

ISSUE 12

PRIORY SCHOOL NEWS

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Headteacher's News

Dear parents and carers,

This week at Priory has been filled with moments that have truly showcased the joy, talent and togetherness of our school community. From music that filled the hall to festive celebrations in the church, we have watched our children shine in so many ways. As we head further into December, the school is feeling wonderfully alive with learning, performance and community spirit.

On Monday, we had the extraordinary privilege of welcoming musicians from the Orpheus Sinfonia to Priory. Every child in the school was able to watch and experience a live orchestra – a truly unforgettable opportunity. We are incredibly grateful to the Windsor Festival and to the High Sheriff of Berkshire, whose generosity funded this event. To have such talented musicians perform for our pupils, and to have the High Sheriff join us in person, made the experience even more special for our whole community.

Our school choir took part in the St Peter's Church Christmas Concert this week and sang beautifully. We are used to hearing our children sing in harmony, but what made this performance extra special was the way it was led.

Because Mrs Shaw was accompanying the choir on the piano, Isaac Lampard stepped forward to conduct. He led the choir with such confidence and musical understanding that the children were able to perform in two-part harmony under his direction – a remarkable achievement for a primary-aged group.

A big thank you to Mrs Shaw for preparing the choir so wonderfully, and a special well done to Isaac for his exceptional leadership.

Parking Reminder

We need to remind all parents and carers that parking around the school, particularly on Meadway, must be carried out safely, legally and with consideration for our neighbours. Parking on

both sides of the road at drop-off and collection times is causing significant disruption for residents, who are often unable to enter or leave their homes due to the volume and positioning of cars. This is not acceptable, and we are asking all parents to take responsibility for ensuring pavements, corners, junctions and driveways remain clear at all times. We rely on our whole community to behave respectfully, and we need everyone's cooperation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both our families and our neighbours.

Thank you to those who continue to park thoughtfully – it makes a real difference.

As you read this, we will have already enjoyed our Christmas Fayre, and I want to thank everyone who came along to support the event and help make it such a joyful start to the festive season. Next week promises to be just as magical, with the reindeer visiting Priory and the first of our Christmas performances taking place. It is such a special time of year in school, and we are very much looking forward to sharing these moments with you and celebrating everything our wonderful children have achieved.

Important dates:

Click here to link to the school calendar
Click here to see term dates for 2025-2026

Leaflets and letters:

Please <u>click here</u> to go to our leaflets page on the website and choose external providers

Signs of the week:

No SOTW this week

Peek at the Week Nursery– 5th December 2025

Nursery Christmas Singalong

Please join your children for a 'Christmas singalong session'.

Friday 12th December

11am (morning children)

2:45pm (afternoon / all day children)



Thank you to all our families for joining us for our Learning Together session this week.



Learning

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This week we have been focusing on turn taking; 'my turn, your turn'. We have been playing lots of turn taking games such as 'Popping Pirate'.



When we have been outside, we have been using a sand timer to help us wait for our turn.

Communication & Language Development

As we have been decorating our Christmas tree in class we have been using positional language to describe where we have put each decoration. We have been using these words: 'above, below, on top of, next to, in front of and behind'.



Physical Development

We have started to make Christmas decorations. We have been using our fine motor skills for cutting and



sticking. We have had lots of fun pinching coloured glitter to then sprinkle onto our decorations.



Child of the week: Zoya for being more confident in talking with her friends and teachers this week and exploring all areas of the class.

Nurseru rhume of the week: 'Christmas Pudding, Christmas Pudding'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkAqDv6PPdQ

Please share with your child.



Next Week's Word of the Week: 'singing'

Contact us: nursery@prioryschool.com



Peek at the Week Reception – 5th December 2025



Important Dates / Reminders

Friday 5th December 2025 - Priory Christmas Fayre

15th December 2025- Dress rehearsal: Children may bring their own clothes to wear for the Christmas rehearsal and performance.

