we need to see proof of all appointments. We would, therefore, request you bring proof in (i.e. text message, appointment card/compliment slip or letter from hospital) when your child returns to school, whereupon a copy can be kept in their file. Thank you for your assistance.

Holidays in Term Time

Now that COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted, I wish to remind you of the following:
A ‘Leave of Absence Request Form’ must be completed for **all** holiday requests during term time **before the absence takes place**. Any requests, unless for exceptional circumstances i.e. death in family etc. will be recorded as unauthorised. A letter will be sent to the parent/carer informing them of the Headteacher’s decision following the holiday request.

On the subject of holidays, we are concerned that a number of children are taken on holiday during periods of alleged illness. Please note that we do make ‘Safe and Well’ checks when children and particularly siblings are absent and are concerned when no-one is at home despite reported illness. Please note that children do like to share new and exciting news such as a trip to London. Therefore we ask that you follow the correct procedure to avoid putting your child in a difficult situation. In addition, time off for parties will not be authorised and it is unfair to expect your child not to share this information upon their return to school. We also have a growing number of parents who collect their child/children before home time to take them on holiday etc. Please note that it is a legal requirement for children to attend school. **Requests will only be approved if children are ill and need to go home or have a medical appointment (with evidence)**. We will be monitoring this closely.

World Book Day

In celebration of World Book Day, all pupils are invited to dress up as a character from their favourite book on Thursday 3rd March. It is not necessary for you to go out and buy a costume – homemade ones are just as much fun!

Rainbow Diner

To celebrate the launch of our new menu, on Thursday 3rd March we will be giving the children an opportunity to sample some of our new dishes throughout the day. Consent letters will be sent nearer the time; please ensure you complete and return these to school to enable your child to take part.

Staffing

Mrs Taylor will be starting her Maternity Leave after the Easter break therefore Denim Class will be taught by Miss Hill during her absence.

The children will break up for Half Term on Friday 18th February and school will reopen on Tuesday 1st March. Please remember that Monday 28th February is a staff-training day and therefore school will be closed to all pupils.

Yours sincerely,

T L Jones

MRS. T. L. JONES
Headteacher