



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring 2 - Friday 28th January 2022

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

Tel: 01202 484105

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

We are extremely grateful to Hattie, our new Head Girl, for taking the lead on this project. She signed us up to join the network of schools involved, chose the plot and the species 'Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer' (early white blossom in March and beautiful golden leaves in Autumn). She also, alongside our other school leaders, helped with the planting.

We hope her actions will inspire the younger children to believe that their ideas will be listened to and that they can also be advocates for change. Hattie is setting a school-wide competition to design the accompanying commemorative plaque. Our eco-warriors will choose the winning entry.

Mr Ruffle



Worship Value - Peace

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

We thought about beautiful settings around the world that can help us to feel peaceful. I showed the children this photograph from my recent holiday in the Lake District and how relaxed I felt in that moment. We went on to think about other places where it can be hard to find peace. The photos acted as a metaphor for how our own lives can feel - sometimes calm and at other times chaotic and in a bit of a mess. This is quite normal and we need to support each other through the bad and the good times.



Christians believe that the Holy Spirit can help us to feel more at peace inside based on Jesus' promise to us and through prayer, focusing on God's presence with us.

School Mission Statement

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



Remembering the Holocaust

Y6 took some time away from their Civil Rights unit to reflect on the holocaust of the Jews during the second world war. The 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. We want the children to learn more about the past, so they can take action to create a safer future. We know the more they learn, the more that they will empathise with others in the future.

Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all.



This year, Class 6 spent an afternoon listening to a holocaust survivor in a live, virtual interview.

Sports News Dorset County Finals



We are extremely proud of our Y5/6 Girl's Football team for reaching the Dorset County Finals, which was held at the Littledown Centre last Wednesday. We were put in a group with St Walburga's, St Ives, Ocean, St Andrews and Allenbourn. The standard was high and, although talented, our team have not played together very much. All the games were well-contested and we were delighted to win our final game 2 - 0.

Congratulations to our goal scorers, Chloe and Beau and special mention must also go to our wonderful goalkeeper, Eleni. We did not progress to the regional finals on this occasion, but the girls had a fantastic time. They remained so supportive and encouraging of one another that they were a credit to the school. Well done!

Thanks to all the parents, the office team and Mr Hall for enabling this to happen with just 24 hours notice!

PAN (Published Admissions Number) Class Size to Remain at 30

The Governors have restated the commitment to protect our class size of 30 in the best interests of our pupils. When I first joined the school, there was a legacy of the class size increasing to 33 in Year 3 i.e. in Juniors. One of the factors behind our rapid improvement has been the decision to cap our KS2 classes. When you consider the size of our playground, hall and classrooms, as well as the priority to cater for the needs of each individual child, then retaining our current PAN of 30 for the foreseeable future is a sensible approach.

There will always be exceptional cases and in-year applications above PAN are considered through the appeals process. Appeals are arranged through BCP Council and decisions are reached by an independent panel, who take into account the views of the school and the families concerned.



School Improvement Update

The Standards Committee had a meeting this week, reviewing the performance data of the school after the Autumn term. The Committee hold school leaders to account through this process.

The school has a 'School Development Plan' (available to view on the school website - <https://prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk/school-improvement-plan>), and this is reviewed regularly. There are a couple of areas to highlight at the moment.

2.2. Ensure pupils have fluent number skills and are prepared for the multiplication tables check in Y4

- We have identified from our Autumn term assessments that a number of children would benefit from practising core number skills, such as times tables and number bonds.
- In school we are using Times Tables Rockstars, daily arithmetic practice in our Maths lessons and daily number challenges at the beginning of the day.
- You can support your child by:

Getting them to school by 8:45am. In KS2, all teachers have prepared number work for the children to do as soon as they enter the classroom. Some parents have spoken to me about whether to get a tutor or not. For your encouragement, if your child arrives in school by 8:45am, then they will benefit from 15—20 minute core Maths work everyday! This easily equates to a weekly hour's tutoring session and it's free!