16th December 2025- Christmas performance starting at **2pm.**

17th December 2025- Christmas lunch.

End of term 2-19th December 2025 at 1:30pm

PE – Every Thursday – Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit.

We will be sending reading books home every Wednesday. Please makes sure your child brings back the previously read book and reading journal every Wednesday.

Please note that the 'orange' lunch option is not available for the children in reception.

Homework

- Please read with your child for at least 15 minutes a day.
- Focus core math skill: Comparing and combining 4 sided shapes – we will be using the vocabulary: 4 sides, 4 corners, 4 equal sides, long side, short side, compare.

Please can you ensure your child comes to school with a rain coat or jacket as we will be continuing our busy learning outside. Please can we ask that your child brings in a named water bottle every day. Additionally can we ask all school uniform is named.

Thank you for your support!

Our Learning - This week:

Communication and Language Development:



This week, we continued with our Little Wandle Phonics Program! The children have been revisiting the sounds **h**, **b**, **f**, **l**, and are learning how to blend the sound together to confidently read words.

In drawing club this week we have continued reading the story 'Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children have enjoyed looking at all the different characters and where the story is set. They then thought about how they change the story and re-tell it their way!



Maths:

The children in Reception have been learning about four-sided shapes in maths. They have been exploring where these shapes appear in their environment and have been identifying the similarities between different four-sided shapes.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Children in Reception have been learning about children's rights in PSHE. They are beginning to understand that everyone has the right to learn, play, share, and be treated with kindness.





R Paddington: Alayna R Rupert: Joshua

Reception song of the week: We wish you a merry Christmas.

Contact us: reception@prioryschool.com





Peek at the Week Year 1 - 05/12/25

Important Dates / Reminders

- Year 1 Nativity Monday 15th December, 2pm.
- Please send in a Nativity costume as soon as possible! Speak to your class teacher if you have any questions.
- Friday 19th December last day of term.



Our Learning

This week in Phonics, we have finished Autumn 2 of the Little Wandle programme. The children have been working hard to learn all our new alternate sounds, and next week we will be assessing their phonics knowledge. A reminder to continue to check your child's reading record each week, and note down when you have read together at home.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of addition and subtraction. We have been exploring a variety of methods to subtract – counting backwards, part-whole models and using a number line.

In English, we have been reading Jesus
Christmas Party. The children have found
this retelling of the Christmas story very
entertaining, especially the poor Innkeeper
who is constantly woken up! We have been
practicing hard for our own Nativity, and
can't wait to perform it to you all next week.

Star of the Week

1 Jeffers: Eimaan

1 Donaldson: Rajwa



Words of the Week: Nativity Creation Shepherd

Contact us: year1@prioryschool.com



Peek at the Week Year 2 – 5th December 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

19.12.25 Last day of term

17.12.25 Christmas lunch



Please read with and to your child every day and discuss what you are reading. Once the children have used their phonics to decode the words in the book, please re-read the book several times over the week to help them build up their pace and fluency.

Spellings are sent home on Fridays with a spelling quiz the following Friday. Please practice writing these spellings daily if possible.

Please send your child in the correct PE uniform on **Wednesdays**.

Please send your child in with a coat or waterproof jacket as they will be outside in the garden daily.

Any counting back in ones you can do with your children will help them a lot when we subtract by counting back on our fingers or using a blank number line. This can be done verbally whilst out walking, on a car journey or around the home. They love to add actions too!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	q	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Our Learning

This week, we have finished our maths unit on addition and have started looking at subtraction. We used counters to represent the big number then took some away (to represent the small number) and counted how many were left. In English, we wrote up our postcards from Anna Hibiscus and started thinking about descriptive phrases to describe what Anna can see and hear in the city, ready for our poems next week.



In the garden, we loved our winter small world. We also enjoyed writing our own postcards and posting them to animals in the north pole!





