



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring Issue 5 - Friday 5th February 2021

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Once again, we are delighted to see the children getting involved in our weekly challenge **#Prioryrocks21**. I wish I could share the whole collection as they have really lifted my spirits, but here's just a selection. I can't wait for them to be placed around our community to share this positivity - that really is putting into practice our global neighbour ideals. Although they are only ordinary rocks, the profound and hopeful messages and beautiful, colourful pictures really make them priceless at this time.

I'm definitely going on a hunt for some this weekend - how about you?



The children's attitude to learning during this winter lockdown has been really impressive but at the parent Zoom coffee morning I was reminded how tired everyone is getting. As we approach half-term, we'll be doing a few more fun activities.

We're going to keep doing things differently on **#wellbeingWednesday**. On **Wednesday 10th February** we're inviting all the children to **dress up** for their Daily Meet in an outfit to 'express themselves' e.g. sports kit, superhero, princess, future career.

On **Wednesday 24th February** each class will be hosting a **mini talent show** during the Daily Meet. Acts must be limited to 1 minute. We hope the children enjoy these opportunities to simply be with one another.

Mr Ruffle

School Mission Statement

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



Fun Fridays

Our Friday Learners of the Week LIVE is always a special time of the week. This week we are hoping that Binky (Mrs Kelly's gorgeous dog) will help us celebrate the children's achievements. My wife is urging me to get a school dog so we'll just see how this goes.

On Friday 12th February we'll be doing a special **Staff Masked Singer** Celebration Worship. This event will be live using Zoom as we'll need different screens and the children to vote. Details will be emailed to all parents on Monday as part of the weekly resources download.

Please don't expect outfits like this!



Reminder of Expectations

We keep saying it, but we have been really pleased with the children's behaviour during live teacher sessions. We've even been able to keep the chat streams open for some of our older children, which is a real indicator of how responsible and polite the children are with one another.

At the end of a half term, when children get tired and weary, they often need reminding of school expectations. Keeping to our school rules (ready, respectful and safe) during the Daily Meet will make the transition back into the classroom easier. Teachers have highlighted a few areas that we need to address together next week.

- **READY: Sitting still.** Now, we know this is very difficult especially for younger ones, but we expect them to listen sensibly to the teacher during the Daily Meet, like they would in the classroom.
- **RESPECTFUL.** During listening time, really remembering to focus so that we don't distract others.
- **SAFE: Wear appropriate clothes online.** Please no pyjamas or very revealing outfits. This is a safeguarding risk for adults working from home and your child will be removed from the meet.

We also heard during the Zoom coffee morning that some children are working late into the evening because they feel they have to get everything finished. Children need a strong work ethic to succeed, but this is not sustainable or healthy for young children. Teachers will be uploading a daily agenda with suggested time limits, so you can tell your child to stop after a set time even if the work is not yet complete.

Worship Theme Compassion - the love of God

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house...
For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Mrs Gwynn led our Monday values worship and she started with a game called 'Comfortable or Uncomfortable'. Using the story of the tax collector Zacchaeus, she reminded the children that loving other people is not always comfortable because all of us do wrong things, called sin. Jesus loves us so much, that he died for us, so that our sins can be forgiven.

In her last ever worship at the Priory School, Heidi shared that Jesus was her superhero because of his amazing love for her. We will miss Heidi, her memorable assemblies and her regular leading of Trinity Club. We wish her every success in her new ministry at St Michael's in Bournemouth. Thanks for the fun song on Wednesday. <https://youtu.be/cVnHYmc744s>





Teacher Feedback in Week 6

Teachers will be limiting their feedback next week.

This is because we have asked teachers to review the learning targets of children who have an Individual Education Plan. Lockdown is particularly challenging for children with additional needs as they miss the extra support they get in the classroom.



Teachers will take time next week to contact children and parents who have previously been diagnosed with an additional need to review their learning progress and to discuss their next steps when they return to school. A new Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be written and sent to those children. This will enable the school to be ready to support those children from day one of our return. This will also create more capacity to support other children who may have fallen behind during this lockdown.

If your child currently has an Individual Education Plan, please expect a phone call next week in school hours. The caller number may be withheld if teachers' are contacting you from their home.

Families in need

Please do get in touch with the school if you need any support or assistance. We believe we have been able to support all families who needed an additional laptop, but if you are still struggling with this please contact us. There is at least 3 more weeks of remote learning to go!

We also have established links with Christchurch Food Bank, if needed and know other pathways to get support.

Any communication will be treated with strictest confidence by Mr Ruffle or Mrs Kelly.

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