



The Priory School Newsletter

Autumn 7 - Friday 3rd December 2021

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Our special 'Let it Shine' Christmas programme started this week with a brilliant performance of 'The Sword in the Stone' by the Image Theatre Company. All the children loved seeing a live performance and it was fantastic to hear laughter, squeals and cries of 'He's behind you' echoing around the hall once again.



We are grateful to FPS for funding this performance for the whole school. It was a real treat and it had a very positive message as well. Maggie, in Y5 summed it up later when she said, 'No matter how small you feel, you can always achieve great things!'



The school is starting to look very festive now and class decorations are going up as I write. Thank you to the Redcliffe family for providing another beautiful Christmas tree in our foyer. All the children will be making a tree decoration and Christmas card today.

The Christmas postbox is open from Monday, so there is no better way to practise your best handwriting than writing a card for your friends (and possibly your teacher!).



Mr Ruffle

Worship Theme Advent

John 1 v9 "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world."

As we lit our first candle on our Advent Wreath in worship this week, we considered what Christians are preparing for during this season. We learned that Christians remember the first Christmas, when Jesus came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago.

We also realised that during Advent, Christians look forward to the time when Jesus will come again, as king. We had a crown for Jesus, the servant king, and realised that instead of special gems, he would prefer gifts of love and kindness towards others.



School Mission Statement

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



Sports News

We've continued to keep our sporting programme going up until now, however please remember that all our staff-run clubs and groups finish today. We need to focus our energies on all the extra Christmas events!

Last week, a Year 5 and 6 team entered the **Indoor Athletics Competition** against St Katharine's and St Joseph's. We were missing a number of players due to COVID protocols, and even though we finished 3rd we were only 4 points off representing Christchurch in the Dorset finals.

The team were amazing and George Hayles provided the outstanding moment of the event; winning the javelin throw by throwing it to the other end of the hall. Thanks to Mr McLean for coordinating the tricky team selections.

Mrs Miller took a team of Year 4's to the **handball tournament** this week, also at Grange School. Many loved learning this new sport and you can find out more information by contacting Poole Phoenix handball club.

Class 6 were given the opportunity to have a **squash taster** session at 2 Riversmeet Leisure Centre, led by Charlie Campbell-Wynter of Dorset Squash and Racketball. The children had an enjoyable session and hopefully there a few new converts to this brilliant game!

We're still finalising our sports clubs for Spring 2022, but DH Dance and AFC Bournemouth football club will continue. **Our new link with Atorro sports also comes online in January - please sign up below:**

Tennis on a Monday for Years 3&4 from 3.15pm-4.15pm

<https://atorrosports.com/product/after-school-tennis-club-the-priory-january-2022/>

Multi Skills on a Tuesday for Years 1&2 from 3.15pm-4.15pm

<https://atorrosports.com/product/after-school-multiskills-club-the-priory/>

They require a minimum of 10 children for the session to run and places are offered on a first come, first served basis. These clubs will start from the week commencing **10th January 2022** and will initially run for 6 weeks, with a charge of £24 for the six sessions.



Friday 10th December - Christmas Dinner, Christmas Jumper and Santa Dash

On Christmas Jumper day (Friday 10th December), the children will be taking part in the Dorset Active Lives 'Santa Dash'. The children (and staff) will be encouraged to run a few laps around our playground to see how many miles we can clock up as a school.

Please ensure the children wear trainers that day and a Christmas jumper, if they have one. Don't think you need to buy one specially, because we have a number of Santa hats going spare. **Please remember to bring a donation for Save the Children and to order your child's Christmas dinner via your online account at www.scopay.com.**



Save the Children



Developing Avid Readers at the Priory School

A key priority at Priory School, is not only to support every child to become a confident reader but also to develop their love of reading.

Visiting Christchurch Library

Last week, Miss Field arranged for all the children to visit Christchurch library and it was a time for the children to reacquaint themselves with this fantastic and free resource. Many were keen to restart their library membership and borrow some of the books they spotted. Please do follow this up at home - the team at our local library are so helpful and they have an awful lot of new books.



