



# The Priory School Newsletter

Spring Issue 8 - Friday 5th March 2021

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## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

We're pulling out all the stops to prepare the school for the children's return on Monday. This winter lockdown has been hard and we want the children to enjoy being back at school and part of a learning community again.



All classrooms now have state of the art interactive screens installed for improved engagement in lessons. Our new screens will enable pupils to instantly screen share their chromebooks with the whole class. We've put up new displays to make it feel like a fresh start.

Encouragingly, local infection rates continue to fall, from an average of 508 daily cases when we were forced to close in January to an average of 32 this week. It has cost so much to achieve this reduction that we must all continue to exercise caution to ensure the unlocking 'roadmap' can proceed as planned.

Dorset Public Health advised me this week that the greatest risk to school remaining open is the contact between parents at the school gate or when mixing out of school. **Please do keep to our new drop-off and collection times (see reopening handbook and the reminder below).** The inconvenience of waiting a few extra minutes to maintain a safe social distance is a small price to pay compared to a 10 day self-isolation.

Year Group	Time
Reception	8:40
Y5 & 6 walkers	8:45
KS1 (Year 1 & 2)	8:50
KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)	9:00

*Mr Ruffle*



### School Mission Statement

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



## Uniform Expectations

At the Priory School we value our uniform and we feel it fosters a collective sense of pride and respect in our school. Wearing a smart uniform can help a child feel ready to learn and raise standards of behaviour.

I want to encourage children to look smart on their return to school. This means we will not accept coloured hair, painted nails, long hair which is not tied back sensibly, jewellery (except watches or fitness trackers) and earrings (studs are allowed but they need to be removed for PE).

However, these are also exceptional times and we are a compassionate school community. I want to reassure concerned parents and children that allowances will be made over the next few weeks until non-essential shops reopen. For example, children may well need to wear trainers because they have grown out of their school shoes or wear a different blue jumper because they have lost their school one. Please contact the School Office if you would like to talk to someone about this.



## Job Vacancy at the Priory School - Midday Supervisor

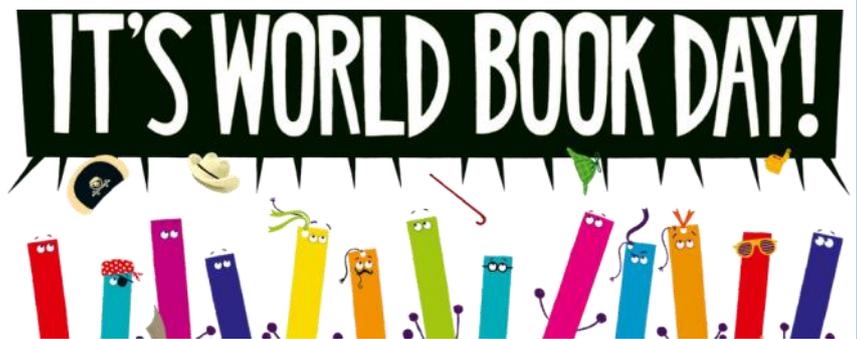
We are looking to add to our lunchtime team from after Easter. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in the life of the school and to support children on their return. It is a vitally important part of the school day and a time when you can support children's social and emotional health by encouraging active play and healthy eating habits. We have an urgent need to increase our team so if you are hard working, positive and love children, then we want to hear from you.

To find out more information, please visit the Staff Vacancies page on the school website.

## Priory School World Book Day Thursday 11th March

Just a reminder that children are allowed to dress up as a book character (real or imaginary) of their choice next Thursday for our delayed World Book Day!

If children normally have PE on that day, please can you make sure that they can run safely in their outfit.



## Loaned Laptops and Home Learning

We were pleased to be able to loan a number of laptops and chrome books to families during this lockdown. We know how necessary this equipment was and we were only sorry that it took a few weeks to get one to everybody who needed it.

We have decided that for the remainder of the year we are going to set all home learning online. This may be an IXL task or using Oxford Reading Owl or even uploading something to Google Classroom, such as a photo of a practical task your child has completed. It is likely that children will still need a laptop in the future to access such work.

Therefore, even though children are returning to school, we will not be requesting the return of any loaned laptops/chrome books until **Friday 25th June**. We will need them brought back to school at this point, so we can do a stock check ready for the new academic year. We are planning to use the chrome books back in school from September.



