



The Priory School Newsletter

Autumn 4 - Friday 22nd October 2021

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

Tel: 01202 484105

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

One of our priorities this year is 'to prepare pupils to become good neighbours by living sustainably, serving locally and caring globally.' I have been so impressed in the last few weeks to see all pupils growing in compassion, helping one another and taking small actions to make a big difference.

- In our first **Prayer Buddy** worship of the year, children paired up with someone from a different year group and thought about their dreams for a better world after hearing about Martin Luther King's famous speech.
- Our **Y6 Bronze Ambassadors and Play Leaders** have now started supporting active playtimes for younger children.
- Our **School Council** prepared a powerful assembly about Afghan and Hong Kong refugees arriving in the UK and what children can do to help. They have also chosen the new playground toys for lunchtime play.
- A number of pupils from Y4, 5 and 6 have taken part in the **Diana Award Anti-Bullying training** to become Ambassadors in our school.
- Our Y6 Prefects and Head Pupils have led our prospective parent **school tours**.
- Children in Y6 have made 'bags for life' by recycling an old pillow case or t-shirt as part of their **Planet Protectors** project.

Our special **Round the World** home learning project is a way for you to develop a 'global neighbours' mindset with your child. We hope you enjoy doing something away from a screen and we can't wait to have a special exhibition of all the projects on **Monday 8th October**.



Mr Ruffle

Worship Value - Hope

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

We were inspired this week by Amanda Gorman's poem, 'The hill we climb'. The children understood many of the metaphors, particularly around overcoming barriers and challenges in our own lives. Amanda Gorman herself struggled to speak when she was younger, so we loved listening to her read her poem when she was only 22 years old, at President Biden's inauguration.



School Mission Statement

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



Year 2 Trip Bournemouth Aviation Museum

Finally - take off! Year 2 had their first ever school trip this week, with a trip to the Bournemouth Aviation Museum. The rain just about kept away, so the children were able to enjoy exploring all the different aircraft on the site. I still think the coach ride was the best part for many!

Thanks to the Year 2 staff team and the parent volunteers for making this happen.



FPS News

FPS Disco Returns!

Make sure you book the date and FPS will send out ticket details shortly (*there will be no tickets for sale on the day*).

Wednesday 10th November 4:30 - 5:30pm

Dolphins, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3

Thursday 11th November 6 - 7pm

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

FPS Meeting

To plan and arrange Autumn 2 events (including the Christmas Fayre)

Thursday 4th November 7pm

Face to face in school

Dolphin Class Parent Coffee Morning

This is the rearranged coffee morning drop-in for all new Dolphin parents. Come and meet the new FPS team, in the school hall.

Thursday 4th November 8:45am onwards

Spending Plans

A review of last year's spending and the plan for this current year is being sent as an attachment alongside this newsletter.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Parent Consultations

The feedback from our virtual parent consultations has been really positive. We are aware of 1 or 2 technical difficulties, although everyone seemed more familiar with it this time around.

We do expect all families to attend these parent meetings so we can work together. If you were unable to attend, we will try to grab a quick 5 minutes with you at the end of the day to catch up.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the school office so these can be passed on to the class teachers.

We are now looking forward to the Spring term 'learner centred' consultations which will be face to face in school and with children invited.

Water Makes Lions Strong!

A reminder that only water should be in your child's water bottle. Squash and/or juice is only allowed at lunchtime as part of your child's meal. Thank you.



Indian Classical Music Performance

Ricky & Udit shared a live performance of Raga & Tal, playing the sitar and tabla. We were amazed that the main body of the sitar was made from a dried out pumpkin!

We are very grateful to Miss Etheridge and Soundstorm for organising this experience. Jo Farley, BCP Music coordinator came for the performance and wrote to me later and said; *"I have to say I found visiting your school to be a pleasure – and what wonderfully behaved and inquisitive pupils you have!"*



School Tours for Prospective Parents 2022-23 Keep Spreading the Word

We have received such positive feedback from prospective parents when they have come for a school tour. I had a typical response on Monday, *"Visiting your school has been such a delight. I hadn't really considered the Priory because of your Ofsted report, but after seeing it for myself we are going to put it first!"*

Sadly, we do know of a number of local families who, not knowing the school, judge us solely on our Ofsted report. This is another low birth-rate year, so we really need you, our parents, to commend the school to your friends and neighbours. Once people cross the threshold they tend to be convinced as they are able to see for themselves all that the school offers. **Currently, the school is in the unusual position of having spaces in both Reception Class and Year 1.**

The date of the next school tour is:

Monday 15th November 2021 9:30 – 10:30am AND 1:30 – 2:30pm



Global Neighbours Small Actions to Make a Big Difference

Our School Council encouraged the children to help those less fortunate than themselves in a number of ways:

1. The Big Knit - knit a square (10cm by 10cm) to become part of a giant quilt
2. Fill a shoebox full of Christmas goodies for a child in Moldova, Ukraine or Romania as part of the Bransgore Rotary Club appeal. **Boxes must be returned to school by Tuesday 2nd November.**
3. Buy some new school stationery (or toys) for Afghan families staying in hotels here in Bournemouth. Hand in to the school office and we will be able to deliver it to those that need it.





