Dear Parents and Carers,

I, and all the staff and Governors of Reigate Priory School, would like to welcome you and all the children back to the Spring Term and wish you all a Happy New Year. We hope you enjoyed the holiday and, in amongst all the tinsel and celebrations, managed to have some quieter, relaxing time to re-charge those batteries; I am sure we all needed it!

2020 always seemed rather science fiction but here we are, sadly without the hoverboards promised in Back to the Future. Nonetheless, I am always excited to start a new calendar year, with all its promise and possibilities. It was great to see everyone on Monday morning and get this term’s learning journey going.

Inevitably, people’s attention at this time of year falls on resolutions. Our school community is no different so through assemblies and PSHE sessions in class, children are being encouraged to do their best and be their best. In assembly on Monday, Mrs Dean introduced a whole school resolution of FTF or First Things First - read on into our newsletter to find out more.

I look forward to working in partnership with you and the rest of the school community to ensure your child’s learning continues to be brought to life both inside and out and Reigate Priory as a whole has a memorable and successful 2020.

Please be sure to check your child’s Curriculum information for this term. It was emailed out at the end of last term but is also available on the school website under the 'Learning' tab and by clicking on your child’s relevant Year Group.

Finally, I would like to wish all those children and staff who will be heading off to the snowy Italian peaks for our Year 6 alpine residential a safe journey and a wonderful time. We look forward to hearing all about your adventures on your return. This is the first in our annual residential programme, with the other visits also appearing on the horizon so plenty for the children to look forward to both in and out of school.

Kind regards,

Mr O Moses

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Thank you to Hamptons International

We are delighted that Hamptons International Estate Agents are continuing their sponsorship of our school for the coming year. Over the past two years, Hamptons’ support of our FSA events has been invaluable. Hamptons have also increased the amount they will contribute to the school from property sales or lettings. For every property they sell or let for Priory School parents, or family and friends of parents, they will donate to the school:

**£750 per completed sale / £250 per completed let**

If you are considering selling or renting your property, please contact Hamptons Reigate to arrange a free valuation and don’t forget to mention Reigate Priory School!

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INSET DAY

There is one INSET Day planned for the Spring Term on Monday 9 March 2020 when the school will be closed to children.
JUNIOR SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

A reminder that the closing date for junior school applications for September 2020 is **Wednesday 15 January 2020**. Should you require further assistance, please contact Surrey Schools and Childcare Services on 0300 200 1004. Full information also available on Surrey County Council’s website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions).

Please note that applications received after the closing date without good reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of being offered one of your preferred schools for your child.

SMART LEARNERS WORK SMARTLY - FIRST THINGS FIRST

We have begun the new school year thinking about New Year resolutions and renewing our commitment to always be “Smart Learners” who take a pride in our learning. We always check and edit to ensure we are the best we can be. To help us remember what to check and edit we have launched “First Things First” – a simple four steps to ensure we’ve got the basics right.

- Date and IALT (I Am Learning To)?
- Capital Letters and Full Stops?
- Correct key spellings?
- Correct key punctuation?

Talking to children in Year Group Assemblies and around school, I’m really pleased to report that our Smart Learners are already putting “First Things First” to independently ensure they are doing their best.

Commitment

‘Showing commitment, pride and enthusiasm for learning now and into the future’
SCHOOL MEALS

Please note that payment for school meals is now due via WisePay and prompt payment is essential. A couple of reminders:

- Payment **must** be made in advance of meals being taken.
- All changes to lunch arrangements must be notified, in writing, giving at least **one week’s notice**. Without written notification, where children change from school meals to packed lunches, parents will be charged for the interim period, as meals have to be ordered in advance from Commercial Services.
- Over payments for school meals cannot be reimbursed as this payment is made directly to Surrey County Council via WisePay. Before making a school meals payment, please click on **Food and Drink** followed by **School Meals Payment** and then click on **View Your Dinner Money Report**. This will allow you to view your credit. If in any doubt, please call Mrs Pledge in the School Office who can give you an accurate balance. The cost of a school dinner is **£2.40 per day**.

Parents who are eligible for Income Support, Income Based Job Seeker’s Allowance and Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit) can claim free school meals. Please contact Mrs Pledge in the School Office if you wish to apply. If you are eligible for free school meals but do not wish to avail yourself of this service, could you please advise us as this affects the level of school funding.

