



# Priory News 2015

Dear Parents,

Thank-you to everyone who sent in donations for our Harvest assembly. The food has been donated to St Neots Foodbank – thank-you for all your help. The children's performances and singing were wonderful, and were enjoyed by all who attended.

St Neots Foodbank offers help to people who may be struggling financially and is now 2 years old. As a school, we are registered with the foodbank and as such, are able to support families with the provision of vouchers to use at the Foodbank, should the need arise.

Don't forget, this half-term ends on **Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October.**

We return to school on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

## Staffing

Following a successful recruitment, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Tully to our school office as our Finance Administrator.

We were also sad to say goodbye to Mrs Whitmore, one of The BASE's playworkers at the end of last week – as she is moving to Singapore. We wish her the very best in her new home.

Mrs Takacova will be joining The BASE as Playworker in the afternoons. Many of the children will already know her, as she is one of our Midday Supervisors already.

**A reminder to all Year 6 parents to ensure you have submitted your Secondary School Application.**

**You must do this by 31st October.**

**Paper applications are available from the school office.**

## Diary Dates

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Y6 Natural History Museum Trip	12 <sup>th</sup> October
Y5 Space Centre Trip	15 <sup>th</sup> October
Y5/6 TAG Rugby Festival	20 <sup>th</sup> October
KS5 Class Assembly	21 <sup>st</sup> October
Open Evening	22 <sup>nd</sup> October
Professional Day – School Closed	23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Half Term	26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Parents Evenings	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Individual Photographs	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Book Fair Visiting	11 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Children in Need Day	13 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Y6 Viking Day	13 <sup>th</sup> Nov
National Anti-Bullying Week	16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Anti-Bullying Theatre Show	18 <sup>th</sup> November
JT3 Class Assembly	25 <sup>th</sup> November
Parents Do Day	1 <sup>st</sup> December
Tom Palmer, Children's Author	3 <sup>rd</sup> December
Christmas Performances	15 <sup>th</sup> / 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Christingle	18 <sup>th</sup> December
End of Term	18 <sup>th</sup> December

## Sainsbury's School Games Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the Gold School Games Award, **for the third time**, in recognition of the sporting opportunities and competitions that happen at Priory Junior School.

## Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings will be on 3rd and 4th November. Appointment letters will be coming home this week. Please book your appointment online, following the instructions in the letter.

## Children in Need Day – 13<sup>th</sup> November

In return for a 50p contribution to Children in Need, we are inviting children to **'Wear their Hair Wacky!'**

## **Open Evening**

*Our Open Evening takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October from 5 – 6.30pm. This is open to all parents and is a wonderful opportunity to have a look around the school, and see your child's classroom.*

*Thank-you to all our parents who attended the Meet and Greet session at the beginning of September – again, we hope the opportunity to see your child's classrooms and meet your child's teacher early in the year was helpful.*

## **Jewellery and PE**

*In order to ensure that Physical Education lessons and school sports activities are safe, it is important to note that children should be properly prepared to be active. Cambridgeshire County guidelines for the safe teaching of Physical Education state that, for all P.E. lessons, pupils should have a change of clothing (including footwear), tie all long hair back and remove all jewellery.*

*In the past, children have covered their earrings with surgical tape, but this does not make them any more safe; therefore to comply with these guidelines, pupils will need to remove their earrings or come to school without them if they cannot remove them independently. Staff cannot be asked to remove or put in earrings. The reasons behind this are to ensure pupils do not get injured whilst moving about in their PE lessons, something that all school staff have to ensure happens.*

*As you are aware, Physical Education is a vital aspect of children's learning and development, with each class timetabled for 2 hours of P.E. per week so we really appreciate your support in this matter.*

*If your child has recently had their ears pierced, they can still be removed for a short period of time for PE. If they have an infection and cannot be removed, **this will require medical evidence in the form of a doctors note.***

## **Data Collection Sheets**

*Do you still have your data collection sheets at home? If so, please return to the school office as soon as possible in order for us to ensure we hold the right contact information for you.*

## **Attendance**

*With effect from September 2015 schools have been advised by the DfE that the Persistent Absence threshold (PA) will be reduced to 10%. Until this date it has been 15%.*

*This means that if a child/young person has an overall attendance of 90% or less they will be classified as a persistent absentee pupil.*

*Parents will be advised by school if attendance is a concern, either by a letter or a request to attend a meeting in school. If attendance fails to improve during a monitoring period a Penalty Notice fine may be issued to parents/carers.*

*Expected levels of pupil attendance will be 97% and above from September 2015.*

*Attendance will be monitored from this month, and if your child's attendance is between 96 -97% or lower we will notify you.*

## **Supervision in Playground**

*We would like to remind all parents/carers that the play equipment/areas are not to be used by children before and after the school day. Please supervise your child(ren) to ensure they do not climb on or use the equipment as it is not safe for them to do so.*

## **E-Safety**

*All Year 3 parents should now have returned the Acceptable Use letter for your child to make use of our IT resources in school – please make sure we have received yours.*

*There are incredibly helpful resources for parents on 'Digital Parenting' being produced by Vodafone. A link to one of their magazines for parents follows:*

*<http://vodafoneigitalparenting.co.uk/html5/index.html?page=1>*

*This link can also be found on our website:  
[www.priory.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.priory.cambs.sch.uk)*

### ***Dinner Money***

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

***The current cost of dinners for pupils is £2.25.***

*This can be done using ParentPay. If you are having any difficulty accessing your ParentPay account, please contact the School Office, who will be able to help you.*

### ***Longsands – Parking***

*Longsands Academy have requested that parents of children at our school do not use their site for parking. As you can appreciate, it is already busy with their own parents and school buses, and does not have the capacity for anymore.*

*We would recommend using the car park at Priory Park with a short walk up to school. This is also a great place to use for 'Park and Stride' in the morning. Walking this short distance can help your child arrive to school more alert and ready for a day's learning – it also helps them earn their WOW badge for the month.*

### ***Well done to:***

*Class 1 – for winning the Class WOW award for September.*

### ***The BASE – our Before and After School Experience***

*Need a safe place for your children to go before or after school? Then, The BASE could be for you. Situated within the school, we are able to provide an engaging environment for children – with a wide-range of activities to get involved in.*

*If you are interested, please enquire about places by contacting [thebase@priory.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:thebase@priory.cambs.sch.uk) or telephoning the school office.*

### ***Priory Junior School..... The Next Three Years***

*Over the coming weeks, we will be approaching parents on the playground to ask two questions: What do you think is good about Priory Junior School now? What would you like to see us improve over the next three years?*

*The Governing Body will be considering your answers as it draws up Priory's 3-year Strategy Plan. If you aren't on the playground, please write your answers below, and return to the school office.*