Next week, we will be having a visitor from a local church, come and talk to us about the Christian Christmas story. This will complement our RE lessons where we will be learning about

and reflecting on the Christmas story and why Christians celebrate Jesus' birth.

In maths, we will continue with subtraction, drawing dots for the big number and then crossing some out (to represent the smaller number) as well as counting back in 1s on our fingers and on a blank number line.



Peek at the Week Year 3— 5th December 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

08:12:25 Reindeer Visit

11.12.25 3 Seacole-Swimming lessons

17.12.25 Christmas Lunch

18.12.25 Class Christmas Party

22.12.25- 02.01.26 Christmas Holidays

05.01.26 INSET Day

HOMEWORK

Please encourage your child to read for at least 15 minutes every day and to record this in their reading record. You can access the children's online library by following this link:

https://www.collinshub.co.uk/login/

Please also spend 10-15 minutes a day on TTRS to practise times tables:

https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student

Don't forget that your child needs to wear the correct PE uniform to school each **Monday**.



Our Learning

This week, we started the week by watching an orchestra play some Christmas songs. In English, we planned our own non

chronological report about tortoises. In Maths, we continued to focus on strategies for multiplication.



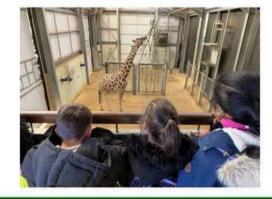
Next week, we will have the opportunity to see the reindeers who are visiting our school and find out more about these amazing animals.

In English, we will be writing our non chronological reports about tortoises.

In Maths, we will continue to focus on strategies for multiplication and division.

In our DT lessons, we are going to be learning sewing skills by creating a seasonal decoration.

Check out the Year 3 class page on the school website to see more photos from our trip to Whipsnade Zoo. www.prioryschool.co.uk/year-3



Word of the Week: strange

Follow this link to find more super daily activities: www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year3@prioryschool.com



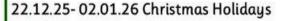
Peek at the Week Year 4– 5th December 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

08.12.25 Reindeer Visit

17.12.25 Christmas Lunch

18.12.25 Class Christmas Party



05.01.26 INSET Day

HOMEWORK

Please encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes every day and to record this in their reading record. You can access the children's online library by following this link:

https://www.collinshub.co.uk/login/

Please also spend 10-15 minutes a day on TTRS to practise times tables:

https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student

Don't forget that your child needs to wear the correct PE uniformto school each **Wednesday**.

Only fruit is allowed for a break time snack.

Word of the Week: strange

Follow this link to find more super daily activities: www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year4@prioryschool.com

Tel: 01628 600300

Our Learning

This week, we have been learning more about the Buddhist faith in our RE lessons.

On Monday, we had the opportunity to watch an orchestra perform Christmas songs . Year 4 then took part in a workshop where we were able to have a closer look at some of the instruments that we had seen perform.



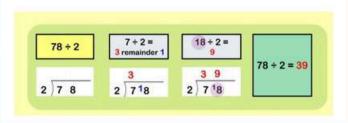


In English, we wrote newspaper reports based on the moment when Charlotte first creates a web to save Wilbur. In Maths, we have been learning strategies to calculate short multiplication problems.

Next week, our RE lessons will focus on how Christmas is an important religious festival for Christians. As part of our learning we will be using oranges to make Christingles.

On Monday, we will have the opportunity to see the reindeers that are visiting the school and find out more about these amazing animals.

In Maths, we will be working on strategies for short division. This is an area of Maths where our knowledge of times tables will really help us.





Year 5 Peek at the Week 5th December 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

Tuesdays: Wear the correct PE uniform to school. Please bring in a water bottle.

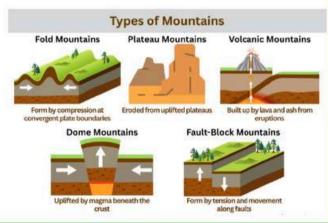
Christmas Lunch - 17th December

Christmas Class Parties - 18th December

End of Term Finish - Friday 19th December, 1:30pm

This week we explored mountains and earthquakes!