NON-ESSENTIAL ITEMS IN SCHOOL

Towards the end of last term, it became apparent that children are bringing into school an increasing range of non-essential items that have a significant sentimental and high financial value. This includes toys, games, collectibles - including cards and expensive, novelty stationery.

Unfortunately within the busy school day, loss and damage is always a possibility. On the occasions when this does occur, heighten by the increased value of these items, situations are causing unnecessary tension for those involved as well as taking up valuable teacher time. I am sure you will agree that avoiding any upset is much preferable and a teacher’s time is best spent focusing on teaching and learning.

To clarify, children should **not** bring into school non-essential items like those described above. They do not form part of the school uniform and equipment list, therefore, we would highly recommend that these items are left at home. To be clear, the school takes **no responsibility** for these items and teachers are not expected to spend time resolving events that have led to their loss or damage.

Please take this into consideration when making decisions about what your child is bringing to school, particularly into the new term with items that will have arrived at Christmas.

Your understanding and appropriate action is appreciated.
PE & GAMES
In preparation for another term of P.E. & Games, please see below a reminder of the compulsory P.E. kit:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain red shorts
- Plain white sports socks
- Trainers
- Plain black tracksuit top
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms

SCHOOL CLUBS
All Teacher Led and Commercial Clubs will commence on Monday 13 January.

The last day for all Teacher-Led Clubs will be Friday 27 March.
The last day for all Commercial Clubs will be Friday 27 March.

Please note below some exceptions when clubs will not take place:

- **Monday 17 to Friday 21 February:**
  - Half Term
- **Monday 9 March:**
  - INSET Day

Other Information:
After school Teacher Led Clubs will finish at 4.15pm before the February Half Term and at 4.30pm after the February half term.

YEAR GROUP NEWS

YEAR 3 TOPIC - ANCIENT LANDS
The Spring term topic for Year 3 is Ancient Lands and children have been fully immersed in the Egyptian civilization through a week of rotations where they have explored the River Nile, the many different gods and goddesses, writing their names in hieroglyphics, exploring the fashions of 5,000 years ago and making a clay Canopic jar complete with a body organ inside.

YEAR GROUP CURRICULUM PLANNERS
Beware mummies, as Year 3 have already been walking and talking like an Egyptian as they start their ‘Ancient Lands’ Topic. Packing their bug repellent, Year 4 have set off on their swampy ‘Amazon’ adventure. Having landed safely from space, Year 5 are planning some ‘Raiding and Trading’ and our intrepid explorers in Year 6 are ready to discover and explore an ancient ‘Mayan’ civilisation. With learning in all subjects being woven into interesting themes, we are sure your child will be inspired to try and achieve their best, building on their successes from last term.

Your child’s curriculum information is now available to view and download on the school website (www.reigate-priory.co.uk) by clicking on the ‘Learning’ tab followed by your child’s ‘Year Group’.
CHILDREN & TECHNOLOGY PARENT MEETING

On **Wednesday 15 January** we will be holding our Spring Term 'Children & Technology Meeting' for Year 5 and Year 6 parents in 6DW (Somers Court) from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Booking is available now on WisePay. As some children may have received a mobile phone for Christmas, attendance at this meeting is especially important for those parents who would like their child to start using their phone when walking to and from school.

YEAR 6 VE DAY TEA PARTY

On 12 December, Year 6 held our annual VE Day Tea Party. We were delighted to see so many guests turn up to share their memories of World War 2 with us and we really enjoyed looking through their photos and mementos of the time. Having studied life in Britain during World War 2 for a whole term, we were also able to share lots of information and learning with our guests - along with some energetic jive dancing and spirited singing of our favourite World War 2 songs. It was a wonderful opportunity for two very different generations to get together and share their experiences.

"I was most impressed with all your hard work in the topic books and the lively jiving and wonderful singing. I shall always remember it"

"I would just like to thank you for the lovely afternoon I spent with your delightful children. The jiving took me back to my youth! It was a great way to spend a very wet Thursday afternoon."

YEAR 6 SKI RESIDENTIAL (18 - 25 JANUARY)

The excitement is building and the wait is nearly over. Final preparations are now underway and the departure day is just around the corner.

On the morning of Saturday 18 January we will be saying ‘arrivederci’ to 64 of our Year 6 children and a staff team of nine, who will depart for the snowy Italian mountains for what is sure to be another fantastic Reigate Priory residential.

