



## **Priory News**

### **November 2019**

*Dear Parents,*

*We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing time during the half-term break.*

*We hope the Parents Evenings before half-term provided you with a good overview of your child's progress, and ways to support learning at home too. If you missed attending, please telephone or drop-in to see your child's class teacher, who will be happy to make an appointment with you.*

*You will receive your half-termly overview this week, which should provide you with useful information about your child's learning this half-term.*

#### **Coats**

*Please make sure your child has a coat with them each day.*

*As we have now reached November, children need a coat to play outside at break and lunchtime.*

#### **Diary Dates**

<i>National Anti-Bullying Week</i>	<i>11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November</i>
<i>Odd Socks Day</i>	<i>12<sup>th</sup> November</i>
<i>Peer Mediator Training</i>	<i>13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> November</i>
<i>Anti-Bullying Theatre Show</i>	<i>13<sup>th</sup> November</i>
<i>Stacking Cups World Record Attempt</i>	<i>14<sup>th</sup> November</i>
<i>Children in Need Day</i>	<i>15<sup>th</sup> November</i>
<i>PE Platinum Award Presentation</i>	<i>18<sup>th</sup> November</i>
<i>African Drumming Workshop</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> December</i>
<i>Parents Do Day</i>	<i>5<sup>th</sup> December</i>
<i>Flu Vaccinations</i>	<i>6<sup>th</sup> December</i>
<i>Y3/4 Christmas Performance</i>	<i>11<sup>th</sup> December</i>
<i>Y5/6 'Carols by Candlelight'</i>	<i>12<sup>th</sup> December</i>
<i>Parents' Coffee Morning</i>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> December</i>
<i>Christingle</i>	<i>18<sup>th</sup> December</i>
<i>End of Term</i>	<i>18<sup>th</sup> December</i>
<i>Spring Term Starts</i>	<i>6<sup>th</sup> January</i>

#### **Children in Need Day – 15<sup>th</sup> November**

*In return for a 50p contribution to Children in Need, we are inviting children to:*

***'Wear their Spots'.***

#### **Odd Socks Day – 12<sup>th</sup> November**

*Join us in celebrating individuality by wearing Odd Socks to school on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November – as part of National Odd Socks Day!*

#### **Assemblies**

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

*This term, there will be class assemblies for: -*

- *DR6 - 20<sup>th</sup> November (Wednesday)*
- *SH5 – 28<sup>th</sup> November (Thursday)*

#### **Aspirational Me**

*Aspirational Me continues to be met with enthusiasm, and we have been thrilled to be awarding bronze and silver badges on a regular basis.*

*We now have a small number of children who have achieved their gold badge – these will be awarded in an assembly very soon, with their parents invited to join us for this special occasion.*

*Please keep encouraging your child with their pledges!*

## ***Speed Stacking***

*Last Thursday Priory were excited to welcome Di Baker and her Speed Stacking skills, as part of our assembly.*

*Speed Stacking involves accurately and skilfully stacking and un-stacking sets of cups as quickly as possible, testing the co-ordination and perseverance of the competitors.*

*In the assembly Di Baker demonstrated these skills and got the children engaged in trying out some speed stacking themselves. This week, Priory is going to be a part of a Speed Stacking World Record, so this is a great opportunity to get excited about Speed Stacking!*

*As part of her visit, Di Baker left us with a special discount voucher for purchasing additional speed stacking sets. Some of these can be purchased for home, and we have attached a copy of this voucher for you to use, should you wish to. If you do place an order, you will need to include your child's class and state 'Priory Junior School' in the order. All orders will be delivered to school.*

## ***National Anti-Bullying Week***

*This week is National Anti-Bullying Week. The national theme for the week is 'Change Starts With Us'.*

*Each year group will be exploring this theme in class and teachers will also be reminding children of the strategies to use, should they see or experience bullying.*

*Should your child report to you that they are experiencing bullying, please contact your child's class teacher.*

*You can expect your concerns to be taken seriously. As part of this, your child will be given a named adult to report any further concerns too; and for us to take positive action to reduce the chances of this happening.*

*Through regular contact with you, we will work together to resolve this as quickly as possible.*

## ***Dinner Money***

*Just a little reminder that all school dinners should be paid for in advance.*

*The cost of a school dinner is £2.30, and payment can be made through Pupil Asset, or sending cash (in a named envelope) into the school office.*

## ***Attendance***

*We are delighted to share with you that our school attendance is currently 97.4% - this is great!*

