



# The Priory School Newsletter

Issue 8 - Friday 6th November 2020

<https://prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk> | [office@prioryceprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@prioryceprimary.co.uk) | @PrioryCEPrimary |

Tel: 01202 484105

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

New national restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 came into force yesterday, Thursday 5 November.

- Stay at home as much as possible
- Only leave home for essential reasons like coming to school, exercise, food shopping and healthcare
- Remember 'hands, face, space' are still critical when you do go out
- If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, self-isolate with your household immediately, book a test and remain at home with your household whilst you wait for the result.

I've been asked a number of times this week if there's been any positive cases in our school community. The good news is that in terms of pupils and staff we haven't had any confirmed positive cases yet. However, I am aware that in a number of our families there has been a positive test within the household. I would like to publically thank everyone who has followed the guidance so carefully and immediately kept their children off school. This has meant we haven't had to close down any of our class bubbles yet.

Schools have been seeking advice from the Government regarding families who were shielding in the March lockdown. The guidance has now been published and it states where children live with someone who has been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable from coronavirus, they should still attend school as normal. The only concession is if the child themselves have been identified in the extremely vulnerable category. Please speak to the office team or Mrs Kelly if you have any concerns.

Despite everyone's efforts, it is likely that we will begin to see an increase in the numbers of children self-isolating.

**Our attendance for the year to date (Sept - 5th Nov) is a very impressive 96.8%.  
Our attendance this week is 92.8%.**

We're dedicated to providing the best possible education to our pupils – whether they're learning in school or at home. We've updated our *remote learning guidelines* (attached with this newsletter) to help you know what to expect should you have to self-isolate.

*Mr Ruffle*



### School Mission Statement

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



## Friends of Priory School and Christmas Plans

Thanks for all the amazing ideas and support at the recent FPS AGM. A follow up meeting is planned for this Wednesday 11th November at 7pm. Please email [james-maria@sky.com](mailto:james-maria@sky.com) to register your interest and receive the login details.

At this meeting I hope to share some of the school's **plans for the Christmas period** and also our **spending wishlist**. These will be shared with the whole school community in next week's newsletter.

## Amazon Smile Supports The Priory

I know many of us like to support our local shops and businesses, however Amazon may become a retail necessity this Christmas! The good news is that you can now support our school every time you make a purchase from Amazon!

You simply need to nominate Priory School as your chosen charity through Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of everything you buy from Amazon. That might not seem a lot but with everyone shopping online so much more these days, it could add up to quite a bit for the school, and every little helps!

All you need to do is follow this link <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1087648-0> or go directly to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and select **Priory School Parent Staff Society Christchurch** from the drop down list, and then make sure you make all your future Amazon purchases through [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) It's that simple! Please tell grandparents, friends and anyone else you know about this, the more people we can get signed up, the more money we'll raise. Thanks so much everyone for your support.



## Worship Theme New Value for Autumn 2 - Aspiration A Season of Hope

*"I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey." Exodus 3 v17*

Father Jonathan led our Church Partnership Worship this week and he reminded the children that aspiration is closely linked to the value of Hope. He told the story how in hard times, the people of Israel held on to God's promise of a land flowing with milk and honey. After 40 years of wandering, they finally got there. The children were asked if our school could be a beacon of hope for Christchurch during the lockdown.

One of the things we are going to do is to **'adopt the crew of Queen Mary 2'**, the largest cruise ship docked in the bay. They can't go home for Christmas, so we are going to write to them and send them some Christmas paintings and pictures.



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## Admissions Policy 2022-23 Public Consultation

The Governors would like to make a few significant changes to our admissions policy 2022-23 (which will be used to allocated places in Reception Class Sept 2022).

The School remains a Church School and is true to its Trust Deed and Mission Statement in serving the common good, in the local community as a distinctly Christian school. However, it is proposed to remove the faith criteria, including the Supplementary Information Form, which confirms regular church attendance. Families should never feel obliged to attend church simply as a means to get their children into the school of their choice. Equally, many prospective families do not apply to the Priory School because they think that you have to attend church in order to get in.

The issue of removing the school boundary was discussed in light of excess school places in the West Christchurch area due to the opening of Twynham Primary School. It was agreed that at this point to keep the current ecclesiastical boundary but Criteria 3, 4 and 5 to read as follows:

3. Children who at the time of application have a sibling on the roll of the school (see Definition C) who will still be on roll at the time of admission.
4. Children living in the Catchment Area of The Priory CE VA Primary School. (Definition D)
5. Other children outside the school boundary based on distance (See Additional Information).

In recent years, more children have been coming to the school under criteria 5.