Our Learning

This week, we continued exploring Vector Drawings in ICT and Mountains, Earthquakes and Volcanoes in geography. We even used Lego, ryvetas and shaving foam to recreate earthquakes!

In maths, this week we continued our topic of fractions, but focused on mixed numbers and improper fractions. We compared, converted and ordered these to extend our learning.

In English, we researched a topic for our speech on a societal issue such as homelessness, climate change or the right to education. We will then be writing our speech independently, using planned success criteria to structure our ideas.

In PSHRE, we continued to look at cultural differences within the classroom and how we should be celebrating these differences rather than allowing them to cause conflict.

Next week, we begin our DT unit and learn a range of stitches to join and decorate fabric in order to make a Christmas stocking.

In maths, we will be adding and subtracting fraction that are less than 1 and greater than 1.

We will also write a blog in Geography where the children will talk about the impact of a tsunami.

Star of the week

5Dawe: Mia.N 5Maple: Mannat 5Ofili: Dua

Word of the Week: correspond

Remember to read 3 times a week and practise your timetables on Rockstar Maths.

Contact us: year5@prioryschool.com



Year 6 Peek at the Week

Friday 5th December 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

17.12.25: Christmas Lunch/ Christmas parties

19.12.25: Christmas Holidays

Thursdays: Wear the correct PE uniform to school. Please bring in a water bottle.

Thursdays: Spelling quiz. Homework due:

- Reading record x3
- Spellings x1
- Times tables practice on TTRS

Cippenham Baptist Church Visit:



Our Learning

This week, in RE, we attended Cippenham Baptist Church and learnt more about the Christmas Story. We also had the chance to create our own Christmas stars!

In English, we explored the story of Macbeth through an interactive workshop and put ourselves in the role of the characters.

In maths, we continued to explore fractions, learning about fractions of an amount and finding the whole.

Next week, in **history**, we wrote a news report about the trial of King Charles I. We also explored the impact of the British Empire and discussed its pros and cons.

In English, we will explore more of Macbeth in detail, learning how to emphathise with the characters. We will also begin to look at the poem *Double, Double Toil and Trouble.*

In maths, we will start a new topic on measurement. We will enjoy a practical lesson on measurement and focus on converting metric measures.

PSHRE Focus: Celebrating Difference. In PSHRE this term, we will learn to accept that everyone is different and understand that there are different perceptions of 'normal'. By the end of the unit, we will know how to help someone who is being bullied and explain ways in which one person or a group can have power over others. We will learn the importance of using kind words by appreciating people for who they are.



Child of the week:

6 Attenborough: Daniyal 6 Anning: Luca 6 Darwin: Ibrahim

Word of the Week: disastrous

Follow this link to find more super daily activities: www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year6@prioryschool.com 01628 600300



The Orchard–Peek of the Term

Week commencing: 01/12/2025

Important Dates

TVAP- Pear class-Wednesday. Please bring pack lunch.

Swimming- Apple class-Friday. Please bring in swimwear and a towel

Community trip- Plum class-Monday - Please bring in £2

Our Learning

In Maths, the children have been exploring how to order numbers, using a range of practical resources to support their understanding.

Berries focused on developing their ability to double and halve numbers and quantities up to 20.

In English, the children enjoyed building a tent using coloured tiles and then shining a torch inside to create shadows on the wall. This activity linked to our class book *Mrs Owl's Forest School*, helping the children make connections between the story and their own imaginative play.

We had a wonderful time welcoming our parents and guardians to join us for our Learning Together sessions. Their involvement made the experience special, and the children greatly enjoyed sharing their activities and learning with them.









