



The Priory School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you all well having enjoyed a relaxing summer period, with your child looking forward to their return to us next week. We are looking forward to having them all back with us.

I am writing to you in light of the recent media focus on the wearing of face masks within schools, in England, to clarify some queries which the coverage may have raised. We are currently not in an area affected by tighter, local lockdown restrictions and therefore the wearing of masks is not compulsory. However, should your child wish to wear a face covering they may do so in communal areas, corridors and during social times; this is under the proviso that the covering is provided by home. It must be suitable to be worn within school and not carry any kind of inappropriate design, logo or wording that may cause offence. It should be clean each day and handled with care. Disposable face masks are not recommended due to their temporary nature and the need for their replacement during the school day. All face masks or coverings must be removed in lessons to ensure effective participation and interaction within the lesson.

As part of our new operating plan we have ensured that there is minimal movement for students through: the zoning of school, teaching students within year group 'bubbles', staggered start and finish times and carefully managed social times. This is alongside our increased provision and emphasis on hygiene and the importance of being aware of social distancing. Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms and areas of the school but we would encourage students to bring in their own personal sanitiser as this will help to ease congestion when moving around the school. If your child chooses to wear a face mask they must be aware it does not replace these more important measures.

As our staff will now be peripatetic and moving between classrooms and year group bubbles, teachers and teaching assistants will either be wearing face masks or visors as they move around school during lesson change over or are in a communal area with students. This is primarily to ensure they can arrive at their next lesson promptly and ensure the smooth running of the school. Staff will remove face masks during lessons, some may still wear visors where this is a personal requirement.

If your child has PE on a day they must attend school in their PE kit so that they do not have to use the changing rooms. It must be the school PE kit with no variation. They can stay in their school PE kit for the rest of the day.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our staggered start and finish times for the 3rd and 4th September. The full letter is still available on the school's website.

Thursday 3rd September only, for each year group, the following start times apply

Year 7: 8.40am

Year 8: 10.40am

Year 9: 10.45am

Year 10: 10.50am

Year 11: 10.55am

Students need to go directly to the playground outside the hall upon arrival, where they will be met by their form tutor. Year 8-11 - please time your journey so that you arrive only a couple of minutes before you are required to start. If siblings travel together, we understand this may be difficult.

Friday 4th September (and all days following this, until further notice)

Year 7: school day starts at 8.25am, school day ends at 2.50pm.

Year 8: school day starts at 8.30am, school day ends at 2.55pm.

Year 9: school day starts at 8.35am, school day ends at 3.00pm.

Year 10: school day starts at 8.30am, school day ends at 2.55pm.

Year 11: school day starts at 8.25am, school day ends at 2.50pm.

From Friday 4th September onwards, students should report directly to their form room in their zone.

Our lunch arrangements will be 'grab and go' and there will be no tuck shop open at break. Students may wish to bring in their own lunches; they will eat them either in their teaching base or outside.

Essential Equipment List

Provided by student:

Black pen

Red pen

Scientific Calculator - Ideally either a Casio fx-83GTX (battery powered) or Casio fx-85GTX (dual powered – battery and solar)

Pencil (sharpened)

Pencil eraser (rubber)

Ruler

Glue Stick

Scissors

Protractor

Compasses

Yellow Highlighter

Set of coloured pencils

Personal hand sanitiser

Not essential but can be brought into school (please note school is not liable for any damage to the Ipad)

Ipad, tablet stylus and earphones if you have them

Provided by school but must be brought to every lesson:

Exercise Books

Student Planner

Mini-Whiteboard

Dry wipe board pen

A gentle reminder that parents will not be able to escort their child onto site. Please encourage them to cycle or walk wherever possible.

I will write to you again, at the start of term to formally welcome students back and update you on our start to the new, academic year.

Please do keep in touch with us about any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Pope
Headteacher