



Priory News

January 2020

Dear Parents,

A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you all enjoyed your time together over the Christmas holiday, and are all looking forward to 2020.

We enjoyed many festive celebrations at the end of the Autumn term. The Christmas performances were wonderful – we hope you enjoyed them too. Thank-you for your generous donations. Together, we raised £355 for Shelter.

Our Christingle assembly ended the Autumn term – it was a beautiful occasion – we sang carols together, and children narrated the assembly, while we lit the candles together.



We have many exciting things planned for this term, and this newsletter should outline some of these for you. You will also shortly receive your curriculum overview for this term, which will provide you with a helpful overview of your children's learning for this term.

Diary Dates

Year 5 Swimming Starts	13 th January
Panathlon Tournament	14 th January
Year 4 Roman Day	16 th January
Tuck Shop Starts	17 th January
Year 6 National	
Height / Weight Measurements	17 th January
Choir Young Voices O2 Trip	24 th January
JB3 Class Assembly	29 th January
Peterborough FC Mascot Assembly	30 th January
FOPJS Discos	6 th February
Safer Internet Day	11 th February
Parents' Coffee Morning	11 th February
HR6 Class Assembly	12 th February
Parents' Evenings	12 th / 13 th February
Voice 21 Visiting School	14 th February
Half-Term	17 th – 21 st February
Book Fair	26 th February – 4 th March
Hockey Tournament	28 th February
Gymnastics Tournament	3 rd March
Year 5 Egyptian Day	4 th March
World Book Day	5 th March
Year 4 Residential Information Evening	12 th March
Year 4 Bikeability	13 th March
Girls' Football Match	17 th March
DF4 Class Assembly	18 th March
e-Safety Assembly	25 th March
Parents Do Day	26 th March
FOPJS Chocolate Bingo	26 th March
Parents Coffee Morning	31 st March
TR4 Class Assembly	1 st April
End of Spring Term	3 rd April
Summer Term starts	21 st April

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Mr Wyatt to our Cleaning team.

Class Assemblies

Class Assemblies usually take place on Wednesdays, at 9.15am.

Parents are very welcome to join us for these occasions. This term, the following assemblies will be taking place:

JB3 – 29th January
 HR6 – 12th February
 DF4 – 18th March
 TR4 – 1st April

Coffee Morning

Come and drop-in for a coffee and cake on 11th February from between 9– 10am. We look forward to seeing you.

Our coffee mornings are open to parents of all year groups, unless otherwise stated.

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank-you for your donations to Save the Children on this day – together, we raised £128.60

Parents Drop-Ins – Book an Appointment!

*Do you know about our Family Worker? Lorraine Simons, one of the St Neots Locality's Family Workers, visits our school every fortnight and offers **appointments** for parents to support with a wide variety of areas – from bedtime routines – to challenging behaviour. They are also able to provide information to families about other services available in the local area.*

If you would like an appointment to see the family worker, this can be done either through the school office, or by calling into the cookery room, when the drop-in sessions are on.

The drop-ins take place on alternate Thursdays, from 8.45 – 10am, and are held in the cookery room.

Supervision of Children

From 8.40am, children are supervised coming into the school. Please remember that, before this time, the supervision of children before the start of the day remains your responsibility.

Emergency Closures

If the school should need to close for any reason, we will notify you through the School Gateway message service, and also on the front page of our website.

We will also notify Cambridgeshire County Council and our local radio station – BBC Radio Cambridgeshire.

Decisions to close the school due to an emergency would always be taken as early as possible, and parents would be informed as quickly as possible regarding this.

World Book Day – 5th March

Children are invited to dress as their favourite book character on World Book Day.

100 Books Challenge – Check Your Log Book!

Last week, we introduced the children to the 100 books challenge! Leading experts in the field of children's books have recommended a list of 100 books for children in Year 3 and 4 that they should read, and have also done the same for children in Year 5 and 6.

We have introduced the list of books into the children's Log Books – you will find it at the back, along with a space for them to record which ones they have read.

We have also ensured that there is a clear space in the library where these books are stored, and we are encouraging the children to try reading these books too. A special assembly was held to introduce the children to this challenge, and they were enthusiastic about this. Please encourage them to look at the list, choose and record their reading here.

New Caterers / Lunchtime Arrangements

The new lunches were a great hit with the children last week – the new kitchen area looks great too!



Children also enjoyed the new seating arrangements, and the dining atmosphere was superb. As one child told me, 'This is so much better, as we all get to sit together, and we don't have to search for places.'

Tuck Shop / Friday Snacks

We are also excited to be launching a Year 5 Enterprise project this term, in the form of a child-run tuck shop.

Children have applied for roles within our new Tuck Shop business and will be ordering and selling snacks each Friday break-time. A further letter about this will be sent home this week.

All the snacks are healthy choices, with a good range for all to choose from.

We have also given a great deal of consideration to our Friday snacks policy, and as part of being a Health-promoting school, we no longer feel it is appropriate to continue to allow the unhealthy snacks we see being brought in on Fridays. This means from now on, that children should only bring healthy snacks all week, and may bring some money to buy a snack on a Friday too.

Autumn Term Attendance

Our attendance for the whole school ended the term at 97.1%, which is good!

Parking / Roundabout

Please remember that the roundabout is for dropping off only in the mornings. This is so that we can maintain a steady flow of parents using the roundabout in the morning to drop children off. It works really well when we all keep to this – so please help everyone by making use of the visitor's car park if you wish to leave your car to come onto the playground, or into school.

In the interests of the safety of all our children, please do not park on the zig-zags or the zebra crossing, even for just a short time!

If you are having trouble finding places to park, have you considered 'Park and Stride' – one good place to park for this is Priory Park car park, which the council are happy for you to use for such a purpose, and then walk up to school from there. There are also marked parking bays further up Longsands Road, which are often empty at pick-up time, and are legal places to park.

Monday Milers

Have you joined us for the Monday Milers yet? Meeting at 8.30am to do the Daily Mile is a great way to start the week.

Mrs Parker and Mrs Wyer supervise the Daily Mile track at this time each week, with guest appearances each week from other members of staff.

We have also seen some great times from the children this year in our Beat the Adult chart (in our school hall). Well done to all our children who are so enthused with running!

Aspirational Me

It is delightful to see the continued enthusiasm for the Aspirational Me award, and the pride the children take in achieving and wearing of their badges. We receive a steady stream of booklets throughout the week of children who have achieved their pledges. We are thrilled to have our first Priory Junior School Ambassadors – children in Year 6 who have gained their gold award.



January is a great time to renew or choose the next pledges to achieve. We are talking to the children about this in school – please help them to look through and choose at home too. We will be holding one gold award assembly each half-term now, to which you will be invited should your child achieve their gold.