



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have been able to enjoy the glorious weather this week.

We have been very impressed with how the pupils are settling back into the school environment after many months away. Our new reception children have been absolutely amazing and coming into school independently. Pupil behaviour across the whole school during the fire drill this week was impeccable. Well done and keep it up!

School values

As well as academic growth, an important aspect of growing up includes character development. At Preston Candover we have three core Christian values; Love, Hope and Justice were chosen by the children, staff, parents and governors. In our school we cultivate character in our children through our curriculum and teaching these values and virtues such as friendship, courage, perseverance and respect.

This term we will be reflecting on life's rules, respect, thankfulness and compassion.

Please have a look at the attached family activities with your children about the value of **respect**.

Start and end of the day

Feedback about the arrangements in place for the start of the day has been very positive. We are looking at keeping the pedestrian exit gate open during the start and end of the school day. This should reduce the need for parents to press the exit button and touch the gate. However, gates will need to be closed during the day.



Please try not to congregate in the exit gate area as we have had concerns from parents and staff who lead children to the buses about social distancing.

Communication

We are still here for you and we have adapted the way we do things in order to keep everyone safe. Rest assured, your children will be receiving a good education and we still have the highest expectations.

Thank you for contacting us by email or phone. The teachers are forwarded your messages and will get back to you. If you need to speak with the Headteacher, please contact the Admin office and I will be in touch. Face to face meetings will only take place in exceptional circumstances.



Wider infrastructure supporting schools

We have noticed that the infrastructure that supports education is slower as some services and suppliers are still working remotely or experiencing staffing difficulties. I am sure that some of you may be able to relate to this in your field of work. As a result, everything takes more time.

This week a number of school staff and parents have experienced challenges in accessing COVID tests for themselves or their children. For us, it has meant that additional time is taken up with ensuring safe levels of supervision for pupils at school at short notice and drawing on other resources during any absences.

Love Hope Justice



It is a similar story in other schools and I know that other headteachers have also shared these issues with the local authority and DfE. We hope that this situation will improve soon.

As we move into the colder months more pupils or staff may need to be in isolation. The school will provide learning for pupils who are well and in isolation. Google Classroom will be used for remote learning. If you have a child in year 3 upwards, you will already have been sent login details last term as we used the platform with older pupils last year. For parents of pupils in other year groups, you will shortly be receiving further details.

Pupil collection arrangements

Any changes to normal pupil collection should be emergency or unavoidable changes only. Unfortunately, we cannot keep up with last minute changes to pupil collection, bus arrangements or play dates. Please do bear in mind government guidance regarding household mixing.

COVID symptoms guide

It is important that all of us are vigilant for the symptoms of COVID and understand the actions we should take if someone develops them, either at school or at home.

The main symptoms to be aware of are:

- A high temperature, hot to touch on chest and back. Normal temp. is 36.4 degrees (child)
- Shivers/chills
- Cough (new to you)
- Shortness of breath (new to you)
- Loss of sense of taste or smell

The current guidance is still the following: If a child in your care develops any of the above symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should book them a test as soon as possible.

Parents evenings

We now have an online booking system for arranging parent/teacher consultations in October. The school office will provide you with booking details shortly.

All parent/teacher consultations will be via audio/video call and we will provide more details about the platform shortly. Please let us know if you think you may have difficulty accessing an online meeting due to lack of technology or internet.

Living the Values Awards

Children who have been recognised for living the school values of Love, Hope and Justice by demonstrating virtues such as respect, service, compassion, kindness, courage, and fairness.



Well done to:

Daisy G	Maddie CN	Freddie W
Talia F	Carter G	Zahra B

Building Learning Power (BLP) Awards for demonstrating **Resilience, Reflectiveness, Resourcefulness and Teamwork in learning.**

Samuel V	Jonty A	Rafferty A
Sabrina B	Olivia W	Harriet J
George N	Harry P	Fergus R
Ottilie A	Leo N	



It has been a joy to see our children back in school and learning. We aim to remain fully functioning as a school to educate our pupils safely on site.

Thank you for your support.

With best wishes

Mrs. Simrit Otway
Headteacher

Inset days

Three dates for Inset days for the next academic year are confirmed as follows, with one further day to be confirmed.

Dates for your Diary

Inset days:

Monday 2 November 2020
Monday 4 January 2021
Friday 23 July 2021

A list of 2020-2021 Hampshire school dates, including half term holidays, Christmas and Easter, can be found on the school website as well as on the Hampshire website

Mental Health and Well being

Although the children have come back to school extremely well, after, in some cases, after many months of being at home with family, it is quite normal for some to feel mild separation anxiety.

Separation anxiety

Separation anxiety can occur when children are quite young. Handled appropriately it can lead to children developing resilience and skills to help them in later life. It is normal for a young child to feel anxious when parents or carers say goodbye; it is a typical stage of development. If your child is having difficulties separating from you, it will be important to work closely with school on appropriate strategies for supporting your child. Consistency between home and school will make it easier for the child to feel safe and secure. If it becomes so intense that the child is refusing to come to school or feeling ill to avoid attending, it is important to encourage the child to get back to school as soon as possible. The longer the child is away from school the more difficult it will be for them to attend comfortably.

How to help

- Stay patient and calm
- Set firm limits and apply them consistently
- Develop a clear routine for the morning prior to coming to school and keep it consistent
- Develop a consistent goodbye ritual
- Offer two appropriate choices, so that your child has some level of control; for example, 'Would you like one hug and two kisses before I leave you at school today, or two hugs and one kiss?'
- Leave without a fuss. Tell your child you are leaving and that you will be back and then leave without hesitating or stalling
- School will arrange for you to be met by a familiar adult to support your child in
- Try not to give in. Make sure you have a support network or a distraction to help you recover from any distress
- Praise your child for any small improvements
- Make sure you have special individual time at home together at the end of the day

(Extracts from 'Supporting Children and Young People with Anxiety' E. Herrick & B. Redman-White)