

The Priory School Newsletter

Spring Term - Issue 4
Monday 9th March

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

The **Grand Science Exhibition** was a fantastic way to celebrate this year's home learning projects. It genuinely felt inspirational to see all the creativity and scientific enquiry on show!

Having so many of you as guests at Friday's open event, gave the children the opportunity to talk about what they had done. This is such an important part of the learning process as it will help them to remember the knowledge and skills they have gained.

Mr Swain, our Science Co-ordinator, would like to thank you for your support and has written a special Science newsletter (attached). All the staff were so impressed by the quality and variety of presentations and experiments, even if the school now smells permanently of vinegar and baking soda. Please note that volcanic eruptions will be outside in future!

Over the next few days class blog pages will be updated with photos of the exhibition.

Mr Ruffle



Lent Preparations

Once again Pancake races were held on Shrove Tuesday and Father Jonathan led us in a special Ash Wednesday act of worship. Our altar cloth has changed to purple to remind ourselves that this is a time of preparation for Easter.

We have taken up the 40 day 'generosity' challenge (<https://40acts.org.uk/>). Each day the children are set a challenge to complete a random act of kindness, such as picking up a piece of litter or writing a surprise thank you note. Ask the children at home how they are getting on.

Worship Theme - Dignity

At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' Luke 14 v17

In our worship this week we introduced our half-term value of dignity. Mr Jewell retold the Parable of the Heavenly Banquet, reminding the children that God values all people whether or not they are 'Posh, Pretty or Popular'. In the Parable the party host ended up inviting the poor, the blind and the lame - the invitation to enjoy the feast was offered to everyone.

The children were challenged to treat everyone in our school community with the dignity they deserved. There are to be no outsiders here.



Global Neighbours Macmillan Caring Locally - Cake Sale

Thank you so much to Jemima McEwan plus Emma, Lola-May, Lola, Bella and Orla for putting on an amazing cake sale during our Science Exhibition. A number of things really impressed me.

First of all this effort was instigated by the children themselves, especially Jemima. They were so organised, even using plastic gloves to serve. Jemima went with her mum afterwards to a local care home to deliver the left-over cakes.

Secondly, I was so encouraged by how the rest of the school community supported this idea. We had dozens of cakes and boxes of cookies brought in by children from across the school.

I am delighted to announce that over £150 was raised for our local Macmillan unit. Thank you!



Sports News

The Christchurch Netball Tournament went ahead on Tuesday despite the stormy weather conditions (hence no photo). Miss Webber was delighted with the effort of the team. Despite losing the first 2 matches, the team came back to win their remaining fixtures and finish in 3rd place overall. Well done!

Special mention also needs to go to Oliver Driver in Class 5, after his act of kindness in helping a small child on some play equipment during a special outdoor learning event at Moors Valley. He was commended by a number of watching adults and we are so proud he was wearing Priory School uniform.

World Book Day Sharing a Million Stories

Staff and children pulled out all the stops this year for our 'Heroes and Villains' themed World Book Day. In the morning we all enjoyed listening to M Rosen's poem 'Big Book of Bad Things' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXD00kONlqo>). Mr Swain and Mrs Miller also read extracts from their favourite Roald Dahl stories.

In the afternoon we were delighted that Mr Nolan (dad to Alfie, Evie and Lola-May) was able to join us and share one of his own stories with the children.

Don't forget that each child received a World Book day voucher which can be used to get a £1 discount off any children's book or a free book from a selected list.

We really recommend the World Book Day website for ideas and resources. It also contains the full list of available free book titles, including Matt Haig's 'Evie in the Jungle'. Don't tell Mr Croutear.
<https://www.worldbookday.com/>





School Crossing

The children have been using the new zebra crossing really carefully and drivers, on the whole, have been respectful. Please remember to wait at the edge of the crossing until all traffic stops before attempting to cross.

A number of parents have commented to me how the road signage has not yet been updated by the Council to warn drivers of an 'uncontrolled' crossing. Concern has also been shared about the temporary nature of the lights. As soon as I have received an update from the Council regarding these issues, I will pass it on.



Coronavirus Additional Precautionary Measure

All parents have been advised by letter of the additional precautionary measures the school is taking to reduce the risk of infection. The children have been very sensible and have responded well to the new procedures, especially use of the hand sanitiser.

The school will continue to follow guidance issued by Public Health England and the Department of Education.

Updates on COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>



Online Safety Update Tik Tok

At my safeguarding update this week, I was further informed about the risks to children when using a number of online apps. One of these was Tik Tok, which I am aware that several of our children use out of school.

Tik Tok is a social media platform allowing users to create and share videos. It was formally known as Musical.ly. It is popular among young children as they like to create lip sync and dance videos to their favourite music. The danger is that these can be recorded and shared publicly or streamed live in real time to strangers. Other users can then directly message those in the videos either privately or in a live chat while they are performing. Sadly, the police informed me that many online groomers use this site.

