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www.priory.cambs.sch.uk



Priory News 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Priory, after the summer holiday. We hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing time during the holiday. A very warm welcome to our new families – in Year 3 and also, in other year groups too. We hope your children will settle into their new school quickly. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

It was great to see all the children ready for school and learning on Tuesday, looking smart in their new uniforms. This year, we have grown in size again, and now have 12 classes in the school. We have really noticed this growth in assemblies – there are so many of us now!

Our first newsletter of the year contains much information which we hope you will find useful.

For parents of children in Years 4,5,and 6, you will receive, in the very near future, packs of information that we hold on your child to check and return. We would appreciate your help in returning this information as soon as possible. This will help us to ensure our records are up-to-date. Thank-you!

Diary Dates

'Magic' Assembly	13 th September
Meet and Greet evening	14 th September
FOPJS Family BBQ	14 th September
Y3 Hunstanton Trip	20 th September
Y5 Food Bank Visitor	20 th September
Tom Palmer, Children's Author	27 th September
FOPJS AGM	2 nd October
Harvest Assemblies	3 rd October
Y5 Salvation Army Visitor	4 th October
Parents Evenings	10 th / 12 th October
Individual Photographs	12 th October
Parents' Coffee Morning	18 th October
Professional Day – School Closed	20th October
Half Term	23rd – 27th October
Year 4 Residential Group 1	30 th Oct – 1 st Nov
Year 4 Residential Group 2	6 th – 8 th November
Parents' Maths Information Evening	9 th November
Anti-Bullying Theatre Show	17 th November
Children in Need Day	17 th November
Y6 Bikeability Week	20 th – 23 rd November
Open Evening	23 rd November
Y3 Flu Vaccinations	28 th November
Parents Do Day	6 th December
Christmas Performances	13 th / 14 th December
Parents' Coffee Morning	18 th December
Christingle	19 th December
End of Term	19th December

Proud to be Priory:

- ❖ *It was great to see everyone back on Tuesday, looking smart and ready for learning.*
- ❖ *The Year 3 children and other new children to our school have made a very good start!*
- ❖ *There was fabulous singing in our Singing Assembly on Thursday.*
- ❖ *We are enjoying the wonderful artwork produced by Year 4s last term – on display in the entrance area.*
- ❖ *Gaining the School Games Gold Mark for the fifth time!*

School Gateway

Don't miss a letter or other useful information about school – make sure you have the School Gateway app on your mobile phone - – our school communication system. It is great for hearing about your children's achievements, seeing their attendance, making payments, and giving trip permissions.

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2017 SATs Results

We are pleased to share our SATs results from the Summer term. Our Year 6 children worked hard throughout the year, with the following results being achieved.

Percentage achieving expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics: 63%

Percentage of pupils achieving a high level of attainment in reading, writing and mathematics: 10%

Average progress in reading: -1.4

Average progress in writing: -3

Average progress in mathematics: -1.1

Average scaled score in reading: 105

Average scaled score in mathematics: 104

Nationally, 62% reached the expected standard, and 9% achieved a high level. This is very similar to our children's achievements.

We continue to focus on building on these results, ensuring that all our children continue to progress well in all subjects.

Assemblies

Class assemblies are held throughout the year and will take place on **Wednesdays at 9.15am..** Parents are welcome to come to these assemblies.

This term, there will be class assemblies for: -

- KS6 - 11th October
- JC3 - 18th October
- CS6 - 15th November
- DR6 - 29th November

Harvest Assemblies

With the growth of the school, and the popularity of our Harvest Assembly for parents, we will be holding 2 Harvest Assemblies, to enable all who wish to attend to do so.

They will be held on **3rd October**, with **Y3/4 at 10am**, and **Y5/6 at 11.15am**.

More information will be sent home in the near future.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Robertson, Miss Pannell and Mr O'Neill to our teaching team this term. Mrs Robertson is joining the Year 6 teaching team, Miss Pannell and Mr O'Neill have joined the Year 3 team.

Our midday supervisor team has also grown – we welcome Miss Woodgate to our lunchtime team.

I am sad to say that Mrs Jeff will be leaving us at the end of this term, after many years at the school. She is moving to Eynesbury Primary School. We wish her well.

Meet and Greet

We will be holding a 'Meet and Greet' evening for parents, in order for you to meet your child's new class teacher and find out a little more about the topics they will be learning about this term, along with year group expectations. It also provides you with a chance to see your child's new classroom.

This evening will be on 14th September and the timings will be as follows:

Year 3: 4 – 4.30pm

Year 4: 4.30 – 5pm

Year 5: 5 – 5.30pm

Year 6: 5.30 – 6pm

This evening will run in conjunction with the FOPJS Family BBQ

– we hope you will join us for this too. Please get your tickets for the BBQ on the Gateway.

Break-Times

Children may bring a healthy snack (**fruit or vegetables**) for breaktimes on Monday to Thursday.

