



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring Term Issue 3 - Friday 11th February 2022

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Thank you for your support and for the many kind comments we received during our Ofsted inspection last week. These inspections aim to provide an independent assessment of the quality and standards of education in schools, and check whether pupils are achieving as much as they can. The [education inspection framework](#) sets out the principles of school inspections.



We have been waiting to be re-inspected for a number of years, since the judgement of 'Requiring Improvement' back in March 2018. The new report has yet to be written, but I can say that I am incredibly proud of the way our school community pulled together. The children were absolutely fantastic and I was humbled by the results of our [Parent View](#) survey. An incredible **98% of the 120 responses** would recommend Priory school to another parent.

Once we have a publication date for the final report, we will hold an information evening to share the findings with you. At the same meeting we will restate our vision for the future, explain our revised positive behaviour policy (which comes into effect on Monday 28th February) and update you on our school improvement plans. It will also be really helpful to listen to your feedback, as we haven't been able to hold a School Conference for a number of years. I hope you will be able to make it.

Mr Ruffle

Worship Value - Peace

“Peace be with you!” John 20v21

In our first in-school worship with Father Charles since the pandemic started, we shared the Peace of Christ with one another. Father Charles reminded the children that the first words that Jesus said to his disciples, after he rose from the dead, was “Peace be with you!”

Even in the midst of storms and worries and illness, we can experience the peace of Christ which passes all understanding. It was a very special moment, when the children wished one another peace because there was a tangible sense of desiring the very best for each other, not just a calmness of mind.



School Mission Statement

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



Sports News

It's really encouraging to see all these sporting activities starting up again, after the enforced pause due to the post-Christmas COVID cases in school.

Squash Tasters Yr 4 & 5

Year 4 and 5 have had two really enjoyable squash taster sessions at Two Riversmeet Leisure Centre, thanks to coach Charlie from 'Squash at Speed'.



Bikeability - Level 1 Yr 4, 5 & 6

Year 4, 5 and 6 also had the opportunity to work towards their Level 1 Bikeability award. As we are surrounded by such busy roads, we really do recommend this basic cycle training for our older children.

Handball Competition Yr 5 & 6

We are very proud of our Handball team who went to the Handball taster tournament at the Grange last Wednesday.

Commonwealth Primary Games Yr 2

This Wednesday, Christchurch Sports Partnership arranged another festival opportunity for younger children with a 'Commonwealth Games' feel at the Grange School. Well done to all the children who took part.

Safer Internet Day 2022

Be Internet Legends

To make the most of the internet, children need to make smart decisions. Be Internet Legends empowers younger children to use the web safely and wisely, so they can be confident explorers of the online world.

Mr McLean and his online safety champions in Yr4 reminded the children of the key messages behind the programme: Sharp, Alert, Secure, Kind, Brave, Healthy. I wonder what the children can remember? In our Tuesday assembly, we also thought about how we can be respectful when playing online games.



Being respectful online means:

Including people when they want to be included



Listening to other people

Being kind and supportive



Understanding that someone might not want the same things as you

Thinking about how your words and actions make other people feel



Not putting pressure on someone and accepting their boundaries





The Great Science Exhibition

This year, as in previous years, we would like to encourage children from across the school to undertake a science project, in place of their regular homework from Monday February 14th, to share with the school community on **Friday 11th March in the hall.**



There is no set format for the project. It could be a subject of special interest to your child. I know many children are interested in dinosaurs! A model your child has made, with information to accompany it, would make a wonderful display. Children could even undertake a scientific experiment and demonstrate it at the event e.g. making a tornado in bottle!

You are welcome to support your child and the choice of project is theirs.

If your child is using the internet, please select information carefully so we do not have information overload! Digital presentations will need to be printed or written out so there is something to display at The Great Exhibition.

The projects will be displayed in the hall on **Friday 11th March from 2.15pm** for parents to view. They will remain in place until Monday morning, so all children can browse the exhibits. Please ask the children to explain their projects to you and feel free to ask questions.

Children at The Priory School have a wide range of interests and hobbies and this will give them the opportunity to show off their knowledge and understanding of science in an open and fun way. I really hope your child enjoys their project!

Yours faithfully,

Ian Swain
Science Leader

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

This week, Priory pupils have been taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. Each day has had a different theme, from Mindful Monday to Friday Fitness.

The highlight of our week was definitely **Dress to Express** on Thursday where everyone had an opportunity to express themselves through their choice of clothes and accessories. The week has provided us with an invaluable opportunity to consider the key aspects of physical well-being including eating healthily, staying fit and getting the right amount of sleep. We have also used the week to consider ways of boosting our mental wellbeing from using mindfulness and breathing techniques to being kind to ourselves and to each other.



We are delighted to have raised £150 for Place2Be, an amazing children's mental health charity. Thank you.



Collection Times - Waiting in the Car Park

As more COVID restrictions are relaxed, we are reviewing our access arrangements. It was always a temporary measure to use the school car park as a waiting area for pedestrians at the morning/afternoon collection times, but it has reduced congestion. Although we have tried hard to minimise vehicles using the car park, it is still unavoidable on occasions, such as when the school nurse visited last week.

While we carry out a review of the safest way to get children into school, please continue to supervise your children carefully in the school car park. They should not be running around by parked cars or playing by the automatic doors. Please also be alert to staff or service vehicles needing to use the car park, especially if you are waiting for an after school club to finish.

Diary Dates

Alongside the newsletter this week, we have attached our key term dates for 2022-23. Please note that we still have to finalise the date of our 5th inset training day.

Date	Time	Event
Monday 14th - Friday 18th Feb	All week	Spring Assessment Week
Wednesday 16th February	All day	Yr 2 - Explorer Day (Children to dress up as their favourite explorer, see Class 2's Google classroom for more details.)
	3pm (pick up)	Bee Netball Competition
Thursday 17th February	pm	Y3 squash taster
Monday 21st - Friday 25th Feb	All week	School closed for February half-term holiday
Monday 28th February	8:40am	Start of Spring 2
Thursday 3rd March	All day	World Book Day
Friday 11th March	2.15pm - 3:30pm	Priory Great Science Exhibition
Monday 14th March	3:30 - 7pm	Learner Centred Consultations
Tuesday 15th March	3:30 - 6pm	Learner Centred Consultations
Wednesday 30th March	1:30 - 3pm 5:30 - 7pm	Priory Spring Gala Concert
Friday 8th April	9:45am	Easter Service at Priory Church
	10:45am	Easter Bonnet Parade (Dolphins, 1 and 2)
	3:15pm	School Closes for Easter