Makaton sign:







Star of the week





PRIORY SPORTS NEWS

THIS BOY CAN DANCE TOO



LAST FRIDAY, MISS MILLER AND MR. T HAD THE PLEASURE OF TAKING A GROUP OF OUR TALENTED DANCE STUDENTS TO CREATE ACADEMY FOR A SPECIAL DANCE WORKSHOP. THE BOYS TRAINED ALONGSIDE PROFESSIONAL DANCERS, LEARNING NEW SKILLS, REFINING THEIR TECHNIQUE, AND EXPERIENCING WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WORK IN A PROFESSIONAL DANCE ENVIRONMENT.



PRIORY GIRLS NETBALL SUCCESS

ON MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL, THE GIRLS' NETBALL TEAM STEPPED ONTO THE COURT TO TAKE ON WESTERN HOUSE IN AN EXCITING SLOUGH LEAGUE GAME HOSTED AT PRIORY. THE TEAM DEMONSTRATED EXCEPTIONAL PASSING, MOVEMENT, AND ATTACKING SKILLS, SCORING 13 UNANSWERED GOALS IN A DOMINANT PERFORMANCE.

IT WAS FANTASTIC TO HAVE SO MANY PARENTS ON THE SIDELINES CHEERING THE GIRLS ON –
YOUR SUPPORT MADE THE ATMOSPHERE EVEN MORE SPECIAL.
WELL DONE TO THE WHOLE TEAM ON A BRILLIANT RESULT!





INCLUSION FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 3rd December, some of our awesome Orchard students travelled to Braywick Leisure Centre to take part in an exciting Inclusion Festival. This fantastic event was a true celebration of inclusion, giving pupils of all abilities the chance to shine, participate, and enjoy new experiences together.

Our amazing students took part in a wide range of activities, including rugby, football, kurling, boccia, bowls, frisbee, and many other fun games. They represented the school brilliantly, showing great enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the day.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for embracing the spirit of inclusion and giving their very best.







Music News

Musical Monday!

This Monday, we were so lucky to be visited by a fabulous string quartet, comprising musicians from the Orpheus Sinfonia orchestra. They performed two amazing 30 minute concert of festive music, reaching our whole school community, introducing us to the violins, viola and cello. Our host Rosie explained that music is so amazing it can change the way you feel! It can help you travel through time: hearing music in exactly the same way as people would have heard it 400 years ago, and it can take you around the world: we don't need language with words to understand music created anywhere at all around the globe.

We also heard the story of how music brought a brief stop to the fighting at Christmas during WW1, as soldiers sang the song Silent Night together across the trenches. Our concert ended with Rosie introducing some of the most important "ingredients" of music itself: instruments (including our voices), sound, beat, rhythm (long and short notes) and pitch (high and low notes), all through the very popular tune to Jingle Bells, which the children joined in with enthusiastically!

Year 4 had another extra special treat, being invited to visit the music "petting zoo". Rosie was delighted that Y4 were so "brilliantly inquisitive" in this workshop, where they had the opportunity to try out a variety of instruments in small groups: the violin, the recorder, a mini clarinet and a pBuzz (a cross between a trumpet and trombone!)

Here is what some of the children said about their musical experience:

I enjoyed the Snowman one because it was about Father Christmas and his reindeer, which I saw in my head while I was listening.

I liked the fact they were telling us the story of how music came about.

I loved how you could slide the trombone. It was so fun. I like playing the violin because it sounds really nice when you press the notes and move the bow.

I liked the clarinet. I enjoyed it very much because it was like a recorder but from back in the day.

The reason I liked the Ukrainian tune is because I've heard it before and I liked the way they used the instruments all at the same time, which made a beautiful sound.

Can you come back and do it again?!

We are so grateful to Windsor Festival and the High Sheriff of Berkshire for funding this incredible opportunity for our children. What a perfect way to begin the Christmas season!

If your child is in KS2 and has been inspired to take up lessons on a musical instrument, please look out for the letter coming home soon about instrumental lessons beginning after Christmas. These can be booked via Arbor. If you have any music-related questions, please do contact Mrs Shaw.



