



Dear Parents,

A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you all enjoyed your time together over the Christmas holiday. We know that this year has not started in the way that any of us would have wished for, but let's hope that better times will come to us all, as soon as they can.

We worked creatively at the end of the Autumn term to bring the children a re-imagined Christingle assembly, and our 'Twelve Days of Christmas' video to you all. We hope you have enjoyed watching these on our website. We look forward to a time when we will be able to enjoy these occasions together.

The announcement at the start of last week came at very short notice for schools and families – thank-you for all your support with remote learning. We appreciate that this is tough for children and parents, and we know it isn't a situation we had expected, or wished to be in again. Please take care – and stay safe.

Warm Regards,  
Tracy Keefe

### Online Safety

As our children are spending increasing amounts of time online, you might wish to consider places where you can seek good information / advice.

Parentzone is one such place – and it has collated together all its resources that relate to this time in the world.

It's a brilliant place to get information – click [here](#) to access:

### Free School Meals

We have put in place support for all families who are eligible for free school meals at this time.

If your circumstances change, and you become eligible, please do check and apply, so that we can help you too.

You can quickly apply at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

### Diary Dates

<b>The Great Priory Run Launch Assembly</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Friends of Priory EGM</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Half-Term</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>End of Spring Term</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Summer Term starts</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> April

### In-School Provision

In comparison to the first lockdown, we have seen a big rise in the number of children attending in terms of critical worker provision. Children of critical workers attend on the days that they need this provision.

This has meant that we have 10 class bubbles in operation – with the vast majority of class teachers teaching each day.

Classes continue to be kept as bubbles – and this is reducing the contacts for children and staff at this time.

### County Support Hubs

The county hubs set up are continuing to operate. If you need help or support, please do make contact with them.

For people living in the Huntingdonshire District Council area: [www.wearehuntingdonshire.org/](http://www.wearehuntingdonshire.org/) or 01480 388388

## **Remote Learning Provision**

*During the Autumn term, we reviewed our remote learning provision, using our learning from the first school closure, and evaluating the different options available to the school – with Cambridgeshire ICT Service.*

*We agreed that the teachers would now provide virtual lessons – in the format of pre-recorded videos, along with an independent learning activity. Seesaw provides an appropriate and child-friendly experience for this, and we are able to upload the videos directly into there. We hope your children have been enjoying them, and finding them helpful.*

*You might also have some videos from other teachers too – we are making use of the Oak National Academy for some lessons.*

*By having them pre-recorded, this means that you can arrange your day more flexibly too. However, we do expect all our children to complete their remote learning.*

*We have mapped out the learning provided and matched it to the learning that is taking place in school at this time, ensuring that children at home and school are focusing on the same learning objectives.*

*The lessons will be set to match the days they are taking place in school too – and your teacher / TA is available, if you have any questions. Please drop an email to the school office if you need to make contact with them.*

## **Accessing SeeSaw**

*The best way to access Seesaw is to download the app – if you are using a tablet.*

*Did you know that Seesaw can be accessed using a Kindle Fire?*

### **4G Limits**

*Are your children using your 4G data to complete the learning. If so, did you know that we can request for your limits to be lifted, should you require this assistance? Please let us know, and we will try to help.*

### **Video Guides**

*We have helpful videos on our school website to help with access and how Seesaw and Yumu (also known as Charanga) works. They can be viewed [here](#).*

## **Things to do in Lockdown**

*Below are some ideas of things to do in lockdown:*

- 1. The RSPB's Bird Watch will be on the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January. Sign up at the RSPB and then commit to watching the birds in your garden for an hour of time during the last weekend in January. Let the RSPB know what you see.*
- 2. Go on a winter walk and look for nature: can you spot these things: squirrels in trees, animal footprints in the mud (or snow), birds eating berries, snowdrops coming into life.*
- 3. Hold a virtual wildlife quiz with your family or friends. Get the children to write the questions.*
- 4. Get crafty with your recycling – make a hedgehog, a squirrel or maybe a gnarled tree.*

## **The Great Priory Run**

*We are delighted to be launching The Great Priory Run – an event organised by Friends of Priory. An email with details about the launch assembly (on 13<sup>th</sup> January) should be in your in-box.*

*We all hope the event will bring us some hope and positivity this year – we would love you all to get involved if you can – please look out for more details coming home this week too.*