



# The Priory School Newsletter

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

Tel: 01202 484105

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

I really enjoyed seeing pictures of children engaging with our weekly challenge on the whole class stream this week. With Storm Christophe bringing winds and rain on Wednesday and Thursday, it was lovely to see the children in their cosy corners reading for pleasure!



It was too hard to select winners, so in the end I resorted to a random draw out of the hat. The following children have all won a delicious chocolate spoon and marshmallow set. Enjoy!



After all that hot chocolate, we will be encouraging the children to get out and about in next week's challenge whatever the weather! You have been warned...

*Mr Ruffle*

### School Mission Statement

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



## Online Safety Advice for Parents

With children likely to be spending far more time online at present, the issue of online safety has never been more pertinent. The link below to the 'THINKUKNOW' website provides a variety of resources, including 15-minute family activity packs and numerous videos for parents about in game chat, viewing videos online, social media and sharing photos.



I would like to highlight that all games released in the UK will have one of the following PEGI age ratings on the packaging: 3, 7, 12, 16 or 18. **The rating means that the game shouldn't be played by a young person under that age, because of inappropriate content not game difficulty.**

Children often need to understand that games with a 12+ rating (e.g. fortnite) often contain content which could potentially be harmful, frightening or worrying to them. **PEGI 12+ ratings are legally enforceable, meaning that a retailer can be prosecuted for selling or hiring these games to children.**

It is worth keeping up to date with the latest advice to prevent any problems before they arise:  
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Supporttools/>

## Keep Safe Code - Works online too!

All teachers will be reminding the children this week about how they must tell a trusted adult (either at home or school) if something is really worrying them, particularly around the issue of cyberbullying. The children are being really kind to one another (the comments on the stream pages are wonderful), but it may be that when playing an online game, someone known (or unknown) to them sends them upsetting messages.

We have a duty of care to our children and we can help stop this.

**"Please don't do that - I don't like it!"**  
**If they don't stop – tell an adult!**

## FPS - Scooters and Water Table

Thanks to the amazing fund raising efforts before Christmas, we have been able to spend some money improving facilities for the children.

We have bought new trikes, scooters and water table for Reception Class. We also purchased headphones for the critical worker children in the pods so they don't need to share. Out of school funds we have redecorated Class 1 and had a new promethean screen fitted in Class 3. Our trees are getting an approved haircut on Monday.

Don't worry - you will all still recognise the old place when you all return.





## Lockdown Books

The children are working so hard that many of them have finished the special lockdown exercise books already! Wow! We would love for the children to keep recording their work in a school book rather than scraps of paper, so we can celebrate their efforts when they return.

**The school foyer has spare lockdown exercise books for collection between 10am and 2pm Monday to Friday.** Please take a maximum of 2 books per child (there is a mixture of blank and lined paper).

Just a gentle reminder that we will need the children to bring back their Maths No Problem workbook and CGP core skills books when they return to school, so please look after them.

## Poppets Preschool - Reopening Monday 25th January

Poppets are ready to reopen on Monday following their closure due a single positive coronavirus case last week. Lynn from Poppets and the School Governors have reviewed the arrangements for wraparound care, and remain satisfied that everything is being done that can be done.

I am extremely grateful to Lynn who continues to provide breakfast and after school provision for critical worker children at the Priory School, even though it is not economically viable in the current climate. If you wish to make use of this service, please contact Lynn directly.

## Lockdown Updates (Week 3)

### 1. Named Child Google Accounts *only* admitted to Daily Meets

As we get more familiar with the technology, we are able to put more protective factors in place. When teachers open the Daily Meet, they should only allow to join named pupil users rather than unfamiliar or parent accounts. Ultimately this is to make sure the virtual learning environment is safe and secure for the children. Please contact us if there is a problem.

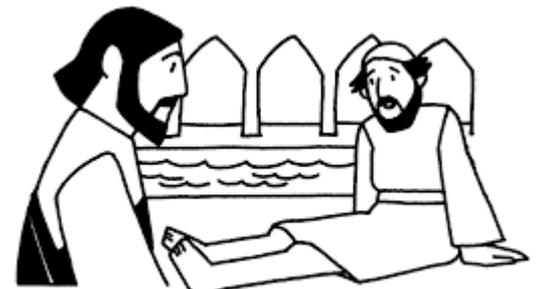
### 2. Voluntary staff self-testing due to start at the Priory School on Wednesday 27th January

Subject to all the kits arriving on time and final approval from the School Governors and staff, we are preparing to commence the Lateral Flow Device testing of staff next week. Staff will self-test at home twice a week so we can quickly identify and isolate any asymptomatic positive COVID-19 cases. **Initially we will be doing these tests in the evening so we can advise parents the night before if any class pods need to close due to contact tracing.** We have not been advised that this is being rolled out to primary children any time soon. Please be aware of the possible impact of new cases next week.

## Worship Theme Compassion

John 5 v8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat and walk."

In the Bible story this week, Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda, which was a sacred healing pool dedicated to the Greek god Asclepius, the god of healing. As a Jew, Jesus disagreed with everything about this place - but he still went there to see if he could make a positive difference.



He met a man who had been paralysed for 38 years and with simply a word healed him. Jesus broke several religious rules by entering a pagan Greek shrine and healing on the Jewish Sabbath (you were meant to rest on that day). The story shows that Jesus loves all people - no matter their background and reminds us that we can learn important lessons from people who are different to us. Respect for others and compassion often go hand in hand.

The symbol of Asclepius is the staff and the snake, which is still used as a symbol of emergency health services in many countries today.