## Primary Pupils - Household and Support Bubble Testing

Further to the Government announcements over the weekend, that twice weekly lateral flow testing is being offered to the households members and those in the support bubble of primary school age pupils, we have received the following advice from Public Health Dorset.

Household members and support bubble individuals can access testing in the following ways:

1. Through their own employer if it is offered
2. By ordering kits online via the Government website
3. By collecting kits at a number of community collection points

The nearest community collection point to the Priory School is Two Rivers Leisure Centre.

This is running as a dual purpose site, but not at the same time, i.e. symptomatic testing in the morning and as an LFD kit collection point from 1pm – 7pm.

The school has received very limited information about this, so all queries should be directed to the Government website which sets out in detail who can access the regular testing and how.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

As you are already aware, the majority of staff at the Priory School have opted in to the twice weekly lateral flow testing at home. I can reassure all parents that it is a very straightforward and quick process.



## Notice of FPS Meeting

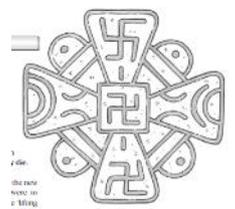
Invitation for all to join the FPS meeting on Tuesday 9th March at 7pm to discuss the latest Spring and Summer FPS plans.

See zoom link below:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81970019001?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81970019001?pwd=S2xSRlh3RDBvN2ZUS29tdGFjS1BoZz09)  
[pwd=S2xSRlh3RDBvN2ZUS29tdGFjS1BoZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81970019001?pwd=S2xSRlh3RDBvN2ZUS29tdGFjS1BoZz09)

Meeting ID: 819 7001 9001  
Passcode: 482499

## Worship Theme Chinese Cross

Hebrews 13 v3 'Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.'



As part of our 'A-cross the World' theme, we explored the amazing country of China. Reception have been learning that this is the year of the Ox.

China has the 7th largest number of Christians in the world, but many are persecuted for their faith. Some Christians in China made this cross, which so closely resembles a lotus flower that it is almost meaningless as a Christian symbol. It shows the danger of being so keen to fit in, that we lose our own identity. Sometimes to stand up for what you believe in can mean you stand alone.



## Parent Support Courses Free and Online

Due to Government funding in the Adult Education Budget, we have accessed several free online Level 2 accredited courses for parents via The Aim Group (a company recommended by the Diocese of Winchester). These courses are designed to help better understand some key issues around children's mental health and wellbeing. Examples of the courses available include:

- **Understanding Children and Young Peoples' Mental Health:** Understand factors which may affect Young Peoples' mental health, the impact that they have and how to support them with these issues
- **Understanding Autism** (learn how individuals' process sensory information, understand characteristics, understand conditions, learn how speech, language and communication differ in people with Autism)
- **Understanding Behaviour That Challenges** (supporting positive behaviour, effective communication & how to manage challenging behaviour)
- **Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties** (understand characteristics of ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia & Dyscalculia, importance of early diagnosis, assessment methods available to diagnose learning difficulties)

On average the courses take between 20-35 hours to complete within a 6-week window and are completed on a laptop or computer at the learner's home. A level 2 accreditation is equivalent to a GCSE grade 5.

You must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Aged 19 or over on or before 31st August 2020
- Have lived in the UK/EU for 3+ years
- Not already on a Government funded course (Apprenticeship for example)

If you are interested in undertaking one of these free online courses, then please complete the following link.

[https://formstack.io/TyZSZjXRWndR4L6rW7HXEpqpL8\\_drGsA9XWS0F15Xgj56D1utKVODIduJM61p1nhQSjZDeD8rtiW1Pgn5RNnMw](https://formstack.io/TyZSZjXRWndR4L6rW7HXEpqpL8_drGsA9XWS0F15Xgj56D1utKVODIduJM61p1nhQSjZDeD8rtiW1Pgn5RNnMw)

## Y6 Residential

It is very much hoped that our planned Year 6 residential to PGL Osmington Bay in June can still go ahead. PGL have advised us they are awaiting guidance and will let us know as soon as they can. We will hold a Parent Information evening once this has been received. Although, I now think this will be after the Easter holidays. Thank you for your patience.



## PLEASE RETURN BOOKS ON 8th MARCH

Please bring back to school your Maths No Problem and CGP core skills books on Monday!

You will be using them.