



Headteacher's News

This week at Priory

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We have had lots of parents in school this week for our Learning Together sessions. We hope that you enjoyed spending time with your child in class. Those of you who did not attend this term will be given the opportunity in either Spring or Summer term. Information about Reception's learning together session for this term should be sent out next week.

Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest in becoming a lunchtime volunteer. It has been really helpful having you in this week and we look forward to welcoming some more volunteers on Monday. If you completed the form but have not heard from us, please drop an email to office@prioryschool.com.

Don't forget to return your home/school agreements and consent forms.

Yesterday was National Poetry Day and Mr Philpott shared this lovely poem from the Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho with all staff; I thought you might appreciate it too.

Take A Deep Breath

by Joseph Coelho

Close your eyes,
imagine the sea.

Take a deep breath...
and let it out.

Close your eyes,
imagine the waves splashing your feet.

Take a deep breath...
and let it out.

Close your eyes,
imagine your toes in the sand.

Take a deep breath...
and let it out.

Close your eyes,
imagine the sun on your face.

Take a deep breath...
and let it out.



Next week, on Tuesday, we will be marking World Mental Health Day by wearing Yellow for our Hello Yellow Day. Year 2 are also looking forward to a visit from the Fire Service on Thursday.

Priory Friends

Calling all parents! Your school needs you!

As parents of children in our school you automatically become members of Priory Friends. How much you get involved is completely up to you.

Priory friends are key to ensuring that we hold exciting events throughout the school year and are fundamental to fundraising for enrichment items and resources that we cannot normally afford from the usual school budget.

Priory/Macmillan Coffee Morning

It was lovely to see some of you at the coffee morning on Monday afternoon and although we had to postpone the cake sale until Tuesday, it was a great success! Thank you to everyone who donated cakes. We will announce how much we raised next week!

Upcoming events

Halloween - 31.10.23

As Halloween lands on Tuesday after the half term this year, we thought it would be nice to allow children to come to school in their Halloween costumes or non-uniform.

Priory Friends would like to use this as an opportunity to raise donations for our Christmas fayre so we instead of the usual £1 donation we will be asking for a small donated item instead. Letters will be emailed out next week so please keep an eye on your inbox.

Priory Friends will also be holding a popcorn & sweet sale after school from 3.15pm – 4.00pm. This will be by gate 1.

Tuesday 10th October – Hello Yellow Day – Wear something Yellow. Year 1 have PE on Hello Yellow Day. Your child may still wear something yellow that is suitable for PE.

Wednesday 11th October – Parent Coffee Afternoon (SEN) Anxiety & Self Esteem 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Monday 16th October – Year 5 WW2 Sharing Assembly

Monday 16th October – Reception Stay & Play for September 2024 intake

Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th October – Parents Evening.

Friday 20th October – Hogwarts Day

Tuesday 31st October – Halloween Fancy Dress.

Tuesday 31st October – Priory Friends, Sweet and Popcorn sale 3.15pm – 4.00pm



Parent Handbook

Our Teaching and Learning Philosophy

At Priory School, we understand that learning and development come hand in hand. We also know the benefit of having an inclusive classroom environment and curriculum to meet the needs of all our pupils but to ensure opportunities are provided to all our learners to ensure purposeful and challenging learning experiences.

We adapt our teaching and the environment to provide meaningful learning opportunities for all pupils appropriate to their developmental stage. We have developed a teaching and learning approach that progresses with the child. We do not expect our 5-year-olds to learn in the same way as our 11-year-olds. We believe all children flourish when they are happy, safe and are in the centre of their own learning. We value the importance of play in a child's development. Whatever their age, opportunity for play and social interactions are key to a child's overall sense of wellbeing and achievement. We ensure our pupils have opportunities to learn through active and immersive experiences to make links and consolidate learning.

Our teaching is underpinned by our values: curiosity, hope, opportunity, and trust. At Priory School, we foster a culture of courageous teaching and learning and inspire curiosity by making learning fun and purposeful. In our school there is a culture of trust because our staff build strong positive relationships with our pupils and each other. It is through these connections our pupils learn how to manage feelings and behaviour in a safe and trusting environment. Together we celebrate the diversity of our community through school events.

Working together with parents

- Staff aim to build positive relationships with parents' right from the start. Ensuring that parents have no doubt that the adults who work with their children have their well-being at heart.
- We understand that parents know their children best and ask them for genuine participation.
- We listen to families and respect their views.
- We foster family contributions through a welcoming ethos.
- Priory school ensures that we communicate regularly with our parents through newsletters and the website.
- We will offer parents the opportunity to come to workshops to help them support their children at home.



- Parents will have lots of chances to come into school for performances, events, celebrations and to see their children's classroom and learning.
- We share resources with parents to support learning at home. This may include Maths and English strategies, statutory spellings, recommended reading lists etc.
- Parents informed of homework expectations at the start of the year.
- Parents able to e-mail/phone/make face to face appointments with staff if needed.
- SATs info provided to parents (Year 6)
- The school provides information on 11+ and secondary school visits (Year 5).