According to Tik Tok, the minimum age is 13 though they have no controls in place to check users. CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) rates it at 16+. Please check what apps your children are using at home and ensure that they are using them appropriately and safely. Further helpful information has been published by National Online Safety here:

<https://2j39y52a62gm1afygb3glxbuwpengetna-ssl.com/wpcontent/uploads/2019/03/TikTok-Online-SafetyGuide-March-2019-1.pdf>





Sports Relief – Reminder Friday 13th March

Friday 13th March sees the return of Sports Relief to the Priory School. All children are allowed to wear their sports kit (e.g. football, gymnastics or school PE kit) in return for a small donation to Sports Relief.

Our normal Celebration worship will be replaced by an all action assembly outside (weather permitting).



Class 4 Nothe Fort Trip

On Monday 2nd March Class 4 had their evacuee experience to Nothe Fort in Weymouth. Thank you for all the amazing 1940's costumes and to the volunteers who attended.



Staff Update Maternity cover in Class 4

Mrs Miller's last day in school, before starting her maternity leave, will be on **Friday 3rd April**. During the Summer term Class 4 will be taught by Miss Kelly, herself returning from maternity leave, on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Kelly for the rest of the week.

Premises Update

Sustainability Action

Over February half-term, the school spent some of its capital budget on changing the remaining light bulbs to more energy efficient LED ones and replacing paper towels with hand dryers.

Maintenance Action

A new carpet has been installed in Class 2 and the flooring in Class 4 toilets improved. Both the rainbow room and hall have been decluttered. The intention is to turn the rainbow room into a designated music space.

New Astro pitch

The current astro pitch is 10 years old and is an essential play area, in constant use. Unfortunately there has been a marked deterioration in the playing surface as a result of the recent heavy rains. Ideally we would love to replace this with a MUGA, but we need to take immediate action to relevel the pitch and resurface.



We are extremely grateful to Redcliffe Gardeners, the original installers, who are able to provide an affordable (and discounted) artificial grass solution which will be installed over the Easter holidays.

Parent Questionnaire Anti-bullying Response

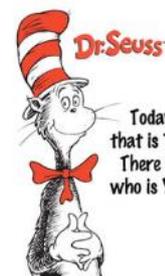
The school received 5 completed questionnaires. All of these suggested ways in which the school could improve its response to bullying allegations. These comments have been taken on board by the Senior Leadership Team as we aim to get better in this area.

Thank you for your feedback.

'Learner Centred' Consultations

Our new style mid-year Parents Evening starts tonight, with the child at the centre of the discussion and present to hear what is being said.

I have ordered a vast quantity of learning hero certificates and am looking forward to celebrating the achievements of every child.



Today you are **YOU**,
that is **TRUER** than true.
There is **NO ONE** alive
who is **YOUER** than **YOU!**



New Milton Music Festival Saturday 14th March

A reminder that next weekend, many of our musicians are involved in the New Milton Music Festival under the guidance of Mrs Moss.

Our winning Ukulele groups are defending their trophy and we also have our choirs and individual instrumentalists involved.

The rest of the school will get to enjoy their performances during the Gala concerts in the last week of term.



Tree and Time Capsule Planting Friday 20th March

Daniel Woodhead in Class 2 wrote a letter requesting that the school participate in BCP's Plant a Tree project. This would also prevent a tree in the rainforest from being cut down. The Council were so impressed by Daniel's letter, that they have decided to plant a new Hornbeam tree on a school site - on Friday 20th March at 9.30am.

We have decided to plant our 150th anniversary time capsule at the same time. The Eco Committee and School Council are busy writing their hopes for the future, which will be sealed in the capsule.



Hot School Meal Ordering

We have noticed that a number of the children are bringing packed lunches from home but also have a hot meal ordered via <https://www.scopay.com/>.

If your child is bringing a packed lunch from home on a particular day, please ensure you leave that day **BLANK** on scopay.com or advise the School Office of this last minute change.



We have also noticed an increase in the number of children who do not have a meal booked or have a lunch with them, from home. **A hot meal cannot be guaranteed on the day, unless it is pre-booked.** If your child come to us without a meal, the School Office will phone to ask you to bring in a packed lunch for them. If this is not possible, your child may have to wait until the end of the sitting to see what food is available. This can cause distress to the child and it also means they miss out on sitting with their friends at lunchtime. **Please ensure you check your online account on a regular basis to make sure you have ordered meals for your child(ren).** Thank you for your co-operation.



LEARNERS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our Learners of the Week. They are:

28th February 2020

CLASS R: Lily

CLASS 1: Florence

CLASS 2: Daniel

CLASS 3: Elsie-Mae &
Oscar

CLASS 4: Kagan &
Dylan-Lee

CLASS 5: Lily-May

CLASS 6: Harry

6th March 2020

CLASS R: Rufus

CLASS 1: Isla & Lara

CLASS 2: Ted & Hadley

CLASS 3: Thomas

CLASS 4: Layla & Oscar

CLASS 5: Oliver

Class 6: Pedro

Well done to all our Learners of the Week.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for the school, year to date, is currently **96.02%** and this week's attendance is **95.99%**.

ATTENDANCE CUP

Well done **Classes 1 & 4 with 98.89%** for the week ending 28th February and to **Class 2 with a fantastic 100%** for the week ending 6th March 2020.

Well done **Classes 1, 2 & 4.**