



Priory News 2018

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 in the very near future, which should provide you with useful information about your child's learning this half-term.

Our 50th Anniversary celebrations were greatly enjoyed by the children, and it was wonderful to hear the memories shared during our community event on Saturday, including those of the very first Headteacher, Mr Elsom-Cook!

National Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is National Anti-Bullying Week. The national theme for the week is 'All Different, All Equal'.

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.

Diary Dates

National Anti-Bullying Week	12 th – 16 th November
Odd Socks Day	12 th November
Anti-Bullying Theatre Show	13 th November
Y5 Football Match	15 th November
Children in Need Day	16 th November
Y4 Bikeability Day	16 th November
Peer Mediator Training	21 st / 22 nd November
Y5 Drumming Workshops	22 nd November
Open Evening	22 nd November
Y6 Viking Day	23 rd November
Christmas Fayre	29 th November
Parents Do Day	4 th December
Year 3 / 4 Christmas Performance	12 th December
Year 5 / 6 Christmas Performance	13 th December
Music Assembly	17 th December
Parents' Coffee Morning	18 th December
Christmas Lunch	18 th December
Christingle	19 th December
Progress Reports Sent Home	19 th December
End of Term	19th December
Spring Term Starts	7th January

Proud to Be Priory:

- ❖ The success of our Year 6 football team in their recent tournaments – well done!
- ❖ The continued success of our Daily Mile – join us at 8.30am each day.
- ❖ The enthusiasm shown for our 50th Anniversary celebrations, and the fond memories that have been shared – thank-you!
- ❖ The enthusiasm for our visitor, Ryan Kay,

Odd Socks Day – 12th November

As part of National Anti-Bullying Week, we are inviting all children to wear odd socks on **Monday, 12th November**, in recognition of celebrating differences.

Attendance – Important Changes

At the beginning of the term, the Local Authority provided us with further updates to their approach to school attendance. The Government have an expectation that regular school attendance is 100% attendance.

*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).

Individual Photographs

You should now have received the proof of your child’s photograph.

Should you wish to purchase a photograph, please place your order on line or return your order to the school office by Tuesday 13th November..

Open Evening – 22nd November

*Join us for Open Evening on 22nd November – from 5 – 6.15pm. This is **open to all parents** and is a wonderful opportunity to have a look around the school, and see your child’s classroom.*



Children in Need Day

*To help us raise funds for Children in Need, we are inviting children to ‘**wear their spots**’ on 16th November – for a contribution of 50p to Children in Need.*

Parents Coffee Morning

Thank-you to our Year 5 children for organising our recent coffee morning.

Thank-you also for the kind donations made – together, we raised £180 for MacMillan Cancer.

Our next coffee morning will be on 18th December, for all parents, from 9-10 am. Please join us for this event.

Parents Do Day

4th 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 creating a Christmas poem with their child/ren.

The timings will be as follows:

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

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

Christmas Performances

The timings for the Christmas performances will be 1.45pm and 6pm on both days. Year 3 and 4 will perform on 12th December, and Year 5 and 6 on the 13th December. Watch out for ticket details in the near future.

Friends of Priory

Friends of Priory Juniors held their first disco of the year in October which was very well attended, particularly by Year 3, and everyone had a great time dancing along to the music. This event raised a fantastic total of £481!

The children have been busy in school creating designs for 'My Childs Art' - look out for the order forms in book bags soon with details of how you can order all sorts of items that will make ideal Christmas presents for friends and family.

Our next event is the Christmas Fayre and Shopping Evening on Thursday 29th November 6.00-8.30pm in the school hall. There will be lots of stalls selling a wide range of gifts, a Santa's Grotto and games for the children to play while you shop. Back by popular demand is the present room where your children can buy a present for their family in secret. Refreshments available too.

We will be running a toy tombola at the Fair and would be grateful for donations of unwanted new or nearly new (i.e. very good condition) toys and games. These can be left at the school office.

Thank you to all parents for supporting our events and to those who volunteer to help organise and run the events on the day.

Police Safety Message - Fortnite

Cambridgeshire police have issued a safety message for the parents of children who play the popular online game Fortnite. The online video game has grown massively in popularity amongst our young people. With rising popularity comes rising concerns for parents over online safety of the game. Cambridgeshire Police have released an online safety message to inform parents about the risks and what they should do to help. These are the points that our school and the Police believe parents should know:

- 1. You have to create an account and verify an email address but you are not asked for an age in order to create an account.*
- 2. You play against people of different ages from all over the World. You can't choose who you play against or turn off in game chats. The game can have up to 100 players competing against each other to be the last person standing in player vs player battles. Potentially up to 99 people playing and communicating with your children.*
- 3. Users can make in-game purchases. We have heard of one pupil spending hundreds of pounds on their parent's credit card whilst playing this game.*
- 4. There is animated violence within the game. Due to the 'frequent scenes of mild violence' an age restriction and **PEGI rating of 12** is put on the game.*
- 5. Fortnite is available on a multitude of platforms including PC, Mac, PlayStation and Xbox.*

What should parents do?

The Police's first bit of advice is simple, they advise you to have an open conversation with your child about the game. It's as important to be involved in your child's online life as it is in their 'real world' one. Parents understand that the Internet is amazing and holds vast amounts of information but it also comes with risks. So try to maintain an ongoing conversation and understand what your children like to do online.

Their second idea is to consider playing the game with them. This is so that you are then able to start understanding what is making Fortnite more and more attractive for young people, as well as giving you an idea of reporting tools available within the game.

Lastly, within the game, know how to make a report when players are behaving inappropriately and share this with your child.