



The Priory Church of England Primary School

Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve

Wick Lane
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 1HX

Telephone (01202) 484105

Fax (01202) 488702

Email: office@prioryceprimary.co.uk

Website: <https://prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk>

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Spring 1 - Friday 31st January 2025

- Headteacher update
 - Worship
- Gamechangers - Trick Box
 - Parent Workshops
 - FPS Disco
- Key Dates 2025 - 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE



This term, our focus is on Learn Priory so I thought I would start with an update from each class about what they are enjoying in their learning at the moment. Our Head Pupils have visited each class and found out some of what they are learning about this half term.

Acorns are learning about special clothes in RE. They have been thinking about the special clothes they wear, for example Football Shirts!

Class 1 are enjoying reading *Sally and the Limpet* and in RE are finding out more about the Jewish faith.

Class 2 have read *The Owl who was afraid of the Dark* and have written their own versions. Their RE is learning about the 10 Commandments.

Class 3 has been inspired by the short film clip *The Blue Umbrella*. In RE they are learning about Hindu traditions and their Gods.

Class 4 are reading special Bible verses that have significant meaning. Maths has been an exciting challenge, learning to draw line graphs.

Class 5 are learning about Lent which begins in March; they are thinking about temptation in their own lives. In English they have written their own stories based on the short film *The Piano*.

Class 6 have been looking at rites of passage in different faiths. In English they have written their own stories based on the graphic novel *Thornhill*.

Thank you to Thomas and Florence for the update.

WORSHIP



In worship we have been continuing to find out more about our spiritual and historical connection with Priory Church. Our school logo that we see on our jumpers, sweatshirts, book bags and letters is a reminder of something really special. The Christian cross and the salmon can also be seen on the weather vane at the top of Priory Church Tower. The salmon represents the historic tradition of presenting the Prior of the Church with the first salmon caught in the river at Christchurch at the start of the fishing season each year. This was a sign of love, respect and sacrifice.



This story from our own history here in Christchurch reminds us of the story from the Bible in Matthew, Chapter 12. The widow's offering of 2 coins inside the temple is witnessed by Jesus. Whilst Jesus saw many rich people put in large sums of money, this sacrifice is seen as greater in comparison. The two small copper coins were all she had - and yet she offered them to God.

We have been reflecting on both of these stories and thinking about times when we have made our own sacrifices as a sign of love.

GAMECHANGERS - TRICK BOX



We have been celebrating our Trick Box Ambassadors who are Gamechangers on our school playground. Trick Box is our mental health and wellbeing programme to help every child develop healthy habits and strategies. Trick Box helps children to....

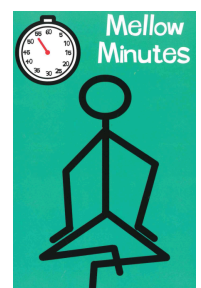


- Recognise and self manage emotions and develop effective coping mechanisms.
 - Develop mindful awareness and relaxation.
- Problem solve, develop perspective and solution thinking.
- Develop communication skills and interpersonal relationships.



Our Trick Box Ambassadors help at lunchtime by taking it in turns to provide kindness at the Trick Box Bench. This group of children are trained to use some of the key tricks to promote positive feelings and creativity. We use the trick card shown here called the **Sunny Side**. This trick is for times when something might have gone wrong but you turn it into a positive so you can feel good again. They have also used their creativity by promoting and inventing their own games. Their passion for Hopscotch has started a new school craze for this traditional game which is keeping everyone active at playtimes. I love all of their new modern twists on this game.

As a school we have also been using the **Mellow Minutes** card in our classrooms and at the start of Worship. A mellow minute allows our brains to slow down, refocus and reset. This is really useful when everything has got too busy and is a brilliant trick before bedtime. Just set yourself a minute timer and either close your eyes or focus on an object you can see; keep silent and practise breathing deeply. Just one minute of this will help you feel calmer and more relaxed. Try it and see.



PARENT WORKSHOPS



This term we are offering some workshops for parents on specific areas to help you best support your child. We have two planned events this half term:

Tuesday 4th February - All parents are welcome to attend our annual Online Safety Workshop 8:50 - 9:20am. This will be a short presentation from Mr McLean with useful updates and information for parents.

Tuesday 11th February - Year One Parents Phonic Workshop 8:50 - 9:40am This will include a short overview in the hall followed by a reading session with your child in their classroom.

We will be planning further workshops in the future to help keep parents informed about key aspects of learning and social/personal development.

FPS DISCO



Our next FPS Disco is being held on Thursday 13th February. More information will be shared with you directly from FPS about this event. FPS has made one small change which they hope will help things run more smoothly.

Children will need to bring their own water bottles (clearly named). The bottles will be placed in their class water bottle boxes when they arrive and children will have free access to them during the disco. Our parent volunteers will also be available to fill them up should they run out of water. The bottles will be distributed just before collection time to ensure they are returned.

We have also noticed that some children can easily overheat at the disco. It is recommended that children avoid wearing fancy dress costumes, especially those with tails and masks as these outfits are quite confined.

As per our normal practice, mobile phones are not permitted to be brought to the disco.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024-2025

Please find below our term dates for the academic year 2024 -2025. We hope that by publishing these dates in advance, families are able to plan in advance to avoid absences during term times.

Monday 6th January 2025	Term Starts
Tuesday 4th February	House Day - Quiz!!
Tuesday 4th February	Online Safety Workshop for parents 8:50am-9:20am
Tuesday 11th February	Year 1 Phonics Workshop 8:50am - 9:40am
Thursday 13th February	FPS Disco 4:30 - 5:30pm & 5:45-6:45pm
Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24th February 2025	INSET day

Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th February	Year 6 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 4th March	Pancake Races
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 19th March	Earth Day 2025
Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th March	Parents' Evening (Reception - Year5)
Monday 31st March	Easter Bonnet Parade 2:15pm Priory Church
Friday 4th April	Easter Service at Priory Church 9:45am
Friday 4th April 2025	Term Ends School Finishes at 1:15pm
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Term Starts
Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATS week
Monday 19th May - Friday 23rd May	Arts Week
Friday 23rd May	Soundstorm Music Performance
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2025	Half term
Monday 2nd June 2025	INSET Day
Thursday 12th June	Key Stage 1 Sports Day (am)
Friday 20th June	House Day celebration lunch
Thursday 26th June	Key Stage 2 Sports Day (pm)
Friday 27th June	Transition Day Year 6
Tuesday 8th - Friday 11th July	Year 6 Residential
Tuesday 15th July	Open Evening Parents
Thursday 17th July	International Firgun Day
Monday 21st July	Leavers' Service Priory Church 9:45am
Tuesday 22nd July 2025	Term Ends School Finishes at 1:15pm

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025-2026

Please find below our term dates for the academic year 2025 -2026. We hope that by publishing these dates in advance, families are able to plan in advance to avoid absences during term times.

Wednesday 3rd September 2025	INSET day
Thursday 4th September 2025	Autumn Term Starts
Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2025	Half Term

Monday 3rd November 2025	INSET day
Friday 19th December 2025	Autumn Term Ends School Finishes at 1:15pm
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET day
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Spring Term Starts
Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026	Half term
Monday 23rd February 2026	INSET day
Friday 27th March 2026	Spring Term Ends School Finishes at 1:15pm
Monday 13th April 2026	Summer Term Starts
Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026	Half Term
Monday 1st June 2026	INSET day
Wednesday 22nd July 2026	Summer Term Ends School Finishes at 1:15pm