Nelson Handwriting Scheme

Since the children returned from lockdown back in March, we've been investigating the best way to support children's handwriting. With children using touchscreen and mobile technology more than ever, we feel we need to prioritise this aspect of learning. A number of children are having difficulties with the mechanics of writing, including pencil grip (we advocate the 'tripod' grip) and posture, and this is holding them back as writers.

After October half-term, we will be launching the Nelson handwriting scheme across the school and Miss Field will be on the lookout for amazing presentation in the coming weeks. There are some changes to our current approach:

- Children will learn to form their letters from the top of the letter (usually).
- In Reception, children will learn to form their letters correctly and will not be introduced to 'lead ins'.
- During Year 1, children will learn to start joining their letters.
- There are break letters, after which there is no join: b g j p q x y
- The letter z is a break letter before and after.
- Looping descenders e.g. g y f only occur in Year 6 when pupils are encouraged to develop their own cursive style.

There are a number of ways in which you can support handwriting at home:

- ⇒ pointing out letters which have a similar formation e.g. the letters c a o d g q all start in the same way
- ⇒ praising good effort in handwriting, especially if the error is a 'reasonable' attempt, before correcting any mistake
- ⇒ encouraging other development of fine motor skills, such as colouring in or drawing, as well as giving ample opportunity to write.

READY REFERENCE GUIDE

The letter forms

The lower-case alphabet for Starter Level:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

The lower-case alphabet for Books 1 to 6:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

A letter slant of 8° from the vertical to the right is introduced in Pupil Book 3:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

The lower-case print alphabet:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

The capital letters and numerals:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

The joined style

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.



Sports Update

We've had a football tournament and two 'Dare to Believe' festivals at the Grange school in recent weeks. It is so good to meet up with other schools and enjoy playing competitive sport against one another again.



TTRS

It's time to pick up the pace with our number fluency!



We want to make maths exciting and high profile in our school. We will be taking part in a friendly competition involving schools from England from **Monday 8th November to Thursday 11th November**.

It's all done online via play.ttrockstars.com and all the children have a log in. Get practising!

Reading Club

One of our most popular new clubs is Miss Dyer's Year 2 & 3 Reading Club.

The children have been bringing the characters, from the stories they wrote and illustrated, to life in clay!

Well done Reading Club members.

Christmas 2021 Key Dates Planner

After the success of our '*A Christmas Like No Other*' last year, we've decided to ring the changes to our Christmas programme. The Nativity service at the Priory Church will now be styled as a **whole school carol service**. It will still include all the children and there will be readings, carols, songs by the choirs and a traditional nativity tableau by children in Year 2 - but it will be kept much simpler. In recent years, Year 2 have put so much work into their acting, but they couldn't be seen by the majority of people attending. The Priory Church, such an incredible setting, is also a very difficult space for young children to perform in.

Therefore, we are also planning to put on a **Nativity production** in school (similar to the filmed *Nativity Hoedown* last year). Year 2 will sing, dance and narrate a special version of the Christmas story. Year 1 will also be involved in some of the songs and dances. Parents will be invited to attend.

The **Grandparents Singalong Around the Tree** will now solely be for Dolphin Class. Again, it will be a much simpler and shorter format including the Christmas songs that Reception Class have been learning. Parents will also be invited as well as grandparents.

Dates for the Diary:

Year 1 and 2 - Nativity 'Jesus' Christmas Party'

Tuesday 7th December (afternoon)
Wednesday 8th December (evening)

Dolphin Class - Christmas Singalong Around the Tree

Thursday 9th December (afternoon)

Whole School - Priory School Carol Service

Tuesday 14th December (evening)



Upcoming Diary Dates

Monday 25th Oct - Friday 29th Oct	All Week	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 1st Nov	8:40am	Return to school - start of Autumn 2
Tuesday 2nd Nov	8:30am arrive for registration (for a 9am departure from school)	Year 3 Trip - Ancient Technology Centre (Viking Experience)
Thursday 4th Nov	8:45am 7pm	FPS Coffee Morning drop-in for Dolphin Class FPS Meeting (face to face in school)
Friday 5th Nov	1:30 – 2:30pm	How to Support Early Reading (Parent Workshop led by Miss Field and Mrs Fidge) Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72736598717?pwd=STJobXR4N2RJMldNelNLZEk2bFRqUT09 Meeting ID: 727 3659 8717 Passcode: wV7B0v
Monday 8th Nov	All day	Round the World Home Learning project due in
Tuesday 9th Nov	All day	Outdoor Adventurous Activities event at Moors Valley (Invited pupils only)
Wednesday 10th Nov	4:30 - 5:30pm 6 - 7pm	FPS Disco (R, 1, 2 and 3) FPS Disco (4, 5 and 6)
Friday 12th Nov	All day	INSET Day - School closed Teaching staff visit to 3 Bridges Primary School

Attendance

**Week Ending 22.10.21:
94.56%**

**Year to Date:
93.48%**