



Priory News 2016

Dear Parents,

Thank-you to everyone who sent in donations for our Harvest assembly. The food has been donated to St Neots Foodbank –who were extremely grateful to receive it. We were delighted to be joined by Hilary Westcott, from St Neots Foodbank, for the assemblies who shared a little about the work of the Foodbank itself.

St Neots Foodbank offers help to people who may be struggling financially. 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.

The children's performances and singing were wonderful, and were enjoyed by all who attended.

*Don't forget, this half-term ends on **Thursday, 20th October.***

*We return to school on **Monday, 31st October.***

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.

Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings are this week – have you booked your appointment?

If you need any help with this, please contact the school office.

Diary Dates

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| <i>TAG Rugby Tournament</i> | <i>18th October</i> |
| <i>Parents Evenings</i> | <i>19th / 20th October</i> |
| <i>Professional Day – School Closed</i> | <i>21st October</i> |
| <i>Half Term</i> | <i>24th – 28th October</i> |
| <i>Y5 Peer Mediator Training</i> | <i>2nd / 3rd November</i> |
| <i>Open Evening</i> | <i>3rd November</i> |
| <i>B Team Football Tournament</i> | <i>10th November</i> |
| <i>LS5 Class Assembly</i> | <i>16th November</i> |
| <i>Anti-Bullying Theatre Show</i> | <i>17th November</i> |
| <i>Children in Need Day</i> | <i>18th November</i> |
| <i>CS6 Class Assembly</i> | <i>23rd November</i> |
| <i>Y3 Flu Vaccinations</i> | <i>24th November</i> |
| <i>National Anti-Bullying Week</i> | <i>16th – 20th Nov</i> |
| <i>TJ3 Class Assembly</i> | <i>30th November</i> |
| <i>Parents Do Day</i> | <i>6th December</i> |
| <i>Y3/4 Christmas Performances</i> | <i>14th December</i> |
| <i>Y5/6 Christmas Performances</i> | <i>15th December</i> |
| <i>Christmas Jumper Day</i> | <i>16th December</i> |
| <i>Christingle</i> | <i>20th December</i> |
| <i>End of Term</i> | <i>20th December</i> |
| <i>Spring Term Starts</i> | <i>5th January</i> |

Sainsbury's School Games Award

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

Children in Need Day – 18th November

*In return for a 50p contribution to Children in Need, we are inviting children to **'Dress as their Hero'.***

MacMillan Coffee Morning

It was great to see so many parents at our MacMillan Coffee Morning. Thank-you for all your donations – together, we raised £267.76 for MacMillan!

Open Evening

Our Open Evening takes place on 3rd November, from 5 – 6.15pm. 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.***

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.***

School Roundabout

Just a little reminder that the roundabout is open for dropping off only in the mornings – this works really well if everyone keeps to this, and has alleviated a lot of traffic problems. If you wish to come in / leave your car, please use the visitor car park.

Attendance

You will know that at the beginning of last year, the DfE reduced the Persistent Absence threshold to 90%. This means that if a child 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 are 97% or above.

Attendance will be monitored from this month, and if your child's attendance is below 95% or lower we will notify you.

You can also check your child's attendance on the School Gateway.

E-Safety

All parents should now have replied to the Acceptable Use letter sent to you, for your child to make use of our IT resources in school – please make sure we have. If you have any questions about this, please drop in and speak to Mr Folly, our Computing Leader

You should also have received a copy of 'Digital Parenting', a very helpful magazine produced by Vodafone.

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.

Places can be booked online using the School Gateway – to make a booking, you will need to register for The BASE via the School Office. This will then allow you to view spaces, and make ad hoc bookings too.