Virtual Author talks

A number of classes have been invited to take part in virtual author talks: Maddie Moate (Stuff - a book on sustainability), Jeff Kinney (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) and Nick Sharratt (You Choose!).



New Book Review Display

Children across the school have shared pictures of their favourite book and the special place they like to read in.



We tried to capture some of this enthusiasm in our new library display



Y6 Reading Mentors

Now we are allowed to work in other classes again our Y6 buddies have been doing an amazing job, encouraging Dolphin class to practise their reading every day.



Please remember that, even though our staff led sports clubs finish today, Book Club continues until the end of term.

Every Day is a Reading Day!

On these dark winter nights, what better thing is there to do than cuddle up and read a bedtime story to your child?



We can't emphasise enough that reading to your child and hearing them read is probably the single most important thing you can do at home to support your child's educational and language development.

Life is very stressful I know, but please do prioritise reading time, especially if your child is finding it hard.

At Priory School we expect all children to have their reading diary (or reading challenge book) and reading book in school *every day*.

French

KS2 classes have been enjoying French lessons from Monsieur Kevin, the MFL teacher from Twynham Secondary school, since the start of term.

It was encouraging to see Year 5 putting their skills to the test, by ordering food at the French café.





Living Streets - The Walk to School Challenge

We are delighted to announce that Priory School are taking part in this year's 'Walk to School Challenge'.

From **Monday 6th December**, each child will record how they travelled to school each day on a WOW travel tracker in the classroom. There is a new WOW badge (made from recycled plastic) to earn each month by:

- Walking
- Cycling
- Wheeling
- Scooting
- Park and Stride



You simply need to travel sustainably to school at least once a week, every week.

What are the benefits of walking to school?

Walking to school helps children feel happier and healthier. They arrive refreshed, healthy and ready to learn. More families walking means fewer cars on the road, helping to reduce congestion and pollution at the school gates.

What if we can't walk to school?

If you live too far away or don't have time to walk the whole way to school, you can Park and Stride to help your child earn their WOW badge. Simply park or hop off public transport **at least ten minutes** away from the school and walk the remaining journey.

What is a WOW badge?

There is a unique WOW badge to earn every month if you walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride at least once a week. Each badge has been designed by a pupil from across the UK.

From Monday, the children can earn their December badge. This year the WOW badges feature wildlife the children can help protect from climate change through sustainable travel.

For more information, parents can access the following link: <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/parents-info>



Let's swap those school runs into school walks!