Teaching Pedagogy – how children learn best

- Our teaching and curriculum are underpinned by our values: Curiosity, Hope, Opportunity and Trust. Our aim is to provide children with skills, knowledge, experience, and a strong sense of humanity.
- Teachers respond to the needs of the pupils and change approach if appropriate.
- Children are given the opportunity to take control of their learning and teachers permission to follow an interesting line of enquiry.
- We ensure that all staff have good subject knowledge.
- We understand that children need to be active learners, so we build in sufficient time for play, practical learning and application and access to physical resources.
- We also recognise the importance of movement during a school day and encourage children to stand up and have regular movement breaks.

Teaching of Maths and English skills

- There will always be time given in the curriculum to teach specific skills, we have a whole school approach to Maths and English and adopt the White Rose Mastery scheme, Write Stuff and Power of Reading.
- We recognise at Priory that English and Maths skills can be accessed through a rich curriculum and these links should always be utilised to maximise learning opportunities.
- Every child will hear a story every day in every class.
- Where children are developing emerging reading skills to their age and stage, they will be given the opportunity to read with an adult every day and access to appropriate intervention.

Transition

- Opportunities to build relationships with staff in next year group throughout the year because transition is a process and not a single event.
- Each year group works on ensuring children are ready for the next stage in their life so that whatever year or key stage they are moving onto we know that they have the skills and knowledge to do so successfully.



- At the start of the year we give teachers time to assess and analyse the skills and needs of their year group so that they can identify what the curriculum will need to provide the children in order to ensure this happens.
- We understand that children who have strong positive relationships have better social and emotional health and a better resilience to transition times. Therefore, we ensure that we develop strong positive relationships with all children.
- Transition should be viewed as positive and exciting.
- All adults work together and are involved in the process to ensure it is a smooth journey for the children.
- Transition is done in consultation with children and parents.
- Children taught skills of social interaction.
- Children taught to work with an adult in a group, take turns to answer in line with their developmental stage.
- Years 5 and 6 go to secondary schools for challenge events as well as them coming into our school.
- Develop independence in lessons and responsibility for own learning.
- As they get older they develop skills and strategies needed to resolve friendship issues themselves rather than relying on adult intervention.
- Develop organisational skills - remembering homework, spellings
- Opportunities to complete research tasks and to present work independently to others
- Year 6: Transition lessons linked to PSHE - how to follow a timetable, strategies to cope with change, we have a great video featuring Year 6 staff!
- Work alongside secondary schools and community links (church, Kooth etc.) to ready the children
- Children are given the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate their time with us through productions, events and their leaver's celebration.
- Children are given the opportunity to leave a legacy by raising money in a summer fayre that they have organised.
- Children learn independence and to challenge themselves through their residential trip.
- Additional support is given to SEN and vulnerable children to assist with transition via effective functioning groups with the learning mentors and additional visits.
- Year 6 staff meet with nearly all local secondary schools and complete forms to share handover information as well academic data.



UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Uniform is an important part of school life, it helps to build a sense of community and belonging. Uniform can set the tone of the school and help raise standards of work ethic and behaviours in school. Uniform has many benefits including minimising the social pressures to wear what is in fashion. Our uniform should reflect the cultural and religious diversity of our school and should support our young people to grow up to be respectful of different religions and culture. Therefore, our uniform expectations are flexible, sensitive, and inclusive. We regularly review our uniform to ensure value for money, we provide appropriate alternatives to ensure parents can manage the cost of uniform.

Our uniform policy will not change significantly, it is important to send your child into school in full smart uniform. The school logo will be changing from September, we have already contacted schools direct so if you order new uniform, it will have the new logo. However, we have not set a deadline for all uniform to have the new logo and we will accept old uniform until it has phased out naturally.

Uniform with the logo is not essential. It is encouraged to have one jumper or cardigan with the school logo, but it is not required. However, if buying a plain top please ensure that there are no logos of any kind.

I do wish to impress on you that uniform will be monitored carefully, our policy is flexible and inclusive allowing everyone to access the uniform easily. We will be strict about uniform and will call home and expect you to bring to school appropriate uniform if necessary. We will pay particular attention to footwear and PE kits.

children should wear plain black shoes or trainers only, even on PE days. No ankle boots or boots will be accepted. T-shirts, polo shirts, cardigans, jumpers that do not contain the school logo must be plain.

The uniform expectations from September are the following:

- Black trainers or shoes - no boots, heels, or sandals.
- Grey or black trousers or shorts
- Grey or black skirts/ culottes, knee length.
- White or green shirts or blouses
- Grey school dress
- Green and white checked cotton dress
- White or green polo shirts with or without school logo



- Plain white, green, grey, or black socks
- Grey, white, green, black tights.
- No Jewellery
- No makeup, nail varnish, false nails or hair extensions.
- Long hair should be tied up.

- Religious headwear should be grey, green, black, or white.
- Leggings worn under school uniform must be white, black, or green.