Achievements

Year 1 Donaldson - Celebrating Elissa Mamod!

We are incredibly proud of Elissa Mamod from Year 1 Donaldson, who took part in her very first gymnastics competition last weekend. Elissa approached the event with great enthusiasm, confidence, and a huge smile. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience and impressed everyone with her wonderful effort and positive attitude.

Her hard work paid off as she delivered a fantastic performance, earning two well-deserved awards. Well done, Elissa! Your school community is cheering you on, and we can't wait to see what you achieve next.





The season to shine with Slough Libraries

Follow the trail of the magical comet to a sparkling line-up of free family activities in libraries this December.

The Curve

The Comet story time

Saturday 6 December, 11-11.30am. A special edition story time, featuring the magical story of The Comet.

Caroline's comets

Saturday 13 December, 2-4pm. Join Museums
Partnership Reading to explore Slough's comet-connected
history. Celebrate the achievements of Caroline
Herschel, discoverer of 8 comets, who looked to the
skies over Slough through a giant telescope. Create your
own comet to zoom around your room, along with other
space related activities. Drop in. Age 5+

LEGO® Build to Give

Tuesday 16 December, 4-5pm. Children can give the gift of kindness by building a LEGO* heart and for each one made, LEGO* will donate a gift to a child in need. Drop-in. Age 5+

Papercraft

Saturday 20 December, 3-4pm. Transform your paper into dragon claws or a Christmas wreath. Drop in. Age 4+

Do you want to make a snowman?

Monday 22 December, 2-3pm. Turn paper plates into a friendly snowman who never melts! Drop in. Age 3+

Regular drop in events

LEGO* (for age 5+) Tuesdays, 4-5pm Chess (all ages) Saturdays, 11.30am-12.30pm

Borrow up to 30 books with your library membership and take the magic of stories home. Access thousands of books, magazines and newspapers digitally, through our

e-reading services, so you can always have something to read without venturing out in the cold.

Ask staff for details or visit

www.slough.gov.uk/libraries

Parents/carers should stay on site. Please note the age guidance for each activity.

Cippenham Library

Pop-up play featuring The Comet story time

Saturday 6 December, 11am-12noon. Enjoy a magical tale, then stay to play. Board games and puzzles available after your story.

Caroline's comets

Saturday 6 December, 1.30-3.30pm. Create your own comet and celebrate Slough's connection to space, with themed activities from Museums Partnership Reading. Drop in. Age 5+

Pop-up play

Saturday 13 December, 11am-12noon. A room full of puzzles and board games for an hour of family fun.

Do you want to make a snowman?

Tuesday 23 December, 2-3pm. Turn plain paper plates into a friendly snowman who never melts! Drop in. Age 3+

Britwell Library

Lynch Hill School choir

Friday 19 December, 4pm. Enjoy a selection of seasonal songs from the young singers of Lynch Hill School.

Langley Library

Caroline's comets

Monday 15 December, 3.15-4.30pm. Create your own comet and celebrate Slough's connection to space, with themed activities from Museums Partnership Reading. Drop in. Age 5+

Jingle bell pots

Tuesday 16 December, 3.30-4.30pm. Turn old pots into festive bells that really jingle all the way! Add your own colourful touches to create a delightful decoration for your home. Drop in. Age 3+

More comet adventures await at The Curve Venue seasonal show The Comet. See curvevenue.uk for details. Please note: ticket charges apply for this production.









It's Christmas Eve in the North Pole and the Elves are making final preparations to Santa's sleigh before a crisis strikes! Santa's needs your help to resolve the problem before it is too late and Christmas is cancelled.

Will the children be able to help Santa save the day?

SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER 2025 2:30PM & 4PM

BURNHAM PARK HALL

WINDSOR LANE, BURNHAM, SL1 7HR

Tickets £5 adults / £10 under 16s (includes gift)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/burnhamparkhall

SCAN ME