If you would like to express your views relating to the new Admissions Policy, please contact the clerk to the Governors, Mrs Kay Towler via email:  
[ktowler@prioryceprimary.co.uk](mailto:ktowler@prioryceprimary.co.uk)

## Relationships, Sex and Health Policy Consultation

No comments have been received relating to the above policy consultation, so this will now be taken back to the Governors for final ratification.

## Let's Play!

Emily Sutton, mum of Coby in class R, would like to let all families know about the support and activity group she runs for all families of children with additional needs and disabilities. Under local charity The Dorset Children's Foundation Emily hosts a group called 'Let's Play' which aims to provide for families who struggle to access mainstream activities; such as soft play sessions, dance, music, and general get-togethers.



Siblings and extended family are encouraged to also participate. Due to Covid-19 the majority of events have sadly been put on hold, but they are still running fortnightly inclusive football sessions, which are very popular for all abilities and needs. Please contact Emily Sutton for more information and to join the Facebook groups [\[emily@thedcf.org\]](mailto:emily@thedcf.org)

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## Curriculum Maps 2020 - 21

Our inset training day on Tuesday gave us the opportunity to revisit our curriculum design. As a maintained state school, we continue to follow the expectations of the 2016 National Curriculum, in terms of knowledge, understanding and skills. However we also want to deliver a memorable and compelling curriculum, unique to our setting and the needs of our children.

An overview of this year's main project areas can be found below:

	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term	
	1	2	1	2	1	2
Reception	<b>Marvellous me</b> PSED focus <b>Harvest</b>	<b>Elmer's World</b> Maths focus <b>Jungles</b>	<b>Blast off!</b> Expressive Arts and Design, PD focus	<b>Once Upon a Time</b> Communication and Language and Literacy focus	<b>Minibeast Madness</b> Understanding the World focus	<b>Commotion in the Ocean</b> Understanding the World focus
Class 1	<b>Dino Discovery</b> History & Geography	<b>Toys</b> History & D&T	<b>Island Home</b> Geography & Katie Morag	<b>Panic on Pudding Lane!</b> Fire of London	<b>Seaside Rock</b> History	<b>Up Our Street!</b> Local Area
Class 2	<b>Flight</b> History	<b>Wonderful Weather</b>	<b>Explorers</b> (Scott & Shackleton & Ellen MacArthur)	<b>Animal Magic</b> Science	<b>Secret Agents</b> Include author study on Roald Dahl	<b>Sensational Safari</b> Africa focus
Class 3	<b>How to grow your dragon</b> History (Vikings) & Literacy	<b>Extreme earth</b> Geography & D&T & Science	<b>Finding your Voice</b> Thematic History study on Suffragette movement	<b>Global Gardens</b> Science, Art & Geography	<b>Iron Man</b> D&T (pneumatics), Literacy and history	<b>Sun, Sea &amp; Sombreros</b> Compare coastal UK & Spain
Class 4	<b>It's all Greek to me!</b> (Ancient Greeks) History + Art + English	<b>Bright Lights, Big City!</b> Geography + Science + Computing	<b>I like to move it, move it!</b> Migration study	<b>Amazon Adventure</b> Rainforest and New Forest	<b>Tomb Raiders</b> History (Egyptians) + Art	<b>Rivers' Meet</b> Geography (rivers) and RE (water as a symbol)
Class 5	<b>Workshop of the World</b> History (Victorians) and Geography (Study of British Empire) and English (Dickens)		<b>Black Gold</b> sustainable energy (Geography & Science)	<b>Gladiators Ready!</b> Roman history	<b>Wizarding Worlds</b> Science (Fantastic forces) & Computing	<b>To infinity and beyond</b> Science (Earth & Space)
Class 6	<b>Planet Protectors</b> Sustainability	<b>Revolution &amp; Unrest</b> Christchurch history	<b>Civil Rights</b>	<b>WW2</b> 20th century conflict	<b>Benin Kingdom</b> History and Art	<b>All the World's a stage!</b> Shakespeare and Y6 production

More detail relating to the curriculum content in each year group can be found on our curriculum maps on the school website (Key Information—Curriculum—Curriculum Overview).

## Safe Parking on the school run

We had a few reports just before half-term of parents' parking carelessly in the roads around school, especially blocking residents' driveways. To quote a resident of Wisconsin, 'everyone's wicks are a little bit shorter at the moment', so please be considerate to our school neighbours at this difficult time.

Ultimately, parking dangerously puts our children's lives at risk.

## Remembrance Day Assembly: Youtube Live

Please join us for our Remembrance Day Assembly on Wednesday 11th November at 10.50am, by using this link: <https://youtu.be/9MIkYXkuSUI>

We have taken the sad decision not to sell Royal British Legion merchandise, including poppies, to the school community this year. However, we have attached details on how you can still donate to this worthwhile charity.

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