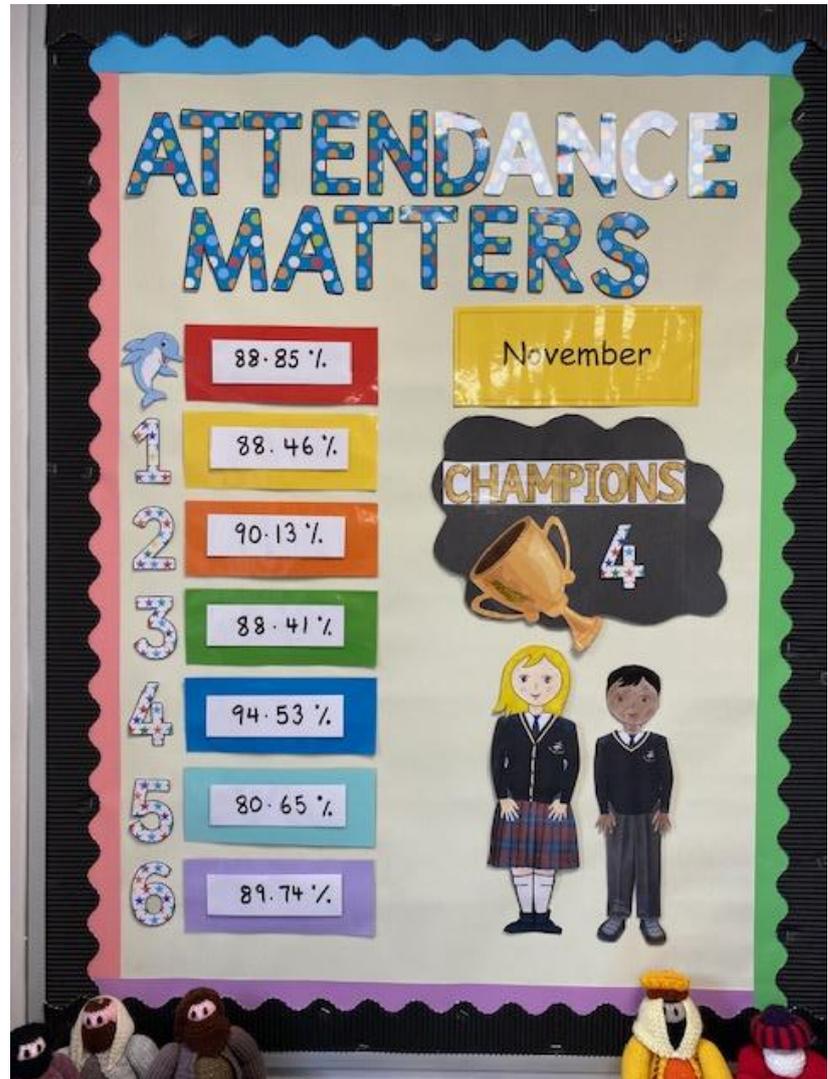


Attendance Update

Whole School Attendance

Week Ending 03.12.21:
89.78%

Year to Date:
91.60%



Autumn Assessments (also known as Quizzes)

Children have been working hard on their Autumn term 'quizzes' this week.

One of the ways we monitor pupils' progress in Reading, Grammar and Punctuation and Maths is to carry out termly 'summative' tests. This provides an objective benchmark to track pupils' current attainment.

This year we are using new tests in Years 1 - 5, called NFER tests (National Foundation for Educational Research), although as Year 1's have only just started on the National Curriculum, they don't begin these until the Spring term.

Teachers will be using this information, as well as their daily assessments, to plan their lessons in January. These test papers will also be shared with you at home after Christmas, so you can see what your child's next steps are and the knowledge that they are expected to have.





Upcoming Diary Dates

Week Commencing 6th December

Monday 6th December	9:30am	FINAL open morning for potential new starters for September 2022 Christmas postbox opens <i>Please clearly write the recipient's first and surname and year group on the envelope</i>
	2-3pm	Year 1 and 2 Nativity dress rehearsal to the whole school
Tuesday 7th December	2 - 3pm (arrive from 1:45pm)	Year 1 and 2 Nativity Performance 'Jesus Christmas Party' <i>Strictly ticket holders only. Please wear masks and take a lateral flow test prior to attending.</i>
Wednesday 8th December	All day	Year 5 Trip Victorian Christmas at Beaulieu House <i>Children to be in school by 8.45am and return at 3pm</i>
	Afternoon	Year 5 & 6 Girls' Football Team Dorset County Finals
	5:30pm - 6:30pm (arrive from 5:15pm)	Year 1 and 2 Nativity Performance 'Jesus Christmas Party' <i>Strictly ticket holders only. Please wear masks and take a lateral flow test prior to attending.</i>
Friday 10th December	All day	Christmas Jumper day in aid of Save the Children <i>Please bring a donation</i> Santa Dash <i>Please wear trainers</i> Christmas Lunch <i>Please order in advance online at www.scopay.com</i>
	2pm	FPS Christmas Live Raffle Draw Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71702583258?pwd=cVhHN1lzL3pINmMxbGpLZkJOZ2ZWUT09 Meeting ID: 717 0258 3258 Passcode: Ry5bvm