*You will be aware that further changes to attendance were made last year. The government expects a child's attendance to be 100%.*

*As part of this, please be aware that any leave of absence can only be authorised by schools if this is for an exceptional circumstance, and as such, **holidays are not considered within this. Any unauthorised holiday is very likely to be issued with a penalty notice.***

*Should you feel there is an exceptional circumstance that requires your child to be absent from school – please use our 'request for absence for exceptional circumstance' form – available from the school office.*

*In addition to this, if attendance is recorded as unauthorised for 8 sessions (4 days) or more within an 8 week period, there is a case for a penalty notice (fine) or a prosecution to take place. Similarly, action could be taken if attendance falls to 90% or below over a longer period. Attendance at 90% or below is classed as persistent absenteeism.*

*Our school doors open at 8.40am each morning – with children taking part in learning activities from this time. Registration is at 8.50am, and any child arriving after this time is recorded as late. Should your child arrive after the register is officially closed, this is then recorded as an unauthorised absence (1/2 day).*

## ***Parents Do Day***

*5<sup>th</sup> December is the date for our next 'Parents Do' day.*

*During the day, we will be inviting parents to attend school, to be involved in Mathematical Art activities.*

*The timings will be as follows:*

*9.30 – 10.30am: Year 6  
11.15 – 12.15pm: Year 3  
1.20 – 2.20pm: Year 4  
2.20 – 3.20pm: Year 5*

*We very much hope you will be able to join us!*

## ***Parents Coffee Morning***

*Thank-you to our Year 6 children for organising our recent coffee morning.*

*Thank-you also for the kind donations made – together, we raised over £77 for Great Ormond Street Hospital.*

*Our next coffee morning will be on 17<sup>th</sup> December, for all parents, from 9-10 am. Please join us for this event.*

## ***Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performance***

*The timings for the Year 3 and 4 Christmas performances will be 1.45pm and 6pm on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Watch out for ticket details in the near future.*

## ***Years 5 and 6 Carols by Candlelight***

*The timings for the Year 5 and 6 Carols by Candlelight will be 1.45pm and 6pm on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Watch out for ticket details in the near future.*

*Of course we are aware that this is also the date of the General Election, and hope that this will not prevent you from either voting, or attending our event on this day.*

## ***Music Tuition Rooms***

*As you are aware, our new music tuition rooms are now up and running – funded by Friends of Priory. The children who are learning in these rooms are benefiting from the environment created.*

*A huge thank-you once again to Friends of Priory for all the hard work in fund-raising to provide these.*



## ***Panathlon Finals***



*It was with great delight that we received an invite to attend the National Panathlon Finals at the Copperbox Arena, in the Olympic Park.*

*A group of children from across all years represented our school – taking part in several different sports including boccia and table top football.*

*The children were a real credit to our school – competing well, trying their hardest and enjoying the occasion. They were rewarded with a 5<sup>th</sup> place! Well done to all the children who took part*

## ***Gaming – What's Appropriate for My Child?***

*In school, we are aware that on occasions, children may be playing games that have age-restrictions on them. We hope the following information may help you, as parents, to consider the choices you face when considering games for your child.*

*Games with these ratings may seem harmless on the surface but don't be fooled by first impressions. Many games may appear benign, but they can feature moments of strong violence, horror, illegal drug use and even sexual violence.*

*For extra age rating information about a game, use the [Additional Consumer Information \(ACI\)](#). Use the 'search' function to find a game and you'll get a breakdown of the content, including:*

- How much graphic content appears in the game;*
- How often/where it appears and how strong it is.*

*This is a great tool for confirming you are making the right choice in the games your child may be playing.*

### ***Other factors to consider:***

*You may have introduced boundaries at home about when and what type of games your child is allowed to play. Remember to talk to your child about these rules and set out expectations if they stay with family friends or child care.*

*Encourage your child to talk to you about the games they play and how they feel after playing them. Children are sometimes frightened by games but won't tell anyone in case they take the game away. While children are still learning to distinguish between reality and fantasy, it's important to talk to them about what they see in games.*

*If your children are playing games online don't forget that you can also set parental controls on many devices to give you extra piece of mind. The VSC website offers full instructions on how to set parental controls for the most popular devices.*

*One final piece of advice: if you're worried about children playing video games on their own, then why not join them? [AskAboutGames.com](#) is a fantastic resource for advice on gaming as a family.*

***Further information about gaming can be found at***

***<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/>***