



The Priory School Newsletter

Issue 3 - 25th September 2020

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Last week, our committed Governing Body held their Annual General Meeting. We have been meeting virtually since March, so it was lovely to see everyone again. We are so grateful to these volunteers for their wise counsel, challenge and support.

The following key positions were elected for the academic year 2020-21.

Name	Position
Mrs Sue Solly	Chair of Governors Chair of Performance Management and Pay Committee
Mr Geoff Tabor	Vice-Chair of Governors Chair of Finance and Resources Committee Health and Safety Governor
Mr Jamie Ward	Chair of Standards and Improvement Committee Safeguarding Governor Inclusion Governor (including children with additional needs and looked after children)
Mrs Anita Penny	Admissions Governor

At the meeting a number of resignations were received, due in part to the additional challenges faced by individuals at the moment. The Governing Body would like to express their thanks to Alistair Lambon, Stephen Bowden, Jenna Kelly and Norma Lund for their service over the years.

We are looking to recruit suitable replacements for this vital work and we hope to announce a number of new appointments in the following weeks. Many of the vacancies are for 'Foundation Governors' and these have to be approved by the Priory Church PCC. For more information, the Clerk to the Governing Body (Mrs Kay Towler) can be contacted via email on ktowler@prioryceprimary.co.uk

Mr Ruffle

School Mission Statement

"Inspiring a generation to learn, flourish and achieve in a caring, Christian community"



Memorial Garden Service of Thanksgiving

The memorial garden holds very special memories for a number of our families. Its current location, right next to the astro, means it is often a hive of activity rather than a peaceful and reflective space.

We are going to be moving it in order to combine it with the sensory garden. Before we do this, we are going to hold a very short act of remembrance as an act of respect on Tuesday 29th September at 4pm. A limited number of places for parents are available. If you would like to attend, please contact the school office. Face coverings will be worn.



Parents Evening Consultations (*change)

Following advice from BCP, we are no longer offering face to face teacher / parent consultations in October. Instead, this will be a telephone call with the class teacher for 10 minutes at an allotted time.

In order to encourage pupil engagement and ownership of their own learning, we have decided to hold teacher / pupil conferences next week. Each pupil will be given some 1:1 time with the class teacher to discuss their test results and the learning targets that they would like to focus on. As a result of these changes, we have felt it necessary to push back our previously published parents' evening dates.

On Friday 9th October, Individual Education Plans will be sent home for children with additional needs. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will also bring home their assessment papers so you can see which areas require the most attention.

Revised Dates

Years 1 & 2 = Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th October

Years 3 & 5 = Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th October

Reception, Years 4 & 6 = Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th October

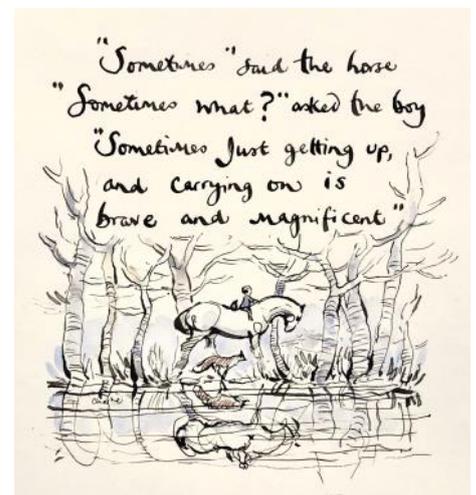
Booking phone call appointment times will follow the same system as last year, via your online account at www.scopay.com. **Booking will open on Friday 2nd October at 6.30pm and close on Friday 9th October at 10am.**

Worship Value

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1v9

We're continuing with our theme of Courage and this week Father Charles reminded us to do the right thing and not the easy thing.

Drawing on inspiration from the Art work of Charlie Mackesy, we learnt that the bravest word is often 'Help!'





Staff Update

It's unusual to have so much staff news to share early in the term, but I think it is a consequence of delayed recruitment during the summer term due to the Coronavirus.

We are delighted to announce that Mr Croutear has been appointed Headteacher of William Gilpin School, in the New Forest. Mr Croutear will take up this position after the Christmas holidays.

This is thoroughly deserved, as Mr Croutear has been an outstanding leader here at the Priory School and I am so pleased for him on a personal level. He will be a huge loss to our school and we will miss not only his inspirational teaching but also his unflappable and ever positive demeanour. As an Assistant Headteacher and as a friend, he has been a fantastic support to me and I know many others in our school community. I am already looking back on his lockdown videos with a tear in my eye.



However, life and learning move on and planning is already underway to find a quality replacement to fill his shoes (no easy task) in Year 4. As this news is hot off the press, this will take some weeks to finalise.

Sadly, Mrs Pearce has decided to leave the Priory School after 14 years as our senior lunchtime supervisor - that's a lot of hot dinners! I would like to thank her for all she has contributed during her time here. Her close colleague in the midday supervision team, Miss Potter-Stow, who joined us back in Jan 2020 has also decided to leave at the same time.



