

Welcome to PRS Kindergarten “Tip” Sheet *(from last year’s K Class parents)*

All School Meetings – PRS hosts All School Meetings at 8:30 a.m. on Day 1 of every 6-day curriculum cycle. All School Meetings are a wonderful opportunity for students to learn first-hand about presenting in front of a large group and the importance of being a respectful audience. Throughout the year, students participate in various ways – including music, song and poem individual and group/class presentations as well as special holiday programming as well as hear regularly from school administrators and teachers. Parents are welcome to attend the Meetings as well as bring younger siblings or relatives. Chairs and standing room is available on the entrance side of the school cafeteria – please note that the first row is reserved for teachers. The Meetings typically run a half hour to 45 minutes and begin with the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of My Country Tis of Thee.

Birthdays at PRS – Students and Teachers celebrate their birthdays at PRS during the All-School Meeting closest to their birthday where they are invited to go on stage and say their name and birthday into the microphone. All attendees sing Happy Birthday and the students receive a birthday pencil. Parents can check with their teacher regarding their students’ exact date for their birthday recognition. Summer birthdays are celebrated during June All School Meetings in groups.

PRS Holidays & Events – Celebrations and events are typically planned by class, grade or school around holidays including Halloween, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Memorial Day that offer opportunities for family support or participation. Each June, there are several opportunities for parents to share directly in student learnings during school hours including Art and Music Shares as well as Year-end celebrations and field trips. For Kindergartners – the annual late spring field trip to the Franklin Park Zoo is a huge highlight and one that is typically well attended by parent chaperones.

PRS Online – Visit both the PRS <https://hinghamschools.com/plymouth-river-elementary-school/> and the PRS PTO website <http://prsppto.weebly.com/> for easily accessible information about the school year

PRS Social Media – There are PRS Facebook and Instagram pages (@plymouthriverschool) as well as Facebook pages for each of the PRS class years – all are a great way to stay updated as well as informally connect with other PRS families.

PRS Student Directory – Watch for an email in early September to add your students name to the online PRS Directory that is produced by the PTO each Fall.

School Lunch – Kindergartners have assigned and rotating seating which is great and there is assistance available to help them navigate the food lunch line system if you/they choose. Depending on class allergies, there may be a nut-free lunch table that is a combination of both allergic and non-allergic students.

Volunteering – There are many opportunities to volunteer and support the PRS community throughout the year – through your child’s classroom and with the PTO. Teachers are very willing to work with work and family schedules to allow for as many parents to be engaged in the classroom as often as possible. Take advantage of the classroom volunteer opportunities in Kindergarten as they are limited in grade 1 and beyond.

A few last tips from K parents – *Staples does lamination!; Practice sight words at home; Send in extra winter gear for their locker; Read the classroom emails – there is a lot of great information being shared; Teachers are a great partner and resource for your child – take advantage of the teacher-parent conferences. Enjoy their K year – they will learn a lot and it will go by fast!*

Additional FAQ's for New PRS Families From the PTO

Q: How do I schedule a Parent-Teacher conference?

A: Parent-Teacher conferences at PRS are scheduled online at [http://ptcfast.com/schools/ 71](http://ptcfast.com/schools/71). Conferences are typically held the first Wednesday of November and December, and again the first Wednesday of April. Nov/Dec online conference registration becomes available October 1. You may also request a conference any half day Wednesday or arrange directly with your child's teacher at a mutually convenient time.

Q: What's the best way to communicate with my child's teacher on an ongoing basis?

A: You will be asked to provide a folder that stays in your child's backpack and will be your primary communication vehicle with your child's teacher. The teacher will send important materials/homework home in the folder and you may send information to the teacher that way as well. If you need to get a message to the teacher urgently, please contact the PRS office.

Q: How do I pick my child up as a walker?

A: Kindergartener walkers must be picked up in the cafeteria. Walkers from grades 1 - 5 are released, at 2:30 dismissal, to walk up the hill to meet you by the tennis courts. If you are not technically a walker but would like to pick your child up from school that day, you'll need to insert a note into your child's folder informing her teacher that you will be picking her up as a walker. If you have a last-minute change in plans and need to pick your child up, you can always email the teacher or sign them out in the office.

Q: Can I write a note to have my child go home with a friend on a different bus?

A: Children from all grades can *only ride their own bus home* at Plymouth River. They may be picked up at a different stop/by a different bus but may only ride their own bus home to their own stop.

Q: Does my child eat lunch at school on early-release days?

A: Yes, although it is a quick lunch, so parents often pack a light one!

Q: How do I pay for my children's lunch? Can Kindergarteners buy lunch?

A: PRS has an electronic, Point of Sale system that enables parents to pre-pay for lunches online at www.parentonline.net. For detailed information, visit the [Food Services' POS System](#) page on the PRS site. Kindergarteners may purchase lunch.

Q: What if my child has food allergies?

A: PRS is allergy friendly! Recently revised policy has done away with allergy classrooms in favor of all classrooms being nut-free at morning snack and allowing nut products in the cafeteria at all tables except allergy-friendly tables. All children take turns throughout the year sitting at allergen free tables, with reminders going home to parents to alert them before their turn. In addition, all PRS teachers and para-professionals are trained to administer Epi-Pens should the need arise. Parents of children with food or environmental allergies will be contacted by the school nurse, Mrs. Whiting, prior to the beginning of the school year to go over each student's individual allergy plan.

Q: What is the best way to learn about what is going on at Plymouth River?

A: There are 2 good ways to be in the Plymouth River "know:" 1) Plymouth River PTO newsletter, the Weekly Wizard (all families are automatically subscribed). 2) by frequently checking the PRS PTO website at <http://prspto.weebly.com/>

Q: How do I get involved at Plymouth River?

A: The PTO is a fun and very active crew at PRS! You can choose any level of participation based your schedule, from highly involved leadership to volunteering at one-off special events. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month in the PRS cafeteria unless otherwise noted and all are welcome. For more about volunteer opportunities, visit <http://prspto.weebly.com/>.

Q: What is Voyagers? How do I sign up?

A: Voyagers is an after-school enrichment program that offers a wide variety of fun and interesting classes--sports, nature, crafts, drama, etc.- in Fall and Spring sessions. Classes take place after school, 2:40-3:40, typically at PRS (depending on the class). Some classes fill quickly, so watch for registration information in your child's folder/Weekly Wizard, in early fall and January, and sign up early! Voyagers is a fundraiser for the PTO. For more about voyagers, visit <http://prspto.weebly.com/voyagers.html>.