



# The Priory Church of England Primary School

***Learning together, aiming high***

Headteacher: Mr P Ruffle

Wick Lane  
Christchurch  
Dorset  
BH23 1HX

Telephone (01202) 484105

Fax (01202) 488702

Email: [office@theprioryschool.org](mailto:office@theprioryschool.org)

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

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a relaxing summer break and, whatever the circumstances for your child last term, have enjoyed the transition back to relative normality during this first week of term. I have been impressed with how focused and motivated the new Class 4 pupils have been this week. This year, the pupils will be taught by me from Monday to Thursday and by Mrs Kelly on a Friday. In addition, Mr Major, our Sports Coach, will take the class on a Wednesday afternoon. Mr Holloway, a very familiar adult for the class, is our Teaching Assistant.

As our class will be operating as a 'bubble' this term, there are a few differences which the children have been getting used to. As well as **extra care being taken with hygiene**, we have been getting used to having certain **zones** to play in at break and lunch. Whole school worship has been replaced by YouTube/Zoom and teacher led-worship.

Other than the above, it is very much 'business as usual', and it has been simply wonderful having thirty smiling faces to teach this week! This term's project is **'It's All Greek To Me!'**, which is a history unit, focusing on the study of the characteristics of daily life in Ancient Greece, the Olympics, Greek mythology & philosophy, city-states and Alexander the Great. For our **brilliant beginning** we will be having an 'Ancient Greek Day' on **Monday 21st September** – a separate letter about this was sent out earlier this week.

In **English**, we will be continuing the 'Talk4Writing' approach, which involves learning a story off-by-heart and reciting it orally, with accompanying actions. This will really benefit pupils when forming their own ideas for writing. This week, we have started to learn the story of **'Theseus and the Minotaur'**, which will lead to us composing our own Greek myths. Later this half-term, we will be learning how to write information pages.

Daily whole-class guided reading sessions will take place as we study the story **'Shadow Forest'** by Matt Haig, a favourite author of mine! A whole-class spelling session is also taught on a Monday, with pupils taking responsibility for learning spellings in their journals. There will be a list of words for pupils to learn each week, which is tested via a dictation on Monday morning.

In **Maths**, we have started the *Maths No Problem* scheme and we will be working with numbers up to 10 000, as well as honing our skills in addition & subtraction.



In **Science**, we are focusing on biology and learning about the human digestive system, including the teeth and food chains. Key vocabulary: *digestion, digestive, function, organ, body system, stomach, oesophagus, liver, small intestine, large intestine, pancreas, gall bladder, duodenum, salivary glands, rectum/anus, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, incisor, canine, molar, premolar, milk teeth*

In **PE** the pupils are being taught by our sports coach, Mr Major, who will be doing outdoor games on **Wednesday** (netball), as well as gym on **Thursday** morning. **Pupils should wear their PE kit to school on both days.**

In **Art / D & T** we will be designing, making and painting Ancient Greek-style coil pots.

In **RE** we will be learning about celebrations and asking the question 'how do Hindus celebrate Krishna's birthday?'

In **Music** we will be learning to sing, play, improvise and compose the Abba song 'Mamma Mia!', as part of the Charanga scheme.

In **Computing/ICT**, we will be focusing on online safety as well as exploring more features of the Google Classroom learning platform.

In **MFL**, we will be learning French with a weekly visit by a language specialist from Twynham School.

In **PSHE**, we will be using the Jigsaw scheme to think about 'Me in my world', as well as learning how to 'Get Heartsmart'.

### **Core Skills time**

We will be using the 9.00 – 9.30 slot from Monday - Wednesday to practise our core skills. On a Monday this will be a spelling workshop, during which the new spelling rule for the week is introduced. On a Tuesday this will be maths skills (with much focus on times tables as Year 4 pupils sit the multiplication check assessment in the summer term), and on a Wednesday there will be a punctuation and grammar focus.

### **Home Learning**

**All home learning will now be set via Google Classroom.** At school this week, pupils have joined the new Google class and have been reminded how to login, access and submit work. Pupils will be set **English** home learning tasks each **Monday**, to be completed by Thursday. These will alternate between reading comprehension and SPAG. **Maths** home learning will be set on **Thursday**, to be completed by the following Monday. In addition, the weekly spelling words/rule to learn will be posted to Classroom every Monday. This home learning schedule will commence on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September**.

Pupils in Class 4 are expected to **read at home on a daily basis**. They should be keeping a record of their books in the Reading Records which they have been given. Please keep an eye on the Class 4 Blog on the school website, which is regularly updated with information, photographs and the Learner of the Week.

Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to a successful term in Class 4.

Kind regards,  
Mr Croutear  
Class 5 Teacher

