



## Reading!

The school, hugely supported by the Pirton Parent Teacher Association, have purchased a range of new books to enhance the school reading scheme and particularly those children who are bridging into free choice books. There are many new titles to support both fiction and non-fiction reading. There are many up to date and modern titles as well as books about significant men and women from all over the world. Look out for these books when your child comes home.

Reading remains a priority and we encourage you to continue enjoying books with your child as much as possible.



## Remote Learning Plan

As we progress through this term, we prepare for the possibility that we may have to return to a form of 'remote learning' for some or all of our classes. We will be able to share further information with you next week regarding this and how we will use Google Classroom, Purple Mash, Parentmail and online learning to support learning from home.

## Parentmail and Wisepay

You will be aware that we have been using ParentMail as our main source of communication with parents since the beginning of lockdown in March. With the children now back in school full time, communication is more frequent and ParentMail will continue to be our main means of communicating with parents. Please ensure that you check ParentMail on a regular basis.

Equally, we are trying to reduce cash and cheques being passed into the school office. Wisepay is our online banking system. Following the lead taken by many other local schools, we are planning to become a cashless school office from January onwards. Please sign up to Wisepay as soon as you can. Any help with log in details, please contact the school office.

## Parent consultation evenings

As we will not be able to hold face-to-face meetings this term, we are making arrangements to share progress and communicate with parents in an alternative way. We will share this with you all before half term.

## Parent Governor Election

Ballot papers were sent out by Parentmail yesterday for the election of a new Parent Governor. Please return your ballot paper by 9am on Monday 3 October. We use the 'double envelope' voting system as advised by School Governance so that we can check those voting against our list of parents, but at the same time retaining anonymity during the actual counting of the votes. The double envelope system was explained in the ParentMail message when the ballot papers were sent out yesterday. Any queries, please phone the school office for further advice.



## Primary & Secondary Admissions 2021

The application process for Secondary School admissions is now open with the deadline on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Please note that this date is in the October half term holiday.

Online applications can be made on [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions).

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 opens on Monday 2 November 2020 with the closing date deadline of 15 January 2021.

We are reviewing how we can hold any **Open Morning** sessions for prospective parents whilst continuing to follow Covid 19 guidance. Further information to follow and further details of this will follow.

## One Way Entry & Exit System

Please be reminded that we are running a **one way system across the school site**. **Directional signs are in place and we would ask everyone to follow these arrows. This will ensure that everyone is moving in one direction and help to avoid congestion and maintain social distancing.**

**Entry to the school site is made via the turning circle with movement across the playground to classrooms and exit via the gates near the school office.**

We realise that if you live at one end of the village this may cause you to go 'long way round' on your entry or exit, but we would emphasise the need to adhere to this guidance in order to keep pupils, parents, grandparents and staff safe.

## Staggered Start Times

The staggered start and end times to the school day are now becoming more embedded and are helping to reduce congestion on the playground as we adhere to our school Risk Assessment and Government social distancing guidance.

A gentle reminder to try to keep as close to your child's allotted class times as possible (unless your child has a sibling in another class) so that we can keep to our timetables. Many thanks.



## Attendance and Illnesses

We continue to have high attendance in school and are grateful to parents who are following the guidelines when a suspected case of Covid occurs within their family. We know that it is often confusing to separate Covid symptoms from common colds and winter illnesses. Whilst some schools are not accepting children in school with any symptoms of any illnesses, we feel that it is important that children attend school regularly and wherever possible. If your child demonstrates any of the Covid 19 symptoms, please **DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL**. Please follow the steps in the guidance we issued with the September newsletter.



NHS

NHS

We will continue to ask parents to keep their child at home for a period of 48 hours following a bout of diarrhoea or vomiting commencing from the last episode of illness.

We will continue to contact you if your child becomes unwell at school and needs to be collected to go home. This will include when we feel a child may be demonstrating Covid 19 symptoms. In this case, we will ask for you to arrange for your child to be tested and not return to school until we have confirmation of negative test or your child has self-isolated for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If your child is generally unwell, please also consider if it is in their best interest to be at school. Please contact the school office if your child will be absent from school for any reason – please use the 712370 phone number and then Option 1.

## Premier After School Sports Clubs for Key Stage 2 pupils

Our Sports Clubs with Premier Sport have now commenced – Multi-Sports on Monday and Basketball on Friday. Places are still available and it is not too late to join in.