SKI GYM

Don’t forget that the final Ski Gym session will take place on **15 January** at 7.50am in the Gym

Please note that ALL passports and EHIC cards MUST be handed into the School Office by **Friday 10 January at the absolute latest!** A reminder that pocket money was included as part of the payment plan so please do not send in additional spending money.
We can’t start the new year without recognising a number of people who have made three key events a real success, so on behalf of the FSA committee, a big thank you to:

**Claire Blay** who suggested and organised a wreath-making evening and raffle in Holbein Hall in early December.

**Clare Harvey** and **Debbie Pelekan** and all their volunteers who made both performances of The Wizard of Oz huge fun and a cosy, Christmassy affair with snacks and refreshments. Clare and Debbie have volunteered to run the shows again next year, which is fantastic news.

**Jo Pettipher** and **Jane Mirfenderesky** and the very many volunteers at the Family Morning on 13 December with gingerbread, mince pies aplenty and hot chocolates in the Holbein Hall and teas and coffees outside the gym. Big thanks must also go to **Ben Jefferys** who ran the raffle. Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to all the year 5 and 6 classes for putting such yummy hampers together with the help of parent and carer donations.

As well as bringing the Reigate Priory community together, the three events have together raised thousands of pounds that will be used to support events and buy important equipment for this school year.

Thank you again to all who have volunteered for FSA events over the past term. These events really could not happen without YOUR support and that of the school staff, who often go above and beyond to get involved and support our efforts.

Our next FSA meeting is at the school at 9.00am on Wednesday 15 January and we look forward to seeing you then.

**SAVE THE DATE**

FSA-run social events:
- Film Night (kids): Fri 31 Jan - Y3 helpers
- The Big Quiz (adults): Fri 13 Mar
- Film Night (kids): Fri 24 Apr - Y4 helpers
- Summer soirée (adults): Fri 12 Jun
- Priory Rocks festival (family): Sat 4 Jul

Proud to be Priory!
CAN YOU MAKE PRIORY ROCK THIS SUMMER?

While warm, sunny days seem a long way off, we do actually need to start planning soon for the biggest fundraising event of our year - Priory Rocks summer festival (4 July). We are looking for a few people to plan and coordinate this event, with lots of support available from the FSA team.

This could appeal to a small group of friends with children in the school. Last year, four friends with Year 6 children volunteered to lead the planning and this worked well as they were already regularly in touch socially. They felt it was a really lovely way to contribute and round off their time at Reigate Priory, and they had a huge amount of fun putting their twist on the event. It could also be a way to make new friendships so please do put your name forward if you think you could help organise things.

The FSA team will be there to help and take on various tasks, so it really doesn’t need to feel daunting. To make things as easy as possible, we have task planners and a debrief on what worked well and what could be done differently this year to make things even better.

Please do get in touch with any of the FSA team via Classlist or email reigateprioryfsa@outlook.com or come along to the meeting on Wednesday 15 January at 9.00am.

Amazon donate 0.5% of the net purchase price for every eligible purchase you make.

How?
Log into your usual Amazon or Amazon Prime account at smile.amazon.co.uk
Select 'Reigate Priory School Families & Staff Association' and continue shopping as normal.

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Bell Street
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Surrey
RH2 7RL

(01737) 245065
info@reigate-priory.surrey.sch.uk

Raise funds for:

REIGATE PRIORY SCHOOL FSA

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/reigateprioryfsa/

You don’t need to shop any more than you already do, just use the ‘fundraiser reminder’ to divert the online commissions to our school instead of to those powerful web giants.

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Reigate Priory FSA has registered as an affiliate member and will receive the commission! This means you can make school life easier and help support the FSA at the same time!

Just click HERE to link to our page.
Help us continue to support
Reigate Priory School
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Hamptons Reigate is proud to continue to support Reigate Priory School.

We are always aware of the ever growing need for schools to generate additional funds to cover increasing costs. We are offering you the possibility of helping us generate that much needed assistance.

For every property that we sell or let for the parents or family and friends of parents of a child at Reigate Priory School, we will donate £750 per completed sale or £250 per completed let to the school. *

To qualify, present this flyer when you instruct Hamptons Reigate to be sole selling or lettings agent for your home. The donation to the school is to be made upon completion. For more information please contact us.

* The promotion runs from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2020. For full terms & conditions ask in branch or visit hamptons.co.uk/terms-conditions.

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