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Priory News 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year. We hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing summer break. It was great to see all the children ready for school and learning at the start of last week. This year, we have grown in size again, and now have 11 classes in the school.

Our first newsletter of the year contains much information which we hope you will find useful. You should also find our new 'Good Behaviour' leaflet attached.

You will also receive over the next week, 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!

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Mr Coles and Miss Reeks to our teaching team this term. Mr Coles is joining the Year 3 teaching team and Miss Reeks the Year 5 team.

We are also delighted to congratulate Miss Randell on her recent marriage; she has now become Mrs Harper..

Our midday supervisor team has also grown – we welcome Mrs Khairy and Miss Salt to our lunchtime team.

School Gateway

Don't miss a letter – sign up to School Gateway – our school communication system. It is great for hearing about your children's achievements, seeing their attendance, making payments, and giving trip permissions.

Diary Dates

'Magic' Assembly	15 th September
Y3 Hunstanton Trip	21 st September
Meet and Greet evening	22 nd September
FOPJS Welcome BBQ	22 nd September
Y6 Bikeability Week	26 th – 29 th September
FOPJS AGM	30 th September
Y6 Natural History Museum Trip	4 th October
Harvest Assemblies	6 th October
Year 4 Ely Trip	7 th October
Year 5 Space Trip	7 th October
KS6 Class Assembly	12 th October
Individual Photographs	13 th October
Parents Evenings	19 th / 20 th October
Professional Day – School Closed	21st October
Half Term	24th – 28th October
Y5 Peer Mediator Training	2 nd / 3 rd November
Open Evening	3 rd November
LS5 Class Assembly	16 th November
Anti-Bullying Theatre Show	17 th November
Children in Need Day	18 th November
CS6 Class Assembly	23 rd November
Y3 Flu Vaccinations	24 th November
National Anti-Bullying Week	16 th – 20 th Nov
TJ3 Class Assembly	30 th November
Parents Do Day	6 th December
Christmas Performances	14 th / 15 th Dec
Christingle	20 th December
End of Term	20th December

Assemblies

Class assemblies are held throughout the year and will take place on **Wednesdays at 10.30am**. Parents are welcome to come to these assemblies.

This term, there will be class assemblies for: -

- KS6 - 12th October
- LS5 - 16th November
- CS6 - 23rd November
- TJ3 - 30th November

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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 22nd September and the timings will be as follows:

Year 3: 4 – 4.30pm

Year 4: 4.30 – 5pm

Year 5 and Year 6: 5.30 – 6pm

This evening will run in conjunction with the FOPJS Welcome BBQ – we hope you will join us for this too. See school gateway for tickets.

Trees and Toilets

You may have noticed that one of our willow trees was removed during the summer holidays. This was due to it causing much damage to our drainage systems.

We also had two sets of children's toilets refurbished. These have been well received by the children.

2016 SATs Results

You will no doubt be aware of the significant changes in the Y6 SATs this year. Our Year 6 children worked hard throughout the year, with the following results being achieved.

Percentage achieving expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics: 52%

Percentage of pupils achieving a high level of attainment in reading, writing and mathematics: 7%

Average progress in reading: -1.5

Average progress in writing: 2.4

Average progress in mathematics: -1.3

Average scaled score in reading: 101

Average scaled score in mathematics: 101

Nationally, 53% reached the expected standard, and 5% achieved a high level. This is very similar to our children's achievements.

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

Harvest Assemblies

With the growth of the school, and the popularity of our Harvest Assembly for parents, we have decided that we will hold 2 Harvest Assemblies this year, to enable all who wish to attend to do so.

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

More information will be sent home in the near future.

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.**

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.

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Collection from Clubs – New Routines

You will be receiving a clubs sign-up letter this 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 Games Gold Mark

We are thrilled to be awarded the Gold Mark for our sports provision in school for the fourth time.

This reflects the breadth of opportunities available – within lessons and within clubs.

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.

School Values

We have recently held a review of our School Values, and Learning Drivers. Following this, we have decided to bring the two together and have one set of values – with five learning values and five social values.

We have discussed our ideas with the children, and they have contributed to the process.

As such, we are keen to have the following five learning values:

Motivation Responsibility Discovery Perseverance Collaboration

with five social values:

Courage Honesty Friendship Appreciation Thoughtfulness

These would be represented on our paint palette in two distinct colours.

We are also keen to hear your views on these too. If you have any comments, please let us know by Monday, 19th September. This can be done on the School Gateway (under payment items), or by sending the slip back below.

Values

Please return this slip to let us know your views.

I like the idea of 5 learning values and 5 social values. Yes No No preference

I am happy with the values chosen. Yes No No preference

I have the following suggestion:

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School Dinners

School dinners now cost £2.25 per day and £11.25 per week.

Parents are welcome to come and enjoy a school meal with their child – adult meals cost £3.20. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Being a School Governor

Eighteen months ago I became a school governor at Priory Junior School. Initially I was worried that I would not have a lot to offer – I didn't have a background in education, I didn't know how to run a school and I didn't know how to manage a school budget. What I could offer was a passion for my children's education, a desire to know more about and support and a willingness to contribute something to the community in which I live.

The Governing Body at Priory Junior School currently comprises of 11 people – teachers, parents and members of the community – and we are keen to recruit more people to work with us. Maybe this could be you? There are two or three evening meetings every half term and the opportunity to do occasional visits to the school during school hours, depending on how much time you are able to give. We make key decisions for the school and on behalf of us all - there is no doubt that it is a responsible position. However, there is a full range of free training courses on offer locally to develop the knowledge and skills you need and you will be supported by the other governors on the board.

It's great to be part of the team and rewarding to know that I'm making a difference, as well as learning an incredible amount about the education system and developing new skills. We all bring very different skills to the role but we have the one thing in common – we want to work with the school to give our children the best and happiest start in life.

If you want to find out more about being a governor at Priory Junior School please contact Matthew Stevens, the Chair of Governors, myself, or any of the other governors would be very happy to have a chat.

Amanda Whittaker-Brown (Mother of William Yr. 5, Ben Yr. 3 and Oliver Yr. 2, Priory Infants)