



The Priory Church of England Primary School

Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve

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WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Spring 1 - Friday 17th January 2025

- Learn Priory
 - Worship
 - Gamechangers
- Twynham Admissions Policy Consultation
 - Attendance and Uniform
 - Staffing Updates
 - Key Dates 2025 - 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE



I wanted to start by saying again what a fantastic start to the term the children have made. They led a wonderful Epiphany Service for us last Friday at Priory Church and their attitude and behaviour was outstanding.

I would also like to congratulate our two Head Pupils for the Spring Term; their commitment to learning and aspirations in the classroom and beyond is a fantastic inspiration to others.



This term we will be focusing on Learn Priory and growing our brains through our super effort and learning in the classroom. We have also planned some special events which we hope will inspire the children as learners.

I started by sharing with the children a school Log Book from 1954. The extract from 6th January 1954 can be seen below alongside our own log written last Friday as well as two photos, one from 1954 and one of the current year 2025. We will be finding out more facts about both Priory School and Priory Church during this term. If you have any historical facts, photos or know of anyone who attended the school in the past who would be able to share their memories, please do let me know.

Other learning challenges we have planned this term are as follows:

- Big Garden Birdwatch (further details below)
- Salisbury House Day Quiz (Tuesday 4th February)
- Mindful, Move and Make Clubs - new clubs on offer this term to develop our skills
- Safer Internet Day (Tuesday 11th February)
- World Book Day (Thursday 6th March)



TWYNHAM ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION

Further to my email last week regarding the consultation of Twynham's Admissions Policy 2026-2027, I would like to remind you that any comments or objections must be submitted by **Friday 24th January 2025**. The proposed policy affects pupils in year 5 and below and I would therefore strongly encourage parents of children in these year groups to carefully read the information and complete a submission. The proposed policy, specifically the over-subscription criteria, affects Priory pupils as they will now be categorised below the other feeder schools.

Since last week, I am aware that many parents have already completed this process and submitted objections. Every completed submission counts and will be taken into account. Our sense of community is our greatest strength and therefore our collective effort regarding this change of policy will make a significant difference to the future learning journey of Priory pupils and will ensure Priory, as a Christchurch school, continues to thrive.

This week, I have met with the Diocese to seek their advice regarding this consultation as well as discussing this with the Governing Body of the school. They will both be submitting a response alongside my own objecting to the proposed changes.

Comments or objections can be submitted directly to the consulting school(s) or by email to school.admissions@bcpcouncil.gov.uk - any comments sent to the local authority will be forwarded to the relevant school.



ATTENDANCE AND UNIFORM

Part of our working partnership with parents, and following the Statutory Guidance from the DfE, it is our practice to regularly share attendance data with parents. This week, you will receive your child's attendance data for this current academic year. Miss Field continues as our Attendance Champion for the 2024-2025 academic year. She is available, weekly, on Tuesdays to discuss your child's attendance or provide support. This means that she will also reach out to you if your child's attendance begins to drop. Please be assured these conversations are supportive and aimed at understanding individual circumstances in your child's best interest.

Priory pupils always take great pride in their appearance and we would like to thank families for supporting our uniform policy. As a reminder for the start of the new year, please can we ask that all nail varnish and/or bracelets are removed by Monday.

With regards to jewellery, a watch is permitted to be worn but must be removed for PE. Likewise, our policy states plain gold/silver studs (no larger than 5mm) are permitted for those children who have pierced ears, however during P.E. and swimming even these will need to be removed. On occasion, where a child's ears are still healing, children are allowed to cover their earrings with tape and the class teacher will assess whether they can fully (or partially) participate in the activity.

Thank you for your continued support in both of these areas.



STAFFING UPDATES

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Ward, Acorns Teaching Assistant, at the end of January. Mrs Ward has worked at Priory School since 2020 and having had her own children go through the school, she is a big part of the Priory family. We would like to thank Mrs Ward for her hard work, kindness, humour and warmth. She has helped so many children make a fantastic start to their learning journey at Priory School. We wish her the best of luck with her new role at St Peter's Secondary School. We will keep you updated once we have completed the recruitment process and have appointed a new Teaching Assistant.

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.

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| 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) |
| Friday 28th March | Easter Bonnet Parade TBC |
| 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 |

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| 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.

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| 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 |