



# The Priory School Newsletter



Issue 12 Friday 4th December 2020

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

Tel: 01202 484105

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE



It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas at the Priory School. Thanks to everyone involved in the filming of the **Y2 Nativity 'Prickly Hay'**, but especially to Mrs Clapcott for the scenery design and Miss Deay for pulling it all together. The costumes were amazing, so thank you to everyone at home too. I hope you can see from the photos just how much the children enjoyed themselves, so it was worth the effort.

We'll be busy editing the footage over the next few days before the big release on Tuesday 15th December.

Today, the children have had lots of fun making their Christmas cards and decorations, so the school is looking really festive for the last two weeks of term.



*Mr Ruffle*

### School Mission Statement

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



## Christmas Plans for the Coming Week

The **daily Advent Calendar videos** will continue next week and we will start to introduce some whole class contributions.

On **Friday 11th December** we are holding our Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day in support of Save the Children.

Just grab a jumper and give £2 to Save the Children! You don't need a new one - upcycle an old jumper, get crafty or head to your local Save the Children shop (or online!) for a pre-loved festive knit.

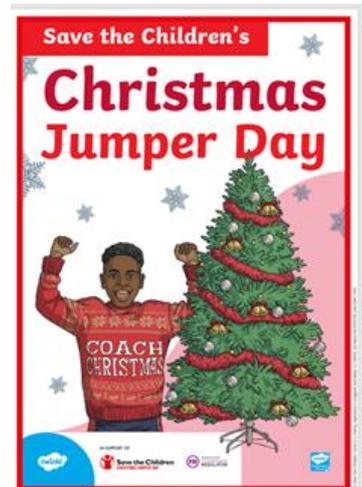
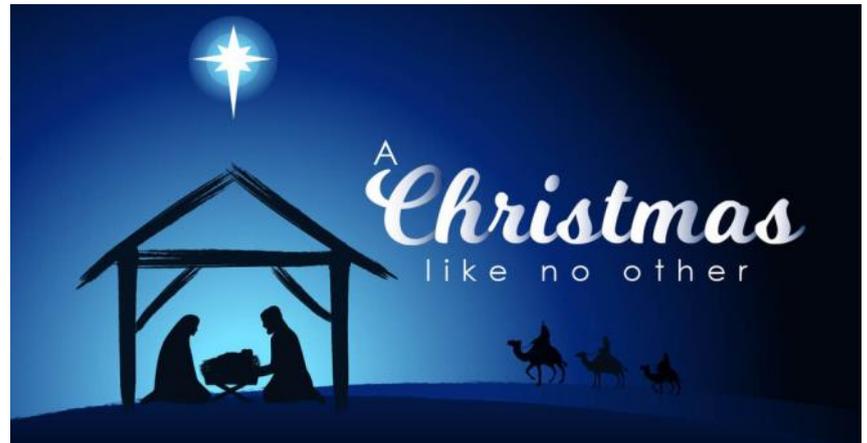
*“Together we'll help this year not be so bad, and make the world better with a sweater.”*

We are not collecting money in school, as it is much safer (and easier) to contribute online. Please visit the [www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate/single/donation-eventpay-00080](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate/single/donation-eventpay-00080) and quote the school's reference number **CJD200012345** so we can see how much we donate as a community.

The children will be watching the following video from Coach Christmas to find out why we are doing it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5E36BlwHMgY>

If you have not yet ordered your child's Christmas lunch, please do so by 6pm on Sunday 6th December at the latest. Every child will receive a cracker donated by FPS, whether they are having a school dinner or not.

Why not join in too? Grab your Christmas jumper and join in with our special Zoom Celebration worship at 2pm on Friday - details will be released to parents via email on Friday morning.



## Worship Theme Advent - Season of hope

*“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles”* Isaiah 40 v31

During these four weeks of Advent, we have a chance to prepare ourselves for Christmas. This doesn't just mean having parties, putting up decorations and buying presents; it means preparing our hearts for the message of Christmas.

Christians believe that, at Christmas, God sent Jesus to Earth to offer us peace and to show the world how much he loves us. As we approach Christmas, it's important to stop and think about living in peace and love with those around us.



### School Mission Statement

**“Inspiring a generation to learn, flourish and achieve in a caring, Christian community”**



## IXL - English and Maths learning package

Thanks to the Government catch-up funding, we have been able to purchase an IXL English and Maths subscription for every child for the next 12 months. This would normally cost you £155 to set up at home.