Use your child's online subscriptions (paid for by school) i.e. IXL and Times Tables Rockstars

Adding in some **number work to your daily reading routine** with your child would really help. It would also help challenge some misconceptions if both parents supported Maths. This can be done in lots of different ways such as: measuring ingredients, keeping a height chart, recording the temperature, games such as battleships, bingo, shut the box, snakes and ladders, using car number plates to do times tables challenges, top trumps.



3.1 Develop reading fluency for all children through the acquisition of sight words, application of phonics and a shared home/school approach

- Reading progress across the school is very encouraging. Thank you for supporting this at home - it is making a real difference.
- As well as getting better at decoding, finding engaging and appealing texts is really important. Please talk to your class teacher if your child is reluctant to read at the moment as we want them to love it! I saw a group of Year 2's huddled up in their reading corner last week. They said independent reading was their favourite time of the week!

“There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book.”

— Frank Serafini



7. Equip the school community with the tools to be 'Head, Heart and Body Smart'

- I had the opportunity to teach and observe a couple of PE lessons last week and I was struck again by how much time has been saved by the children coming to school in their PE kits. It means we are able to maximise the time that the children are physically active. Again, thank you for your support with this.
- The staff, governors and pupils have been working hard to develop a new Positive Behaviour Policy. We hope to be in a position to share this with you in the next newsletter and then hold a face to face parent information workshop after half-term. We are very excited about the impact these changes will have on our pupils' intrinsic motivation and attitude to learning.



COVID Update - Stepping down enhanced measures

Further to my letter on 21st January 2022, we have now stepped down our enhanced measures in line with Government guidance. This means we will:

- meet together for worship and gathered assemblies
- remove any requirement to wear masks in communal areas
- restart staff-led extra-curricular clubs (with effect from Mon 31st Jan)
- restart all cross year group activities especially Y6 peer leadership

This week there have still been children and staff testing positive, so it remains important that everyone is still vigilant and tests twice a week on a lateral flow device, if you can.

Please also note that email response times from both the Office and myself maybe longer than normal for the next few weeks.

Winter Olympics and Curling

FPS are kindly purchasing some indoor curling kits to help us celebrate the winter Olympics which starts next Friday. Over the next few weeks we will be running a special curling competition for all the children in their House teams.

One of the lovely things about indoor curling is that it can be enjoyed by children of all abilities as it is a fully inclusive sport.



Diary Dates

| Date | Time | Event |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Tuesday 1st February | All Day | Mental Health Awareness Day |
| Wednesday 2nd February | 9.15am - 11.45am 3.15pm @ The Grange | Relax Kids Y6 Handball Tournament |
| Thursday 3rd February | 7pm (Hall) | FPS Meeting (all invited) |
| Friday 4th February | All Day | Start of the Winter Olympics (curling competition in school) |
| Tuesday 8th February | All Day | Safer Internet Day |
| Wednesday 9th February | 9am - 12pm PM 6pm | Bikeability Level 1 Classes 4,5 & 6 (mop-up session) Y2 Commonwealth Games Event Full Governing Body meeting |
| Mon 14th - Fri 18th Feb | All Week | Spring Assessment Week |
| Mon 21st - Fri 25th Feb | All Week | School closed for February half-term holiday |

Please note the first day for pupils of the Autumn term 2022 will be Monday 5th September.



Online Safety

The theme for this year's internet safety day on Tuesday 8th February is 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively.

Safer Internet Day 2022 | **Tuesday 8 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

All our teaching staff have received online training this year about internet safety, through a resource called Educare.

For any parents who want more information about keeping your child safe online, then we can recommend the following resources:

- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Parentzone](#) provides help for parents and carers on how to keep their children safe online



Whole School Attendance

Week Ending 28.01.22
95.14%

Year to Date
92.01%