This means we are looking to recruit 2 new supervisors, to start as soon as possible. This is a physically demanding, but very rewarding role in supporting the children's social skills, active play and healthy eating. One of the school's priorities over the next few years is to encourage the children to become head, heart and body smart. During the current pandemic, extra effort is also needed to ensure the hall is disinfected before and after every sitting. Full details and job description can be found on the school website or by contacting the school office.

Relationships Education - Policy Consultation

Alongside this newsletter we have included our draft Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy. This is in response to the new Relationships Curriculum which is compulsory from September 2020. At The Priory Primary School we believe that the development of the whole person (physically, morally, spiritually and intellectually), are fundamental to our purpose.

The foundation for our RSHE programme is in the development of making safe choices, growing a child's self-esteem and encouraging positive relationships with others, especially in respecting differences. We recognise that this is a sensitive area for many families, so please feedback any comments on the policy via office@prioryceprimary.co.uk

Our Sex Education Programme is delivered in the summer term and we hold a parent information workshop prior to any lessons. It is based on the Jigsaw resources and full details of the scheme of work are contained in the draft policy (the lessons are actually unchanged since we introduced the new scheme 2 years ago). Subject to feedback, the new policy will be discussed and ratified by the Governors in November.



Beginning of Term Service - Friday 2nd October 9.45am Welcome to our New Reception Class

Reception have made a brilliant start to their time at the Priory School. We still intend to hold a welcome service for them at the **Priory Church, on Friday 2nd October at 9.45am**. At this shortened service we will present each child with a prayer book as a welcome gift.

Only Reception class children will be able to attend, but we hope to also invite a maximum of 2 accompanying adults per household. As you can imagine, this is subject to change at the last minute. Details regarding the COVID safe measures at the Priory Church and our final arrangements will be sent to Reception parents early next week.



Harvest Service - Friday 2nd October

We are not able to gather at the Priory Church for our Harvest thanksgiving service this year, however we still want to celebrate this important time of year as a community.

Each class is preparing a small item for our Harvest act of worship on **Friday 2nd October at 1.30pm**. We hope to live stream this to all parents using the zoom invite below:

*Topic: Priory School Harvest Festival
Time: Oct 2, 2020 01:30 PM London*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75943287061?pwd=QVFzMHI1SzVXeS9UbUtVRTBOMzkwUT09>

*Meeting ID: 759 4328 7061
Passcode: 5Hb7CS*

Please note that for those children where we don't hold video consent for school productions, we will ensure they are kept out of view. We have disabled the recording feature for this session.

We haven't done this before, so anything could happen! Our theme this year is **Thanking God for Trees**.





Coronavirus Review—Week 3

“You are doing all that you can possibly do.”
Public Health Dorset, Schools Adviser Jo Wilson

We were pleased to receive this reassurance from Dorset’s PHE schools’ adviser Jo Wilson this week. She was on a visit to our school, alongside BCP 0 - 9 School Standards Manager, Julia Coleman, to see for herself the protective measures we have in place and some of the pressures we are currently facing.

Following a tour of the school they were both impressed by the cleanliness and the care taken of the children by staff. At this time of rising coronavirus infections, it was some comfort to know that we are doing everything we can. The key message remains that in order to prevent the Priory School from closing or partially closing, we need to prevent the infection from coming into school.

The most effective way to do this is by the **whole school community** (workforce, children and parents) following the guidance at home and by keeping away from school if **anyone** in your household shows coronavirus symptoms.

I appreciate that it has been really hard to keep on top of the current advice and the attached NHS test and trace letter is the most helpful summary that I’ve found.

There are a couple of updates to our arrangements this week.

1. Wearing a face covering when entering the school site (including the playground)

We really appreciate how hard everyone has tried to maintain a safe social distance at drop offs and pick ups, but the nature of our site means there are unavoidable pinch points. Staggering times has not been particularly successful, due in part to traffic congestion around Christchurch and the impact it has on the school day (and for those with siblings). Having discussed the matter with our 2 visitors this week, the following was thought to be a sensible and proportionate measure, while infections are increasing in our local area.

From Monday 28th September we are encouraging those who can to wear a face covering when coming into school.

We are keeping the existing timings going forward, except from Monday 5th October, Reception will revert to the same collection time as the rest of the school (namely 3pm gate open for a 3.05pm to 3.15pm collection).

2. Colder Weather dress code

As temperatures drop, schools face a dilemma in ensuring a fresh air flow and also a comfortable room temperature. We will need to keep some windows open on colder days, as well as our heating on! I am sure our Eco Team are shaking their heads in despair. I certainly will be when I look at the budget.

Anyway, with this in mind, it is acceptable for your child to wear an additional t-shirt / vest under their school uniform on cold days as we seek to get the balance right.

Bike to School Week

Celebrate the installation of our new bike shelter by taking part in the Bike to School Week challenge next week.

For more information (and how to win a new bike from Halfords), please see the attached flyer.

