



# The Priory Primary School

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## Newsletter 17

This week we have received the news that the national lockdown will continue until at least March 8th. With our remote learning already well under way, we are confident that we can continue to provide the children with a great education whilst they are learning from home. However, the news of the extended lockdown has meant that we have revisited our provision and starting from next week we will be adding some additional elements including:

A new 'live' (via Zoom) morning check in period with the class teachers. This will allow the children to log on to meet their teachers at the start of every day to get them prepared for the day - discuss any relevant news, consider the day's learning and is also a chance for the children to see their friends from their class in an ongoing social setting. This daily check in will be an additional feature of the timetable for Y1 - Y6 and be run from 8.45am - 9am. It is not essential to attend the check in each day - so if your child needs to start their maths work a bit earlier then we would understand the need to miss a session, but we hope the children will really appreciate the chance to meet their class at the beginning of each day.

Another additional feature will be an after school club run each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.30pm - 4pm. The after school club is open to **all** children and they can opt to log in whenever it suits them to take part. The idea of the club is fun - just a chance for the children to take part in a group activity with other pupils from the school, however an additional benefit is that it may also provide some respite for you as busy parents supporting your children in the home learning process.

The After School Clubs will include:

Tuesday @ 3.30pm - Go Noodle with Mrs Adams

Wednesday @ 3.30pm - Lego with Mr Stewart (your children will need to have their own supply of Lego)

Thursday @ 3.30pm - Storytelling with various staff.

We really hope that these additional elements will add another interactive and socially connecting layer to our remote learning, however we are aware that this could result in an unwieldy number of Zoom links for you to have to navigate, therefore we will be sending you a new timetable with updated Zoom links to follow - we have reduced the number of different links to allow less confusion.

### **Mental Wellbeing Survey**

Whilst we do have regular contact with a number of families, we are consciously aware that during this extended lockdown some children and families may well be really struggling in terms of their happiness, anxiety, confidence and general mental wellbeing. With next week being Mental Health week (See below), we thought it would be a good time to send out a questionnaire to ask each family how their children (and themselves) are doing during this challenging time.

The questionnaire, which will be emailed to you, will be received in the strictest of confidence and will allow us to recognise how your children are coping and whether we will need to provide (where possible) additional support - either now during lockdown or when they return to school.

Please complete the questionnaire - even if your children are really happy, or if you have noticed very little change in their mental wellbeing - this information will provide us with a greater understanding of the impact of the lockdown to as many of our children as possible.

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

Monday 1st February is the Children's Mental Health Week and in addition to the introduction of the new check ins and the questionnaire, the teachers will also be providing a special mental wellbeing activity for your child to complete next Friday.

Do have a look online to find out more about the week (nationally) and some activities and top tips you may wish to take advantage of at home.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk>

### **Whole School Assembly**

Next week's whole school assembly (2.30pm on Friday 5th) - will be focused on expressing how we feel - please encourage the children to dress in colours that express how they feel at the moment - perhaps they are feeling excited (bright yellow or orange clothes), perhaps a little sad (blue clothes), maybe grumpy (red clothes) or just perhaps a whole range of feelings and emotions (rainbow clothes). I hope to see your children at the assembly next week.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85797750886?pwd=Mk0zRU8zaW1uVDV4WVBzMUN2U1czQT09>

Meeting ID: 857 9775 0886

Passcode: 7RwBK9

### **Hampshire Library Service**

There are thousands of children's ebooks and audiobooks free to download using Hampshire Libraries Borrow-Box service with lots of titles always available without a wait. To use BorrowBox, you need a library membership number and PIN. There are links to some of our recommendations on the Kids' Zone webpage as well as information about downloading ebooks and audiobooks.

Children can also use Hampshire Libraries' new Ready Reads: We Select You Collect service to borrow books. Library staff will regularly handpick a selection of books for those that request the service to collect from the entrance of their local library. Users can choose how often and how many books they'd like.

### **Food Drive / Supporting the Local Community**

A huge thank you to all of those families who have donated to our food drive appeal via the PTA website.

Our appeal will continue so do feel free to continue donating via the PTA website: (<https://www.priorypta.co.uk/community-food-collection>)

All money raised through the PTA website will be used to purchase fresh and tinned goods for families in our local community, however all extra funds will be donated to the local food bank in order to spread your generosity to the wider community.

### **Outstanding Monies**

We do have a large amount of outstanding lunch monies, including nearly £500 from the 2019 / 2020 academic year. Text messages have been sent out with reminders of overdue payments and we would be grateful if you could settle your accounts. There is the option to make partial payments for those who would like to pay over a period of weeks.



## GIVE A CHILD A BOOK

THERE ARE **770,000** SCHOOLCHILDREN IN THE U.K. WHO DON'T OWN A BOOK. THIS MAKES HOME SCHOOLING EVEN HARDER.

**LET'S CHANGE THAT STORY !!!**

DONATE NEW OR GOOD CONDITION SECOND-HAND BOOKS IN STORE, OR DONATE MONEY TO PURCHASE BOOKS AT THE TILLS.

BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE FOLLOWING:

HOMESTART

INSPERO

SPOTLIGHT

YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED & MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

THANK YOU