



The Priory School Newsletter

Autumn 6 - Friday 19th November 2021

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

At the time of writing, we seem to be slowly emerging from the latest COVID-19 outbreak at school and **we are planning to step down our measures on Monday 22nd November**. This means that all children can attend school clubs, eat in the hall and mix with other year groups again. We remain vigilant and will retain our enhanced cleaning, ventilation (now with CO2 monitors) and handwashing protocols. Thank you for your support and patience as we navigate these challenges together.

School attendance has obviously suffered recently, but our commitment to improving rates of attendance remains a key priority. **We believe that attendance and punctuality is part of good behaviour** and we are keen to do all we can to support families to ensure that all children are up, ready and motivated to get to school on time.

We know that absence from school (even following a 10 day isolation) can result in a dip in academic performance and social stamina, tiredness and difficulties in re-adapting to the school routines. We recognise that there are a wide range of factors beyond COVID which can affect attendance including anxiety, long-term illness and bereavement. We want to help.

We have rewritten our attendance escalation flowchart (attached) and restated our commitment to:

- promoting the positives of attendance
- having clear escalation systems for absence
- addressing persistent absence quickly (non-COVID related)
- working with external agencies for exceptional cases

Our safeguarding message is clear; **if we can't see a child, we don't know they're safe.**

Please do keep informing us if your child is not going to be in school as we are required to follow this up every time. If you are struggling to get your child to school on time (assuming, of course, they are well), then contact the school office to arrange a telephone call with Mrs Fidge in the first instance.

Mr Ruffle



School Mission Statement

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



Round the World Project - Roaring Success!

The quality of the children's projects were fantastic, so we made the decision to give a certificate to everyone who completed one. The children loved going round to the different continents and finding out a little bit more about the similarities and differences between cultures and climates. As we haven't been able to travel anywhere for while, this was definitely the next best thing - what an amazing world we live in. Most projects should have been returned this week, but one or two have been chosen for our displays. Lots of the class blogs on Google Classroom are full of photos as a permanent record.



Christmas Plans - 'Let it Shine'

Our full Christmas programme has been sent out to all parents. **It is also available to view on school website** (News & Diary - Latest News). A huge 'thank you' to the Redcliffe family who are donating the Christmas tree again this year.



Y5 & 6 Girls' Football Team County Finalists

The girls' football team won the Christchurch tournament last Thursday to qualify for the Dorset finals later in the term. It was a magnificent team effort as many of the children have not played in a competitive match before. Well done girls!

Mrs Miller has prepared a short newsletter, putting all our sports news from the Autumn term in one place. It is attached to this newsletter.





New beach huts by 'Reformed Plastics'

At the time of writing, our new beach huts are just about finished and they look fantastic. The recycled plastic should last a lot longer than the previous wooden versions, so thank you to FPS for this gift.

As you can see, the children are enjoying using the jail, sweet shop and spa already!



Bikeability Years 4 and 5

We are really pleased that we were able to go ahead with Bikeability training this week for children in Years 4 and 5. Learning to ride a bike provides children with confidence, independence, a sustainable way to get to school and it's great for their fitness.



Year 1 Trip 'All about Toys' Museum of East Dorset

We are so proud of the conduct of our Year 1 class, who travelled to the Priest's House in Wimborne to find out about toys past and present. The volunteers at the museum said that the behaviour of our children was some of the best she had ever seen! Wow! Thanks to all the work behind the scenes that made this possible (you should see the risk assessment!), especially Miss Etheridge and the Mrs Broom from the office team.



Worship Theme Remembrance

John 15 v13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one should lay down his life for his friends"

Our traditional poppy prayers were completed by all the children and a number from each year group were read during our special remembrance worship. 'Remembering the past with thankfulness and praying for the future with hope.'

Many of the staff were moved by the observation of the minute's silence held on the astro pitch. Wearing their poppy wristbands, the children showed respect while Olivia read the prayer for the day and the last post was played.





Anti-bullying week - One Kind Word

At the Priory School, we are keen to nurture a school culture which values diversity, difference and mutual respect. We are keen to address any form of bullying, whether happening in school, at home or online and we need to make it clear to the children how they can report it and that they will be listened to.

Our Anti-bullying Ambassadors (trained through the Diana Award programme) have really taken this message to heart. They are trained to support other children, to look out for them and are upstanders against bullying behaviour. They made a video about their role and led a fantastic virtual assembly on 'Odd Sock Day'.

How children can report their concerns?

Find the Ambassadors on the playground or talk to their trusted adult. **STOP** bullying means **START TELLING OTHER PEOPLE**.

What's coming next?

The ambassadors will be busy over the next few weeks.

- Organising our playground rota
- Setting up an anti-bullying noticeboard
- Helping write a child-friendly anti-bullying policy
- Deciding on our first campaign
- Making sure we are ready to support you!





Upcoming Diary Dates

Monday 22nd Nov	All day PM	Confirmation (or not) that the school is able to step down its outbreak measures * Class 1 library visit
Tuesday 23rd Nov	All day Pm	Flu immunisation - POSTPONED (Awaiting new date) Dolphins and Class 3 library visits
Wednesday 24th Nov	PM 3:30 - 5pm	Class 6 library visits Indoor Athletics Competition Y5 & 6 @ The Grange
Thursday 25th Nov	AM PM PM	Class 6 squash taster @ 2 Riversmeet Class 6 National Child Measurement Programme (NHS) Class 4 library visit
Friday 26th Nov	AM PM	Class 5 library visit Class 2 library visit
Monday 29th November	All day 9.30am & 1.30pm	Advent Worship Open morning and afternoon for prospective parents
Wednesday 1st December	AM AM 3:30pm	Arrival of the school Christmas trees Image Theatre panto 'The sword in the stone' Handball Festival
Friday 3rd December	PM 5 - 6:30pm	Christmas decoration and card making day FPS Lanterns and Carols Meet at the garden area outside the Priory Church at 5pm with your homemade lantern (more details from FPS will follow shortly). Ukulele groups and choirs will also be involved.

** Many of the detailed events above are dependent on the school being allowed to step down its contingency measures.*

Attendance

**Week Ending 19.11.21:
84.40%**

**Year to Date:
93.23%**