



The Priory School Newsletter

Autumn 5 - Friday 5th November 2021

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Welcome back to the new half-term. I arrived at school on Monday morning to see tables upturned and chairs strewn everywhere. Fortunately, it was just Year 3 preparing for their 'disaster' day at the start of their 'Extreme Earth' brilliant beginning!

Year 3 also had an amazing trip to the Ancient Technology Centre at Cranborne this week, just one of the many special and exciting events planned for the children in the coming weeks.

On Monday, I also received an update from BCP Council and Public Health Dorset advising that '**enhanced COVID measures**' should be considered for the next 14 days to combat the rising number of cases in the area. Thankfully, the immediate health risks to children remain low, however concern is growing that high local transmission rates will cause further disruption to schooling.

At the Priory School, there are currently a significant number of households with a positive case. In the light of this, our risk assessment and outbreak measures have been reviewed and our COVID website page will be updated from Monday. The immediate changes to note are:

- increased cleaning of touch points by weekly fogging
- reintroduction of masks when parents come to the foyer

However, we are monitoring cases closely and we may need to 'step up' measures (as we did in September) for some classes for a limited time. This is likely to include;

- virtual assemblies
- eating in class
- reduced mixing across year groups
- cancellation of some trips or events

A new recommendation from BCP is that even primary pupils are now encouraged to test daily (on a lateral flow device) if they have been a close or household contact.

Once again, thank you for all your cooperation and support during this period. Please do keep updating the office team with tests results etc, as we need timely and accurate information to consider the level of risk.

Mr Ruffle



School Mission Statement

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



An Apology Last Minute Cancellation of Clubs

The photos show our Netball Club and Junior Choir in action this week.

I recognise that we have had to cancel a number of our staff-led clubs at short notice since term started. Unfortunately at the current time, it is not possible to find replacements to cover staff who are unable to run their club or activity due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances.



FPS DISCO is Set to Return Confirmation of Time and Arrangements

In order to book your child's place for the FPS school disco, you must pay in advance. **There are no tickets available on the day.**



Details are available on the FPS Facebook and WhatsApp pages (or via your class FPS rep).

Children wear their best disco clothes and have an hour's boogie, with a short refreshment break in the middle. Refreshments are included as part of the admission price.

Only designated parents are allowed to stay, in order to minimise infection risk. If you feel you need to be there to support a younger or more nervous child, then please let your FPS rep know! A small number of school staff will also be on-site throughout the event. Please be aware that, in a change to previous occasions, collection areas at pick-up will be outside. Dolphins / Year 5 will be outside Class 5 and Year 3 from outside the library as normal.

Wednesday 10th November 5 - 6pm *NOTE Revised time
Dolphins, Year 1, Year 2 **and Year 3**

Wednesday 10th November 6:30 - 7:30pm *NOTE revised time (and corrected date)
Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

This event is subject to the school's COVID risk assessment during this time of 'enhanced measures', so it may be cancelled at short notice for some or all year groups depending on the number of positive cases.

Christmas Plans - 'Let it Shine'

We are going through our Christmas plans to make sure that they are COVID-proof, so that whatever we plan to put on can go ahead in some form or other. We have made the difficult decision to **cancel the Christmas Fayre**, but save the date on Friday 3rd December as we planning an exciting alternative! Our full Christmas programme will be shared next Friday.





Inset Day Friday 12th November

I am incredibly excited that our much-delayed visit to the inspirational 3 Bridges Primary school in Southall looks to be going ahead next Friday.

All teaching staff will be spending a day at Three Bridges and our particular focus will be exploring how they have developed their curriculum.

If you are interested in why we are travelling this far to see another school, you might find their website helpful <https://www.threebridgesprimary.co.uk/>

Priory School will be closed all day.



Remembrance Poppy Appeal in School



As a school we will be remembering the sacrifice of our armed forces personnel and other emergency services in a special assembly on Monday. We will also observe a minute's silence on Armistice Day, Thursday 11th November.

We are supporting the British Legion's poppy appeal and children will be able to purchase poppies and other merchandise after every lunchtime, until next Thursday, from our Y6 prefects.

Sorry, no change is able to be given.

Anti-bullying week 15th - 19th November



We are planning a number of events during anti-bullying week this year, highlighting the importance of small acts of kindness.

On Thursday 19th November, our anti-bullying ambassadors will be leading an assembly and so we have designated this day 'ODD SOCK DAY'.

Children are encouraged to wear colourful and unusual odd socks on Thursday 19th November to celebrate the fact that we are all different and unique.

Boys Will Be Boys

Congratulations to Reef (Yr5) who is among 50 male ballet dancers to have been chosen to feature in the 'Boys Will Be Boys' photography exhibition at the Lighthouse, Poole.

Photographer Jayne Jackson documents the different interests of pre-teen and teenage boys, united by their love of dance.

The project challenges society's misconception that boys' interests should only be limited to stereotypical male activities. It also aims to empower ALL children to grow up and be exactly who they want to be.

We think it's brilliant and are all very proud of Reef and his fellow dancers for spreading this powerful and important message!

Well done!





Round the World Home Learning Exhibition

All home learning projects need to be in school by **Monday 8th November**.

We will be exhibiting the projects on Monday afternoon and the children will be going round the school to look at them with their prayer buddy.

Shoebox Appeal - School Council Say A Massive Thank You!



Worship Theme Season of Lights

“Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matt 5 v16

Respect for other faiths and beliefs is a fundamental British value and in our worship this week we explored some of the special festivals that use the symbol of ‘light’ at this time of year. We focussed on Diwali in particular and Dolphin class made some small diyas (small clay oil lights) to celebrate.

With so many local firework displays cancelled due to COVID, there might be more family events this year.

The children were reminded about the firework code, and especially to be really careful around sparklers.





Upcoming Diary Dates

Monday 8th Nov	All day	Round the World Home Learning project exhibition Remembrance Worship
Tuesday 9th Nov	All day	Outdoor Adventurous Activities event at Moors Valley (invited pupils only)
Wednesday 10th Nov	5 - 6pm 6:30 - 7:30pm	FPS Disco (R, 1, 2 and 3) FPS Disco (4, 5 and 6)
Thursday 11th Nov	11am 2:30pm - 5pm	Time of Remembrance Girls' Football 7 –A –Side Tournament, Littledown
Friday 12 th Nov	All day	INSET - School Closed (Teaching staff visit to 3 Bridges Primary School) RELEASE of School Christmas Programme 'Let it Shine'
Monday 15th November	All day 9.30am or 1.30pm	Start of Anti-bullying Week 'One Kind Word' Open morning and afternoon for prospective parents (<i>last opportunity to visit the school</i>)
Wednesday 17th November	All day 9am-12pm	Year 1 trip to Wimborne Priest's House Museum for 'Toys Past and Present' Bikeability (level 1) for Yrs 4 & 5
Thursday 18th November	All day 9am-12pm	Odd Sock Day! Bikeability (level 1) for Yrs 4 & 5

Attendance

Week Ending 05.11.21:
95.50%

Year to Date:
93.74%

HC3S Catering Vacancies at The Priory School

Cook Supervisor – 25 hours per week
Catering Assistant - 16.25 hours per week
Both term-time contacts + 5 inset days

If you would like to apply, please click on the link provided;

<https://careers.newjob.org.uk/HCC/search/?locationsearch=&q=priory+school>