



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring Issue 1 - Friday 8th January 2021

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Lockdown 3.0 Here we go again!

You have heard so much from me this week that there's little left to be said. I will try and keep this short!

I am so grateful to everyone in our school who has worked so hard, and at such short notice, to set up the key worker and vulnerable children provision and our remote learning programme. Despite the experience of last time, much of what we are doing is new. The intention is to support children remotely with their home learning through direct teacher instruction and feedback on Google Classroom. *"It may not be perfect yet but tomorrow will be better and the next time better still."* Please give your constructive feedback as this does help us.

We do appreciate how hard it is you at home (many of us have children also, struggling just the same to balance all of our responsibilities) so we will simply take it a day at a time.

Personally I'd love to be able to find a cosy corner and lose myself in a book. I am currently reading 'How to stop time!' by Matt Haig (I wonder who suggested that). I hope to have some exciting news next week about a free online library which promises to have something of interest for all our children!

Mr Ruffle



Worship Theme

Don't forget to let the love in

John 3 v16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

This half-term we return to the phrase 'Don't forget to let the love in!' Boris the robot is made of recycled rubbish. When he thinks that he is just trash, the children remind him that he is treasure. When he thinks that he is useless, the children remind him that he has a special purpose. When he believes that he's made too many mistakes, the children point to our core value of forgiveness. In helping Boris, we hope the children also hear that they are valued, loved and forgiven by their heavenly father. We will be learning a new song called, 'We are Unstoppable'.

School Mission Statement

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



Gerald Crabb - Funeral Service Tuesday 19th January

We received some very sad news just before the Christmas break that our dear friend of the school, Gerald Crabb, had passed away after being seriously ill for some time.

Gerald, who was also the devoted husband of Mrs Crabb our Class 1 and Reception Class Teaching Assistant, had championed the school for decades! Over years of dedicated service, he had so many different roles such as the Premises Governor, the Vice-Chair of Governors and as an active member of the FPS. He was always looking at ways to make the school better for the children. Gerald showed me round on my very first visit to the school and he spoke so warmly and proudly of the community that I just wanted to become a part of it.



People often referred to Gerald as 'one of life's good guys'.

Mrs Crabb recognises that many people will want to pay their respects to Gerald, but of course that is very difficult in the current circumstances. It may be possible to hold a memorial or thanksgiving service at a later time. Gerald's funeral service is on Tuesday 19th January and only Mrs Solly, as our Chair of Governors, will be able to represent the school family.

The funeral cortege will drive past the school (up Wick Lane) at approximately 9.30am and I know many of us will want to stand outside (safely and responsibly) in recognition of Gerald and his service to the school. You are very welcome to join us.

Donations are being received in Gerald's memory for The Kidney Care UK and Macmillan Caring Locally. These may be made online using this link <https://www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk/tapper/funeral-search/fc9fcb3079bf357ca2a9a684cf349c9ce21d25ce>

or alternatively cheques may be sent c/o Tapper Funeral Service, 89-91 Barrack Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH2 3AJ.

Mrs Sibbald and Reception Class 'Google Classroom'

On Monday we are planning to launch 'Google Classroom' for Reception. Tomorrow was going to be a key day in setting this up. Unfortunately Mrs Sibbald is now required to self-isolate, thanks to the COVID app, for a short time so we are having to do this remotely.

This may create some technical issues for us, so just in case, Mrs Sibbald will continue to upload the work on the Class Blog. **If Reception Class have any issues with the work next week and Google Classroom is down, please email the helpdesk (helpdesk@prioryceprimary.co.uk) and Mrs Sibbald will respond.**

It remains the case that younger children benefit from practical tasks and active play as well as spending some time engaging with online learning.

Accessing laptops for remote learning

The Government is contacting schools on 15th January to see if we require more laptops. Obviously the ideal is that every child is able to have their own chrome book. We ordered new chrome books in early December but we are still waiting for them to arrive. All our ones in school are in use.

Since the last lockdown we received a small allocation from BCP which have already been loaned out. However, we are keen to support all families who need help, but in the first instance we will prioritise those who can not get online at all. We have started a list and we hope to contact those families by early next week. Everyone else (e.g. those who have to share a laptop) will have to wait until we hear more details on the 15th Jan.



Lockdown Lessons from Week One

What is working well?

- The Daily Meet (over 90% attendance all week)
- The engagement of the children
- The contact between the children and their class teacher
- IXL

What are the school working on next?

- Our plan for this week is to make it easier for the children to 'hand in' work and assignments.
- To make the difference between core work which we expect everyone to do and then extension activities (often IXL). We are hearing that some children have had 'too much' work - getting the balance is never easy as all children are different.

Top tips for Parents

- Please don't be overly anxious. Make sure your child attends the daily Meet and reads a little bit every day and we can go from there.
- Teachers will only respond to emails between 9am - 3pm. They will probably be commenting on work after this time, but they will not respond to questions. In our review meeting today most teachers have been online from 8am to 8pm and this is not sustainable.
- For non-work related questions, please email the School Office.
- When teachers are supervising children in school, they are not expected to respond to comments although they may be able to. The Daily Meet will still go ahead.

Some staff may experiment with extra 'Meet' catch up groups or story time, but this is not the expectation at the moment. Everyday is a learning day for all of us at the moment.

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