Sweets, chocolate and crisps are not permitted on these days. Crisps will be acceptable on Fridays. Please remember that a snack should be a small amount and not excessive in size!

We provide school footballs for use at playtimes. **Other balls are not allowed.**

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School Uniform

We continue to encourage all our children to wear school uniform.

School uniform sets the tone for learning, and provides children with a sense of belonging to the school community. It also helps to alleviate peer pressure from having the latest fashionable items.

School Uniform can be purchased directly from www.motif8.co.uk

If you do not have internet access, please send your order to the school office.

We also hold a selection of second-hand uniform in the school office which is available for £1.

New Toilets and Other Building Work

We were pleased to be able to refurbish another set of children's toilets during the summer holidays. These have been well received by the children.

We also redecorated the school hall, LS5 and DF4 during the summer too.

School Roundabout

Just a reminder that the School Roundabout is open in the morning for dropping off only. Vehicles should not park here. The visitors car park is available - should you wish to come to the playground, or into the school at this point. The roundabout is closed between 9.00 – 3.45pm, for the safety of our pupils.

Collection from Clubs

You will be receiving a clubs sign-up letter next week and we look forward to the start of our after-school clubs in the near future. We understand that on some occasions, your child may not be able to stay for their club. To help us to keep your children safe, please remember to inform us if your child will not be attending a club on a particular day.

Children who stay for an after-school club can be collected from the playground doors, where the member of staff leading the club will be waiting with them. If you wish your child to walk home by themselves, please send a note to let us know. We will not let them go otherwise.

School Dinners

School dinners now cost £2.30 per day and £11.50 per week.

Parents are welcome to come and enjoy a school meal with their child – adult meals cost £3.30. These must be booked via the office on the day.

Payments can be made using School Gateway.

Payments must be made in advance for school dinner money.

If you have any difficulties with payments, please contact either myself or Mrs Tully.

Water Bottles

A little reminder that children should bring a water bottle to school each day so that they can have a drink of water throughout the day. While we have water fountains in school, these are not as accessible in lessons.

Water helps to keep the brain alert and helps children to remain focussed and learning.

Drop Office/Deposit Box

To save you queueing in the morning at the office window, we have now installed a post box in the foyer (just under the school painting). Please use this to drop off any letters/notes or money for the office. We would ask that you use the envelopes provided. No loose change please.

Thank you.

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Absences

While we are keen to ensure that children attend school, we recognise that from time-to-time your child may be too unwell to come.

If this is the case, please inform the School Office as soon as possible, along with the reason for the absence – this can be done using the School Gateway or by leaving a message on the telephone system: 01480 226730.

Parent Helpers

We welcome parent helpers in class. If you are able to offer any time to help in school, please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance.

As part of our procedures, we will complete a DBS check with you. This will be done through the school office.

Jewellery

The only jewellery permitted in school is a watch and stud earrings. Unfortunately, earrings cannot be worn for PE, including newly pierced ears – this is county policy. Earrings are not allowed to be taped over for this purpose.

Please make sure your child is either able to remove their own earrings for PE, or they do not wear them on PE days.

LIBRARY PRESENTS...ARTS ALIVE PROGRAMME AT ST NEOTS LIBRARY

The Library Presents...Arts Alive is excited to share its autumn programme, beginning in October and bringing arts to libraries across Cambridgeshire. Everyone is welcome and tickets are on sale now.

Funded by Arts Council England and created in partnership with Babylon ARTS, 'The Library Presents...Arts Alive' brings performances and workshops into the heart of villages and towns across the county.

The programme, chosen by Library Friends and local communities for each library, features music, theatre, magic, art, literature and puppetry for everyone.

Music fans of all ages are encouraged to beat out new rhythms at Samba Drumming workshops or try their hand at the ukulele. The singing quadruplets Men in General perform their mix of well-loved songs, à cappella classics and comedy while it's all about the great tunes from the 60s and 70s in Scenes from a Well-Spent Youth.

The children's shows include James Campbell's Comedy 4 Kids, stand-up that will have them in stitches. For under-five's puppets rule the roost with the extremely entertaining Three Billy Goats Gruff and Other Furry Tales or the charming and inventive Jack and the Beans Talk.

Theatre is well represented with the funny and scary drama Dracula...The Travesty, Jane Bower's intensely moving Daddies Diaries and the magic show Devious Minds, fresh from two national tours and an Edinburgh run.

Other activities include mosaic sessions and Art workshops with local artists, plus a book festival.

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Mathew Shuter, Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, said: "The programme offers a fantastic chance to use the library as an exciting Arts space and hub of activity for the community, for everyone to be involved, grow their interests and see live shows. If you've never been to a performance or workshop before but always wanted to, this is the perfect opportunity. Come and explore something new in the friendly, safe and relaxed atmosphere of your library."

The autumn season runs from 16 October until 30 November across the ten participating libraries. The full programme and tickets are available on www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts or in libraries.