



Priory News

September 2019



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year. We hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing time during the summer holiday. A very warm welcome to our new families – in Year 3 and also, in other year groups too. We hope your children will settle into their new school quickly. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

It has been great to see all the children ready for school and learning on their return – they are all looking smart in their new uniforms. We hope your children are settling in well to their new year group and class. This year, we have grown in size again, and now have 341 children in the school.

This first newsletter contains information about routines and events taking place this term.

Finally, we are looking forward to this new school year – with new initiatives planned for all to be involved in. By working together, we aim to support the children in our school to be the very best they can be. Please let us know if there are any changes to circumstances that might affect your child, so we can support them.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Miss Burley to our teaching team this term. Miss Burley has joined the Year 3 team.

Pupil Asset

As a parent, Pupil Asset is the way to receive all letters from the school, text messages, make payments, and give consent.

If, for any reason, you are experiencing any difficulty with Pupil Asset, please drop into the school office – as soon as we are made aware about an issue, we are able to promptly find a solution to rectify it.

Diary Dates

<i>Meet and Greet / FOPJS BBQ</i>	<i>12th September</i>
<i>Aspirational Me Launch</i>	<i>16th September</i>
<i>FOPJS AGM</i>	<i>16th September</i>
<i>Parents' Forum</i>	<i>18th September</i>
<i>Y3 Flag Fen Trip</i>	<i>19th September</i>
<i>Y6 Bikeability Week</i>	<i>30th September – 3rd October</i>
<i>Harvest Assemblies</i>	<i>4th October</i>
<i>Young Un's Visit</i>	<i>8th October</i>
<i>Individual Photographs</i>	<i>10th October</i>
<i>Y5 West Stow Trip</i>	<i>14th October</i>
<i>Parents Coffee Morning</i>	<i>17th October, 9-10am</i>
<i>Parents Evenings</i>	<i>16th / 17th October</i>
<i>Y6 Viking Day</i>	<i>18th October</i>
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>21st – 25th October</i>
<i>Professional Day – School Closed</i>	<i>28th October</i>
<i>Open Morning</i>	<i>7th November</i>
<i>National Anti-Bullying Week</i>	<i>11th – 15th November</i>
<i>Odd Socks Day</i>	<i>11th November</i>
<i>Children in Need Day</i>	<i>15th November</i>
<i>Parents Do Day</i>	<i>5th December</i>
<i>Flu Vaccinations</i>	<i>6th December</i>
<i>Y3/4 Christmas Performance</i>	<i>11th December</i>
<i>Y5/6 'Carols by Candlelight'</i>	<i>12th December</i>
<i>Parents' Coffee Morning</i>	<i>17th December</i>
<i>Christingle</i>	<i>18th December</i>
<i>End of Term</i>	<i>18th December</i>
<i>Spring Term Starts</i>	<i>6th January</i>

Harvest Assemblies

With the growth of the school, and the popularity of our Harvest Assembly for parents, we will be holding 2 Harvest Assemblies, to enable all who wish to attend to do so.

*They will be held on **4th October**, with Y3/4 at 10am, and Y5/6 at 11am.*

More information will be sent home in the near future.

School Roundabout

Just a reminder that the School Roundabout is open in the morning for dropping off only. Vehicles should not park here.

The roundabout is closed between 9.00 – 3.45pm, for the safety of our pupils.

2019 SATs Results

We are pleased to share our SATs results from the Summer term. Our Year 6 children worked hard throughout the year, with the following results being achieved.

Percentage achieving expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics: 62%

Percentage of pupils achieving a high level of attainment in reading, writing and mathematics: 10%

Average progress in reading: -1.3

Average progress in writing: -0.8

Average progress in mathematics: -1.8

Average scaled score in reading: 103

Average scaled score in mathematics: 103

Nationally, 65% reached the expected standard, and 11% achieved a high level.

We continue to focus on building on these results, ensuring that all our children continue to progress well in all subjects. We will be continuing to build on the new developments in English, and focusing on further developing our maths curriculum.

Aspirational Me

Next week will see the launch of our new 'Aspirational Me' programme. This will be a way for children's personal development and achievements to be recognised – with children earning bronze, silver and gold badges for completing pledges. We will also be introducing Priory Junior School Ambassadors as part of this programme – something for all children to aspire to, and strive to reach.

More information about the programme will be sent home in the very near future – it is designed for school and parents and children to work together on, and we very much hope you will get involved in supporting and encouraging your child to achieve their pledges.

The pledges in the booklets your child will receive next week have been created through consultation with parents, children and staff. We are very much looking forward to the launch of this.

Proud to be Priory:

- ❖ *The Year 3 children and other new children to our school have made a very good start!*
- ❖ *Our Year 6 children have made a very good start to taking on whole-school responsibilities.*
- ❖ *The Year 6 Leavers play at the end of last term was superb! We were sad to say goodbye to our Year 6 children on the last day – but have been enjoying seeing them visit us this term – looking very smart in their new uniforms!*
- ❖ *Our fantastic new music rooms – funded by FOPJS*
- ❖ *The launch of 'Aspirational Me' next week!*

Assemblies

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

This term, there will be class assemblies for: -

- CS6 - 9th October
- JE4 - 16th October
- DR6 - 20th November
- SH5 - 28th November (THURSDAY @ 9.15am)

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.

If, during the year, you no longer need an item of clothing and it is still in good condition, please consider donating it to our second-hand uniform stock.

School Lunches

The school has decided to seek a new lunchtime provider and so, Lunchtime Company (our current meals provider) will no longer be providing our meals after December. We are now in the process of seeking a new provider and as part of this, I would be interested in parental contributions to this process.

We will be discussing school lunches at our first Parents Forum meeting – 18th September at 6.30pm. If you would like to contribute to this, please come along to the meeting – they last no more than 45 mins, and are a great way to provide us with feedback about school life.

If you are unable to come along, please email any contributions to priory@pupilasset.co.uk

We are particularly interested in what you would like to see from a new lunchtime meals service.

Friends of Priory

Our school is very fortunate to have benefited from a team of parent volunteers who help to organise events throughout the school year for families and children to get involved in. However, this team is in need of some extra help!

If you want to join the committee, that would be great! If you can spare time to help with events that would also be greatly appreciated. Could you give some time to help? If you can, please come along to the Friends of Priory AGM on 16th September at 7.30pm – and find out more about the work of the committee and its volunteers. Refreshments will be available.

Summer Holiday Building Work

We are delighted to have converted our old swimming room changing rooms to music rooms this summer, with funding provided by Friends of Priory. A huge thank-you for this! We are now looking forward to our children having a great space for music practice / instrumental lessons in.

We redecorated HR6 and DR6 from top to bottom – they look fabulous learning environments for the children!

We are also pleased with the start of our windows and doors refurbishment. They are transforming the building, and will hopefully keep us warmer during the winter months.

Jewellery

The only jewellery permitted in school is a watch and stud earrings. Earrings cannot be worn for PE, including newly pierced ears – this is county policy. Earrings are not allowed to be taped over for this purpose.

Please make sure your child is either able to remove their own earrings for PE, or they do not wear them on PE days.

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 your child is unwell and unable to come to school, is the case, please inform the School Office as soon as possible, along with the reason for the absence – this can be done using Pupil Asset or by leaving a message on the telephone system: 01480 226730.

Break-Times

*Children may bring a healthy snack (**fruit or vegetables**) for break-times 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.***

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.