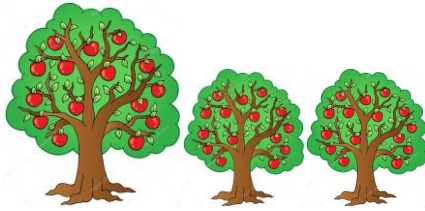
A Message from Premier Education about the Monday Multi-Sport Club:

*Multi-Sports Club is a great opportunity for children to experience a variety of sports and activities with a new sporting experience each week. Children will be building confidence, agility, speed, teamwork, and coordination. Throughout the club children will be taking part in exciting exercises, drills, and matches to maximise performance and enjoyment for all ages and abilities.*

*Come join in the fun, we cannot wait to meet you!*

## Apples in the Orchard

There are several apple trees in the orchard area and in the Key Stage 1 outdoor area. Please help yourself and pick the fruit if you wish.



## Healthy Snacks

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable as part of the Governments School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme.

Our school cook also provides morning snacks costing 30p for Key Stage 2 pupils.

All children are welcome to bring their own snacks to school but these must be healthy – **no crisps or chocolate biscuits please.**

## Nut and Sesame Food Allergies

We have several children with severe food allergies which necessitate having EpiPens in school in case of medical emergencies. Can we please ask parents to avoid sending nut products into school in your child's snack box or lunch box. Allergies also include sesame so foods such as hummus can be dangerous. Food from lunch boxes can easily be dropped on tables or transferred by sticky fingers, which then creates a major hazard for some of our pupils. Please bear this in mind when packing lunch boxes and help us to keep the school a safe environment for all our pupils.

Please can you remind children that their snacks should not be shared with other children due to possible allergies and that snacks should be healthy – **no crisps or chocolate biscuits.**

## Playground Equipment

A further reminder that the school field and play equipment are out of bounds to school children and younger siblings both before and after school.

We have a rota system for class use of the play equipment with stringent Covid cleaning protocols. Please keep younger siblings with you at drop off/pick up and use the social distancing markers on the playground whilst waiting for your child to be released at the end of the day.

Thank you for your support.



## Nasal Flu Immunisation

The deadline for the receipt of Consent Forms for the Nasal Flu Immunisation programme is Friday 16 October. The forms will be collected by the Flu Nursing Team on Monday 19 October so please do not miss the return date.

Please print off the consent form which was sent out via ParentMail on 16 September.

Alternatively, if you do not have access to a printer, please email the school office on [admin@pirton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@pirton.herts.sch.uk) and we will put a copy in your child's bag.

## Open Days for Prospective Parents

Due to current Covid limitations on welcoming visitors to school, this year's visits for prospective parents have been remodelled to make these visits as safe and as helpful as possible. We are asking prospective parents to make an individual appointment to visit and meet with Mrs Fenner during the two weeks commencing 30 November and 7 December. Timeslots will be as follows: 9.30-10.00am, 11.00-11.30am, 1.15-1.45pm and 2.15-2.45pm.

Appointments can be made by phoning the school office on 01462 712370 or by email to [admin@pirton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@pirton.herts.sch.uk). Please pass this information to any families who may be interesting in visiting the school.

## Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

Since the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals for Key Stage 1 pupils, there has been a significant reduction in the number of families applying for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals funding. If you have a child who has moved into Year 3, school meals are now chargeable. Therefore if you think you might be eligible to apply for Free School Meals, please visit the following website: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) or click on the following link [Free schools meals](#)

As a school we also benefit financially from funding for Pupil Premium pupils so even if your child is in Key Stage 1 we would encourage you to apply. Not only will the school receive additional funds, it also saves you having to remember to apply when your child moves into Year 3. If you need any additional information, please speak to Mrs Fenner or Mrs Bailey in confidence.

Schools across the country are reporting an increase in Free School Meal applications due to the effects of lockdown and subsequent job losses and reduced working hours. If your circumstances have changed and you would like help in applying for Free School Meals, please speak to Mrs Fenner or Mrs Bailey in strict confidence. We would also like to reassure parents that Free School Meals information is dealt with sensitively and on a need to know basis.



## Autumn Term Dates 2020

Monday 5 October	Parent Governor Ballot closes at 9am
Friday 16 October	Deadline for return of Flu Immunisation Consent Forms
October	Black History Month
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October	October half term holiday
Saturday 31 October	Secondary School application deadline
Monday 2 November	Primary School application system opens
Friday 6 November	Whole School Flu Immunisations
Friday 27 November	Occasional Day – School closed
Friday 18 December	End of Term

## Term Dates 2020-2021

### Autumn Term 2020

Wednesday 2 September - Friday 18 December 2020

Half Term: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2020

**INSET Day: Wednesday 2 September 2020**

**INSET Day: Thursday 3 September 2020**

**INSET Day: Friday 4 September 2020**

**OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 27 November 2020**

### Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 January – Friday 26 March 2021

Half Term: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2021

**INSET Day: Monday 4 January 2021**

### Summer Term 2021

Monday 12 April – Thursday 22 July 2021

Half Term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021

**Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021**

**INSET Day: Friday 28 May 2021**