



Priory News December 2021



Dear Parents,

The end of the term is now fast approaching. I wanted to share with you all how proud I am of the way children have settled and adapted - they have been amazing: trying hard, listening well, being kind to others and pushing themselves to be the best they can be. It has been great to have some wider experiences this term including: Year 6 Bikeability, Viking days, class assemblies, sports tournaments, Anti-bullying week activities and some class trips.

While we still have some restrictions in place, with Cambridgeshire being an Enhanced Response Area, we are finding ways to adapt to these. These restrictions have been extended to 24th December at this point in time. We have seen an increase in cases within school in recent weeks, and have been working closely with Public Health on this. Unfortunately, this has meant we have had to make some adjustments to our plans for the final week of term. Where we had hoped to invite parents to come and listen to carols and enjoy a mince pie on the playground, we will now be recording these to share with you instead. Our much-loved Christingle assembly will also be re-created using video -too.

I thank you for all your continued support and understanding with the changes that we have had to make. When we finally reach the end of term, I hope you all have a most enjoyable Christmas.

Take care, stay safe and be kind.

Tracy Keefe

Diary Dates



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| • FOPJS Christmas Present Room begins | 6th December |
| • Christmas Jumper Day | 10th December |
| • Year 3 and Year 5 Christmas Lunch | 14th December |
| • Year 4 and Year 6 Christmas Lunch | 15th December |
| • Christingle Assembly | 17th December |
| • End of Term | 17th December |
| • Professional Day (School Closed) | 4th January |
| • Term Starts | 5th January |

Covid-Related Information

We have now received CO2 Monitors from the DfE - each classroom now has one and these are being used to monitor ventilation in the rooms. This is helping teachers to control the ventilation in the rooms to levels that are effective and also allow the children to feel a bit warmer in the winter too.

Should your child have symptoms of Covid, you will need to ensure your child remains at home and get a PCR test for them. Symptoms are

- a high temperature
- a persistent new cough
- a loss of sense of taste or smell

We are also aware that the Delta variant may have other symptoms too, and we will advise you if we feel it wise to get tested to rule Covid out.

You will also be aware that the rules are different if you test positive with the Omicron variant. If you are informed that this is the case, please let us know. All contacts would then have to self-isolate for 10 days.

Please let us know as soon as you get the results from this by telephoning the school office on 01480 226730 or emailing: office@priory.cambs.sch.uk

Journeys to School

Traffic and parking around Longsands Road at the start and the end of the school day continues to be very busy.

The further away from school that you can park, the better. This way, you will keep the area around school safer for all families coming to school.

Mr Shaw is continuing to place cones near to the school entrance as a reminder to everyone that there should be no parking on the zig-zags, or opposite the entrance to the school.

Don't forget to try one of the following:

- Keep the area around the school site as free from traffic as possible at the start and end of the day
- Walk or cycle to school
- Park a little further along Longsands Road and walk the final part of the journey
- If you have a little more time, could you park at Priory Park car park - and make use of the traffic-free path up to Longsands Road by Priory Park?
- Leave the zig-zags completely clear of traffic - if you have to come to school

Let's all work together to keep our children safe on their journey to and from school.

Well done to our football teams - for making such a good start to the tournaments played!

School Life

Creating The Priory Copse

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, communities have been invited to plant trees to create a green canopy. We were delighted to receive 30 trees from the Woodland Trust as part of this, and in one corner of our field, we spent an afternoon planting the saplings with the children.

We can't wait to watch them grow - and create our very own copse which will be enjoyed by generations of children to come too. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm for learning about the saplings and planting.

*My favourite comment during the afternoon related to digging:
'It's a lot harder than it looks!'*



Reading for Pleasure

We continue to focus on nurturing a love of reading with all our children. Teachers promote reading with children through their class readers, and within english lessons - where the units of learning always start from a book.

Enjoying a story with your child at home is one of the best things your can do to to help with this. There are so many fantastic children's books to read - and your child's class teacher would be happy to help with recommending authors to try.

It's also great to discuss books together - and by doing so, you can really support your child's understanding.

Below are some questions that you might find helpful to try. There are also more suggestions in the front of your child's log book.

Before reading the book:

Is this book fiction (story) or non-fiction?

How does it look similar or different to other books that you have read?

What do you predict this book will be about? What makes you think that?

What genre will this story be? E.g. fantasy, comedy, horror.

What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb)

What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?

What do you predict might happen next?

Choose one character to describe what they are like.

(Non-fiction) Recall 5 facts that you've learnt so far.

Who is the character you like least? Why?

Find 2 sentences which describe the setting.

At the end of the book:

Which part of the book is your favourite / least favourite? Why?

Would you change any part of the book? How?

Would you change any of the characters? How?

Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion.

Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?

Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?

Pick one character from the book. How did they feel at the beginning? In the middle? At the end? Does it change?

Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?

Happy Reading!

Christmas Cards - we would encourage children to be 'green', and send a card to their class - which we will display in the classroom for them all. However, if they would like to send more, these can be sent to other children within their own class at this time.

Christmas Jumper Day is on 10th December! We are inviting all children to wear a Christmas Jumper to school in support of Save the Children.

If you would like to donate to this good cause, please do so via our Just Giving page:

[Our Christmas Jumper Day \(savethechildren.org.uk\)](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

School Uniform

I am always amazed by the number of school jumpers that end up within our lost property each term - many of them without a name on them.

Please can you help us, and your child, by naming clothing that comes into school - particularly jumpers and coats. This makes it much easier for us to re-unite lost clothing with their owners.

Well done to our Panathlon team - who were fantastic representatives of Priory at the recent Panathlon festival.

Contact Us

If you do have any questions, please contact us by emailing: office@priory.cambs.sch.uk

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!