I have used IXL in previous schools and it is a really valuable learning resource, with a track record in accelerating children's progress. With IXL, your children will learn at their own pace - IXL's adaptive questions automatically adjust to just the right level of difficulty. A wide variety of question types keeps practice sessions fresh and the software also provides instant feedback and helpful learning tips.

Our home learning provision will switch to this resource after Christmas, but we hope to provide logins for all the children next week.



## New Interactive Screens

Using Capital funding we have been able to purchase 3 new interactive screens for Reception, Class 1 and Class 3.

These screens are more energy efficient than our old projectors and produce a higher quality image.



## FPS and the 153 challenge

Thanks so much to all the classes for setting up their sponsored challenges. Class 1 have done a sponsored read, Class 3 a sponsored silence (!) and Class 4 an Ice Bucket Challenge. As soon as the money comes in we will start purchasing items on our wish-list.

Reception Class raised over £1,000 for their sponsored 153 miles event, which is an incredible effort. As a result we have been able to order the balance bikes, trikes and scooters for EYFS!

FPS have purchased crackers for the Christmas lunch, class presents for the Christmas parties and stocked the Secret Present room.



## Website Update - Wordpress experts wanted

Following our website update, we're still having one or two issues, such as the menu display on the mobile version. If anyone is able to help us improve the user experience, then please get in touch with the School Office.

Lots of schools spend hundreds of pounds on their website and I'd much rather spend the money on the children, as long as parents are able to access the information they need.

### School Mission Statement

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



## New Governors

We are delighted to announce a number of highly capable additions to our Governing Body. These are hugely demanding and significant roles for the school and without willing volunteers it would not be possible for us to function.

It is obviously hard to meet people at the moment, so I have asked our new Governors to write a short bio about themselves.

### **Lisa Blackburn - New Local Authority Governor**

Hi, I'm Lisa and I work in Adult Social Care but am passionate about education. I live in Southbourne and enjoy walking.



### **Sally Hawkridge (OBE) - New Co-opted Governor**

I'm a retired civil servant who worked for the Ministry of Defence for over 37 years, specialising in Human Resources for the majority of my career. My partner and I made the permanent move to Dorset a few years ago and other than continuing to explore the beautiful area that we live in, we're keen golfers.



### **Barbara Robertson - New Foundation Governor**

I have spent my career in the education sector. I have been the Headteacher of Church of England schools in the London diocese and have also worked as a leadership consultant. Now retired, I live in Christchurch with my husband. I have two adult daughters and two primary school age grandchildren.



The children will know Barbara because she is a regular member of the Open the Book team.

### **Kate Woodhead - New Foundation Governor**

In my early career I was an Occupational Hygienist, working in petrochemicals and then motor manufacturing but, since moving to Southampton's LEA in 2000, the public sector has become my home. Whilst initially using my H&S background, my wider skillset meant that I worked for many years as a senior manager; taking a lead on technology implementation, performance monitoring and process engineering. Before moving to Twynham Learning, I led the Property function at Hampshire Fire & Rescue. Kate is also mum to Daniel in Class 3.



## Admissions September 2021

We have increasing waiting lists for all year groups except Reception Class at the moment, however you will know that in Christchurch as a whole there are forecast to be more school places than children in the next few years. As we haven't been able to hold the usual number of open events for prospective parents, please can you recommend the school to your neighbours and friends with pre-school children. It may help them to know that as a feeder school to Twynham Secondary school, children who are on roll at the Priory School are prioritised over children simply living in catchment. For the foreseeable future class sizes remain limited to 30 across the school.

### School Mission Statement

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



## Christingle Service at Priory Church

The Christingle service at the Priory Church is one of my Christmas highlights and this year, despite all the restrictions, it promises to be better and more interactive than ever. Children will be able to make their own Christingle! Now Heidi is expecting a rush on tickets and we have been allowed to promote this to Priory children before other schools, so please book early to avoid disappointment.



*You're invited  
as we celebrate*

# CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 13th December

Christchurch  
Priory  
2 pm & 4.30 pm

Entry by ticket only

Check out  
[www.chritchurchpriory.org](http://www.chritchurchpriory.org)  
for more info



 Book tickets here

 **The Parish of Christchurch**  
Christchurch Priory - St George at Jumpers - St John at Purewell

**The Children's Society**

No child should feel alone

### School Mission Statement

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