



The Priory School Newsletter



Issue 14 - Friday 18th December 2020

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

I've heard from many parents that our live-streamed Carol Service marked the start of Christmas. Personally, it was an absolute delight to be in the hall and watch the children perform and behave so exceptionally - one after another. The children have done so well this year coping with all the changes and we are very proud of them. I also want to say a big thank you to Mrs Gwynn for providing the technical support on the day.



The children have really enjoyed their parties. The Secret Present Room was a particular highlight and I'm sure we all want to thank the FPS team for buying and wrapping all those gifts. It's the type of kind gesture that makes this time of year so special.



Father Christmas was also able to visit us briefly yesterday, to much whooping and excitement. Courtesy of FPS, he also delivered some amazing class presents.



On behalf of the staff and Governors, thank you for all the messages of support. It means so much to us. I wish everybody a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Ruffle



Busking in Saxon Square

Amidst the shoppers and a surprising number of mobility scooters, a small group of Class 5 ukulele players brought some Christmas cheer to Christchurch town centre on Thursday morning.

One passer by approached me and said, "This has made my Christmas - hearing the children sing. Thank you so much."



Staying Safe over Christmas

Current Tier

BCP Council remains in tier 2 for the Christmas period.

Christmas Bubble

Between 23rd and 27th December you can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' of up to 3 households, although the Government are now advising that this should only be done with extreme caution.

Informing the school

Where a pupil or staff member develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), less than 48 hours since being in school, it is essential that school is informed, as others may need to self-isolate.

This means if your child develops symptoms on Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th December (up to 4pm), then you must inform the school by email on office@prioryceprimary.co.uk (phone lines will NOT be monitored).

Even if you have not had the results of a test, if you suspect your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 then inform the school so that we are aware to the potential implications and can alert families if necessary.

If you develop symptoms after 48 hours since being in school i.e. on Monday 21st December, then you simply contact test and trace in the normal way and NOT school.

TIER 2: HIGH

No household mixing indoors

Rule of six will apply outdoors

Pubs and restaurants to shut at 11pm

Alcohol only served as part of substantial meal

Spectators allowed at sports events and live performances (limited numbers)

Personal care including hairdressing allowed



School Mission Statement

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



Staying Safe over Christmas (continued...)

What the school will do

- On Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th December, we will monitor the office@prioryceprimary.co.uk email and if you have emailed us, to share that within 48 hours of being in school your child has developed Covid -19 symptoms, we will contact you to ask you to confirm that you have organised a Covid test for your child.
- If we do find we are in a position where we are awaiting test results, we will continue to monitor the office email from Monday 21st to Thursday 24th December.
- If you contact us to advise of a positive test result for your child during this time, as your child may have been infectious whilst in school, we will ask you to assist us with the identification of close contacts.
- Following notification of a positive test result from any child or member of staff during the 6 days from Saturday 19th December up to and including Thursday 24th December, we will contact any families with children who are deemed to have been close contacts and advise that they need to self-isolate for 10 days from when they were in contact with the infectious person. This will take the form of an emailed letter.

Staying Safe in the New Year

BCP Council have issued the following advice to parents over the New Year, so that schools are not forced to close due to high rates of infection when we return in January.

- New Year will be back to single households when indoors
- Obey the rules and observe social distance.
- Travel as little as possible and avoid going into a higher tier area
- Keep up hand hygiene and mask wearing where required
- Avoid crowds and keep high vigilance on the main 3 symptoms (cough, high temperature and lack of taste & smell)

From the 25th December, you do not need to advise school if you are self-isolating until the first day on term for children (5th January 2021).

Together We Can - Support for Families who are Struggling

Don't suffer in silence. BCP are here to help you access food and support to keep warm over the winter period.

They can provide advice on:

- Flexible food vouchers
- Access to food through foodbanks and other community food support
- Help with keeping warm this winter

For advice about accessing food: Households with children, call the Family Information Service: 01202 261970

For advice about winter warmth: Call Citizens Advice BCP: 01202 081732

bcpcouncil.gov.uk/wintersupport



#TogetherWeCan

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Media reports about weekly testing and a delayed return to school

As far as I understand it (and details are still emerging), these changes will mainly impact secondary schools. We are still planning to reopen Priory School to children as previously advised, on 5th January 2021.

Spring Dates

It is very challenging to plan even a term ahead in the current climate, however putting some key dates in the diary has proved to be very helpful. We have taken the decision to postpone any major trips until after February half-term. The Epiphany Service on the 8th January has also been cancelled. Newsletters will revert to fortnightly.

Date	Time	Event
Spring Term 2021		
Monday 4th January	All day	INSET
Tuesday 5th January	8.40am	First day of Spring Term
Tuesday 9th February	All day	Safer Internet Day
Monday 15th Feb - Friday 19th Feb	Week	Half-Term Holiday
Thursday 4th March	All day	World Book Day
Friday 5th March	Tbc	Home Learning Exhibition
Monday 8th March	3.30 - 7pm	Learner Centred Consultation Evening Pupils achieve learner certificate Spring consultation
Tuesday 9th March	3.30 - 6.30pm	Learner Centred Consultation Evening
Tuesday 30th March	Tbc	Spring Musical Gala
Thursday 1st April	9.45am 10.30 approx 3.15pm	Easter Service at The Priory Church Easter Bonnet Parade (YR,1 and 2) School closes for Easter
Friday 2nd April - Friday 16th April	Fortnight	Easter Holiday

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Worship Theme Jesus is the Light of the World

It is hard waiting for Christmas day to finally come! Father Charles led our final assembly on the theme of hope and he shared the story of Simeon who waited over 80 years for the promised Messiah.

When he saw baby Jesus, he exclaimed "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, because you have kept your promise. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. This baby will be a light to reveal God to the nations."

Father Charles explained that Jesus is the best gift we can receive this Christmas.



FPS Fundraising - Ice Bucket Challenge

Message from Mrs Rough, Class 4 rep. "We have completed the year 4 jump/bucket challenge and the children (& teachers) enjoyed having fun and all working together to raise funds."



Thank You to the Staff Team

Cleaners, Caterers, Office & Premises Staff and, of course, Education Staff

I am extremely grateful and want to say a huge, heartfelt thanks to our amazing team of staff in school, who every day, no matter what, have responded so calmly and positively in challenging circumstances.

I am particularly grateful for the hard work and dedication of everyone in trying to provide the best for children in the Covid-19 reality of 2020.

We will miss Mr Croutear and Mrs Moss so much and I would like to wish them well in their new learning adventures!

Let us all hope for a better 2021.

"When things are difficult,
remember who you are"



"Who am I?" asked the boy
"You are loved" said the horse

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