



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring Issue 4 - Friday 29th January 2021

<https://prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk> | office@prioryceprimary.co.uk | @PrioryCEPrimary |

Tel: 01202 484105

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

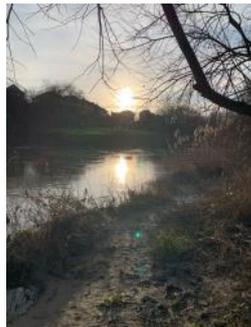
This winter lockdown certainly feels harder than last time, and I know a number of the children are missing their teachers and friends. It was really helpful to be reminded by Father Charles that we all need to be gentle with ourselves, because we are doing the best that we can in an impossible situation.

The children are doing a wonderful job with their work at home and engagement levels are still high. Remember some days will be harder than others, so don't worry if they need to take a break from their studies on occasion.

Once again, it was so lovely to see the children's photos of their outdoor adventures and walks. Our focus this week was to 'Get out and about!' We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful area and daily exercise is vital for our wellbeing. This is just a small selection from the whole class stream. I'm saving the Spring flower pictures for next week!



"One of the kindest things you can do," said the mole, "is be gentle and patient with yourself."



We have designated next Wednesday 3rd February as **#wellbeingWednesday**. We invite **all parents to join us for a zoom coffee morning**. We will share some lockdown survival tips, listen to your feedback and then try setting you up in 'breakout' rooms to recreate those 'by the school gate' chats. We will send you the link on Monday.

For the children, the class teachers are planning a special wellbeing LIVE Meet at 1pm. As it is children's mental health awareness week, we will focus on the subject of self-care and not forgetting to let the love in. I think we are all hoping that the end of this truly is in sight, on Monday 8th March. We will wait and see...and keep on, keeping on.

Mr Ruffle

School Mission Statement

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



Advance Notice of Some Key Dates

Priory School will be fully closed over February half-term.

This means both remote learning provision and on-site key worker supervision will stop for the week. Free school meal vouchers will be provided by BCP Council via Wonde.

Please note for all children and adults in school on Friday 12th February, you need to inform the school of any self-isolation, onset of symptoms or positive test results on Saturday 13th AND Sunday 14th February as school remains responsible for track and trace during this time.

Learner Consultation Evenings on 8th and 9th March are postponed.

Our Spring parents' evening is important in sharing progress information and next steps. As well as their daily contact with the children, teachers' gather data from mid-year assessments, which usually take place over the next few weeks. This hasn't been possible yet, so until we have more certainty about the return to school, it makes sense to postpone our consultation evenings to later in the term or early in the summer term.

FPS Autumn Term Fundraising Update

We are delighted to report that over **£3872.00** has been raised through the pre-Christmas events and Class Challenges. Well done to all those children who took part and also many thanks to the generous supports and those that kindly donated.

Class R 153 Mile Challenge:	£1,529
Class 1 Read-a-thon Challenge:	£327
Class 3 Silent Night Challenge:	£964
Class 4 Bucket/Jump Challenge:	£552
Secret Present Room:	£215
Elfy Hunt:	£285

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 10th February at 7pm and an agenda will be sent closer to the time. We do hope you can join us, please add the date and time to your diaries. It will be over Zoom.

Thank you again!
The FPS Team

Worship Theme

Compassion - the love of God

Psalm 10 vs 46 'Be still, and know that I am God...'

We used an electron microscope to magnify everyday objects so we can see just how beautiful they are. These are soap bubbles as you have never seen them before! We were reminded not to forget how beautiful our local area is, just because we are familiar with it.

The children were encouraged to soak in the peaceful atmosphere the next time they are in a special outdoor location. The Bible refers a number of times to being still in God's presence.

Christians believe that resting in God's presence builds not only a close relationship with God but also emotional and physical well-being.





Critical Worker Provision - Update

Demand for places remains understandably high, with 62 pupils now registered for a place over the course of the week (29% of the school). As such we have had to limit our 'pod' size to 15 in any given day rather than over the course of the week. Thanks to the willingness of parents only to use the school on the days that it is essential, we have been able to manage this so far. Our average daily attendance is in line with the national figure for state-funded primaries at 21% (it was 4% in the March to May 2020 lockdown).

On behalf of the staff team, I must express the need for this attitude to continue as we want to keep pupil numbers as low as we can. Since returning in January there have been staff and pupils self-isolating every day as a result of being in direct contact with a positive case in their household or other setting. BCP have had more positive cases in schools since January than in the whole of the Autumn term.

We pray that we have indeed seen the worst of this latest outbreak, but the situation is still serious and we must all play our part if we want to see a full return to school on 8th March.

Staff Self-testing Update - Lateral Flow Tests for COVID-19

Over 90% of on-site school staff volunteered to commence self-testing at home this week. It involves using a lateral flow test to identify asymptomatic positive cases of COVID-19. If a home test is positive, individuals (and their close contacts - including school bubbles) need to commence self-isolation. Individuals must also book a PCR test to confirm the result.

I am pleased to report that on Wednesday, which was our first go, all tests came back negative.

There is a word of caution with these tests in that they are less effective in the early stages of the virus, meaning that they can give false negatives. They should not therefore be used to reduce self-isolation time after coming into contact with a positive case.



Maths No Problem Workbook B collection

Most classes are completing Book A of the Maths No Problem scheme, which makes sense as we are nearly halfway through the year.

A number of classes did not send home book B, in the hope that we would have returned to school by now. Clearly this is not going to be the case, so we have arranged for workbook B's to be collected from the school foyer at the following times.

Monday (9.30 - 2.30) - Class 1 and 2

Tuesday (9.30 - 2.30) - Class 3, 4 and 5

Please wait if someone else is in the foyer.

PLEASE look after these books as we will be using them when we all return!