PE Kit – it has been beneficial to families, pupils, and the school to wear kit to school on PE days, therefore, we will continue to ask children to wear PE kit on school days. However, PE kit must be smart and in line with the school uniform policy, expectations, and school colours.

- a white round neck t-shirt either completely plain or with school logo.
- Black sports jumper/ hoody, plain or with school logo.
- black shorts, skirt or black tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- No jewellery/earings should be worn during PE/sport activities.

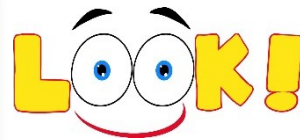
Iron on School Logo Badges

These are now available on ParentPay at a cost of £2.15 each, please make your purchase and then come to the school office with you ParentPay receipt to collect your badges.



Important Dates:

[Click here](#) to link to the school calendar
[Click here](#) to see term dates for 2023-2024



Leaflets and Letters

Please [click here](#) to go to our leaflets page on the website.

- Taplow United Under 8's and 9's
- The Great British Bake Off



Sign of the Week

Diversity

https://youtu.be/94ioXBtbk_0

Peek at the Week



Please follow link for this week's
<://www.prioryschool.co.uk/peek-at-the-week-1/>

SEN Resources

ACCESS THE SENSORY PROCESSING WORKSHOP ONLINE - BOOK A PLACE NO REFERRAL NEEDED

[Occupational Therapy | Children Young People and Families Online Resource](#)
(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)

ACCESS FREE RESOURCES AND HELP FOR SENSORY, FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

[Health and Development | Children Young People and Families Online Resource](#)
(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)



Hello Yellow Day



We will be holding a Hello Yellow Day on the 10th October, the children can wear something yellow to school for a £1.00 donation. All proceeds will go to Young Minds.



Helping Your Child With Fears and Worries

Chloe Moreton
Simran Chana
Nikita Varma
Education Mental Health Practitioners
CAMHS Mental Health Support Team Slough

Written by Dr Monika Parkinson and Dr Kerstin Thirlwall for the PPEP Care project

Dear Parent/Carer,

You are invited to attend a workshop/coffee afternoon facilitated by the Slough Mental Health Support Team (MHST) on understanding and supporting children with sleep hygiene.

The workshop will cover the following topics:

- Who the Mental Health Support Team is & how we offer support
- Overview of anxiety in childhood & exploring worries in children
- Warning signs to look out for
- A brief introduction to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)
- How to support your children
- Other helpful resources and signposting

The workshop will be on **Wednesday 11th October 2:00-3:00pm at Priory School**, in the format of a coffee afternoon with a short presentation and a chance to chat informally to the Mental Health Support team afterwards. Parents who attend will also receive a copy of the slides afterwards.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Best wishes,

Mental Health Support Team



Weekly attendance percentages: 25th- 29th September 2023

Whole school - 93%

Year 1 - 90%

Year 2 - 92%

Year 3 - 95%

Year 4 - 92%

Year 5 - 92%

Year 6 - 94%

Congratulations to **6Anning** with **99%** the highest attendance this week!



Congratulations!

ECO Council News

The Eco Council are very excited to share their first weekly newsletter! If you have any exciting eco news you would like to share please get in touch with the school.

[Eco News Here!](#)

Year One P.E. for Tuesday 10th October (Hello Yellow Day)

Year 1 have PE on Hello Yellow Day (Tuesday 10th October). Your child may still wear something yellow that is suitable for PE.



Year 6 News

This week, Year 6 have been learning more about the properties of light and were challenged to use their knowledge to build periscopes. The children enjoyed applying their learning to this practical task and show great teamwork to achieve success.





Woodland Badgers News

Woodlands Badgers have been settling in to their new classroom and timetable well. This term we are focusing on our communication skills and adjusting to new routines and a new classroom.

We are continuing to develop lots of new skills and relationships with our peers and new adults in our class. Badgers are also going to be working on lots of life skills. We have been following a pirate theme and this week during our art and sensory play sessions, we have made a class pirate ship! We used PECs skills and communication boards to ask for paints and other resources.





Priory School Reception Open Day

September 2024 Intake

Monday 16th October 2023

3.45pm–4.30pm

Please confirm attendance via the link
<https://forms.office.com/e/aJZKXCTyhJ>

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Tel: 01628 600300
www.prioryschool.co.uk

PLACES
AVAILABLE FOR
SEPTEMBER 2024





Priory Friends News



Priory Friends on Facebook

www.facebook.com/prioryfriends



We would desperately like to encourage new members. We are looking to the future. If we don't start getting parents involved to create the ongoing success that we have had over the years in raising money for the school, then sadly it's not looking good. Fresh people bring fresh ideas, which would be great!

Congratulations to Bree in Year 5 who was the winner of the Priory Friends Logo Competition!



Extended Care Provision



Just a reminder that the new Extended Care provision is now in operation. The company is called In-to-Care, if you want further information please [Click Here](#)