



Priory News 2016

Dear Parents,

As we approach Spring half-term, the children are currently involved in our Internet Safety Week.

As part of this, they are completing their Bronze Award for our ACE scheme – an accreditation in e-safety. As part of this, they are learning about, and demonstrating, that they have the skills to keep themselves safe online.

Class Assemblies

Well done to FS6, JR6 and SJ3 for their wonderful class assemblies!

Next half-term's class assemblies are:

DF3 – 9th March

Class assemblies take place at 10.30am – parents / grand-parents are very welcome to attend.

School Meals Update

A reminder to all families that school dinners **must be paid for in advance**.

Without payment for the meal, we will not be able to provide a meal for your child.

Payments can be made using our ParentPay system which can be accessed online. If you are experiencing any difficulties accessing this, a quick call to the school office can help to resolve these.

Diary Dates

Internet Safety Week	8 th – 12 th February
Y3 St Mary's Church Visit	11 th February
Girls Team Football Match	11 th February
FOPJS Disco	11 th February
Team Superschools Launch	12 th February
Girls Team Football Match	12 th February
Half-Term	15 th – 19 th February
Parents Evenings	24 th / 25 th February
Year 6 Grafham Water Visitor	29 th February
Team Superschools Event	2 nd March
Year 5 Football Match	4 th March
Year 4 Gymnastics Competition	8 th March
Parents Do Day	8 th March
Puzzle Challenge Day	10 th March
Family Puzzle Evening	10 th March
Class Photographs	15 th March
School Games Finals	17 th March
Talent Show	17 th March
Sports Relief	18 th March
End of Spring Term	Thursday, 24 th March
Summer Term starts	Tuesday, 12 th April

Parents Evenings – 24th and 25th February

You should have received details for booking your parents evening appointment online. The system is now live – and so, you can book your appointment time now.

You can do so by visiting:

<http://prioryjunior.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

If you are experiencing any difficulty with this, let your teacher or the school office know, and they can book the appointment on your behalf.

Well done to:

- Our incredibly talented choir, who performed at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices concert – they performed with much enthusiasm!

e-Safety Information Evening

Thank-you to our parents who attended our recent e-Safety Information Evening, led by Craig Thompson from Cambridgeshire ICT Service.

We were pleased that parents attending found the information provided invaluable.

Here are Craig's top tips for keeping your children safe online:

Find out what your child is doing online

- *Be more familiar with their online world*
- *Get them to show you – make it clear from the beginning that you're interested and would like to be involved*
- *Agree rules as a family about personal information, time spent online, and contacting people via the internet....reinforce the [SMART rules](#)*

Assess the Risks and Opportunities:

- *Where are the devices?*
- *What can they do?*
- *Can your child get online in his / her bedroom?*
- *Have you enabled any parental settings on devices / the internet as it comes into the house?*
- *Disable or cover webcams to avoid accidental sharing of images and talk to your child about the risks of sharing images*

Know where to go for help and advice

- *Parenting in the Digital Age - <http://www.pitda.co.uk/>*
- *Switched on Families (Virgin Media) - <http://keepup.virginmedia.com/switchedonfamilies>*
- *Internet Matters.org (for help with controls and filters) - <http://www.internetmatters.org/>*
- *CEOP (for reporting when things concern you) - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/Parents/>*

Parking

A reminder to you all that the parking restrictions on Longsands Road mean that families should not be parking along the road between 3-4pm.

This is to ensure that the area around school is safe for our children as they leave each day.

If the visitor's parking at the rear of the school is full, try to park a little distance away and walk.

We request that you take note of the parking restrictions and show consideration for the area around the school – this includes not parking on the grass verges – these are becoming damaged.

Second-Hand Uniform Sale

We have a large collection of second-hand uniform for sale. All items are £1, and are available from the school office.

We will also be holding a uniform sale on 23rd February – at 2.45 – 3.15pm. This will be held in the entrance area.

All uniform is in good condition, and in need of a new owner. Please pop along to see what's there.

As always, if your child has grown out of their uniform, and it is still in good condition, please consider donating it to our second-hand store so that we can help each other to be green, and save money in the process!

Lost Property

Have you named all your children's belongings?

If you have, we can easily return missing items to their owners – we still have a large amount of lost property that isn't named. Please help us to help you by putting names on belongings.

Puzzle Challenge Day and Family Puzzle Evening

We are delighted to be holding another puzzle challenge day in school. This will involve the children in using their reasoning skills to solve a variety of puzzles on 10th March. At the end of the school day, there will be a puzzle shop in the school hall.

We will also be holding a family puzzle evening on this day – where families can come and play some of the puzzles together. We very much hope you will be able to join us for this greatly enjoyed event.

Does your child have Asthma?

Should your child be diagnosed with asthma, and need an inhaler, please let the school office know.

We will provide you with our Asthma Care Plan and Medicine Permissions forms for completion, which will be used to help provide the best care for your child in school.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that inhalers are provided (with spacers), and that these are clearly labelled with your child's name. These must also be kept in-date – please make sure you provide replacements for your child in good time.

Cambridge Science Festival 2016

Have you heard of this fantastic event?

Running from 7th – 20th March, the University's Science Festival hosts many workshops and events for children and families to get involved in.

You can find out more by visiting <http://www.cam.ac.uk/sciencefestival/>

Sports Relief

Dress as your favourite sports person for Sports Relief – on 18th March - for 50p donation to Comic Relief.

Team Superschools

We will be visited again by Team Superschools on 2nd March – children will be involved in a variety of sponsored exercises, and have the opportunity to be meet and be photographed with an Olympic athlete.

The children will find out more about the event on Friday, 12th February when we will be joined by Commonwealth Gold Medallist, Ryan Scott.

Attendance

You will be aware the children whose attendance falls below 90% are now classed as persistent absentees. In addition to this, where children are withdrawn from school for the purpose of a family holiday, parents may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

The information below shows how attendance can affect your child's future progress:

195 school days in a year
Above 97% (Less than 6 days absence a year - 2 days per term) <i>Excellent attendance - these children will almost certainly get the better grades leading to better prospects for the future - college, university or work.</i>
95% (10 days absence a year) <i>These children are likely to achieve good grades and have opportunities for college, university or work, but could still improve their attendance !</i>
90% (19 days absence a year) <i>Children in this group are missing a month of school per year; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best.</i>
85% (29 days absence a year) <i>Children in this group are missing 6 weeks of school per year; it will be very difficult for them to keep up with their work and they are unlikely to do their best..</i>
80 % (38 days absence a year) <i>Children in this group are missing a year of school over 5 years . It will be almost impossible to keep up with their work</i>

While we recognise that some absences are unavoidable, we would ask you all to ensure your children are at school whenever they can be.

Please also remember to notify the school office on the first day of any absence.