



The Priory Church of England Primary School

Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve

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WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Spring 1 - Friday 14th February 2025

- Headteacher update
 - Worship
- Gamechangers
- House Quiz Day
- Key Dates 2025 - 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE



Over the course of this half term we have been inspired by the history of our school and our relationship with Priory Church. This has resulted in the children learning lots of new facts and information.

Our school logo of the salmon on the cross mirrors the weather vane on top of Priory Church tower and finding out about the origin of this symbol has been fascinating. We have discovered that way back in the Church's history, the first salmon of the season was presented to

the Prior of the church at the time. This mark of sacrifice is something we have celebrated and has helped us to think about how we can make small sacrifices of our own to show our love and friendship to others. So now when children and families look at the logo on their jumpers or cardigans or see the weather vane in the distance, they will be able to think about its significance and its wonderful history. I was also so touched to receive two special crosses made by two children in Class 2: Emily and Tobias.



From this we were delighted to discover that Evie in year 6 has a personal connection to the weather vane and golden salmon. Her great, great grandpa, William Peek, donated money towards the weather vane and therefore Evie's family has a very fond affection for our school logo.



Last week, Classes 1 - 6 visited Priory Church to learn about two key areas inside with a special meaning and history. Each class visited the Font, placed at the entrance of the church, where baptisms take place. They learnt about the special service for baptism and looked at some of the items used. The font, decorated with significant bible stories, generated much discussion from each class.

Further up the church, behind the altar, is the Great Quire. The alternative spelling of 'choir' intrigued us as did the wonderfully sculpted misericords seats which the Priory monks used hundreds of years ago during worship. At that time, Priory Church was a home to Augustinian monks who worshipped 6 times a day from very early in the morning till late in the evening. Having to stand for long periods was tiring but the misericords were a welcome perch.



We would like to say a very big thank you to both Father Charles and Harvey Gollins for organising and leading this special tour of Priory Church for our pupils.

From all this learning, one child has been inspired to make their own lego model of Priory Church. We were astounded by their creativity and attention to detail to produce such a realistic model which included the very important salmon weather vane on top of the tower. A huge well done to Barnaby, who had a little help from his brother Elliott.



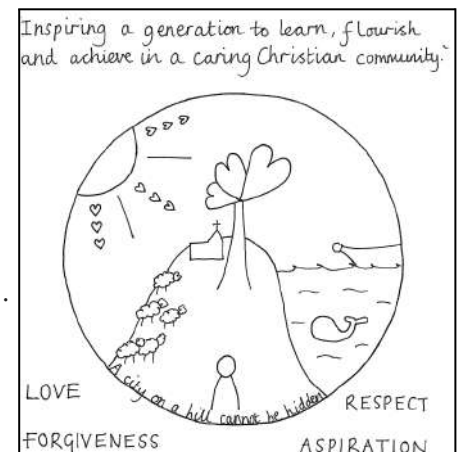
WORSHIP



Continuing with the theme of fish, we looked again at our vision picture and the significance of the boat in the image.

We retold the story of the Miraculous Catch from Luke, Chapter 5. The story is of a time when Jesus asked a very tired and weary Peter to cast his fishing net again, despite having fished all night long with nothing to show for his toil and labour. Peter obeyed and was shocked to discover that his net was filled. Weighed down with thousands of fish, they returned to shore.

We reflected that we can have aspiration and hope for things that seem difficult or impossible. Just like Peter listened to Jesus' words, we can listen to our families, teachers and friends who might be able to help us achieve our goals.



GAMECHANGERS



We celebrated our Priory Church Gamechangers, Barnaby and Evie, alongside brother and sister Millie and Sebby. Millie and Sebby whilst out walking on the beach were sad to discover a leftover balloon and other items on the beach. They sacrificed their time to clear the beach of the debris to ensure the safety of both humans and sea creatures.

Halle in Class 1 has been letting her light shine by using her creative skills to make a beautiful bird with moving wings. She has demonstrated attention to detail and perseverance; well done Halle.



Annabelle in year 6 was also recognised for her aim to inspire everyone as readers as well as support our local charity Julia's House. You will have received a letter from me last Friday explaining some upcoming fundraising events. Annabelle's Pyjamarama, taking place on World Book Day (Thursday 6th March) I am sure will be a huge hit and we are looking forward to welcoming children back to school for a night time read.

We also had a special visit today from football legend, Bob Wilson. Bob, a local resident of Christchurch, was selected as a Gamechanger because of his commitment to his profession and the resilience he has demonstrated throughout his football and television career. The children prepared brilliant questions for him to answer and through our Q&A we were inspired by his most significant moments in his life. We would like to thank the Robinson family for finding us such a fantastic Gamechanger and to Bob himself for giving up his time to share his experiences with our school community.



HOUSE QUIZ DAY



Our first House Quiz Day was also a great success last week. The House Captains started the day with some questions to answer on the gate as children arrived at school.

Which was the first sport to be played on the moon? (Golf)
Which year did England last win the World Cup? (1966)
A guitar has 6 strings - true or false? (True)

This was followed by a Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 quiz in House teams. There were two rounds: general knowledge and a picture round. The children demonstrated super collaboration, integrity and resilience to give their very best.

At the end of the day, we all got together, with nominated players from each House taking part in our final heat. After 10 tricky questions, two houses tied and it came down to the Sudden Death Question.

In which country will you find the Taj Mahal? (India)

Winchester came in first with the correct answer, meaning that they are the Quiz Champions for 2025.

Thank you to all the House Captains for helping to organise and lead this day - it was great fun!



CHRISTCHURCH FOOD BANK



The Christchurch Foodbank, who we work closely with and support, has asked if any families would be able to make a donation of items they are running low on.

Custard, UHT milk and tinned carrots

If you are able to donate one of some of these items, please drop them into the school office and we will arrange for them to be collected.

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
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 1st 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