



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring 4 - Friday 4th March 2022

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

We gave everyone the perfect excuse to avoid wearing an outfit for this year's **World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March** (just bring a cushion!), but it seems most of the children couldn't resist anyway. Harry Potter and various Disney princesses and pirates remain perennial favourites.



The book sharing between different year groups was a particular highlight - the day really was about the joy that books give.

We enjoyed a visit from our own published authors, Archie and Rebecca Clapcott, who shared their most recent book from the 'Awesome Archie' series, 'The colourful cape of courage'. More information about the work of Awesome Archie in celebrating neurodiversity in schools and the umbrella charity, Dorset Children's Foundation, can be found here: <https://www.awesomearchie.co.uk/>

Finally, World Book Day ended with a story from the best book (The Bible) by the Open the Book team. More information about where the children can spend their voucher and the free books on offer can be found here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/2021/09/world-book-day-2022-announcements/>



Mr Ruffle

School Mission Statement

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



Spring Musical Concert Wednesday 30th March



We are pleased to announce that plans for our Spring Musical Gala on Wednesday 30th March are underway. There will be an afternoon performance from 1.30-3pm, followed by an evening performance at 5.30-7pm.

Auditions will take place throughout the day on Thursday 10th March for any child who would like to take part and has prepared a musical act. As this is a musical Gala, there will be a particular focus on musical acts, including singing and the playing of musical instruments. We recommend that if children want to play an instrument they should be currently receiving lessons or play regularly. Sign up sheets will go up in school next week.

Successful acts will be informed via email on Monday 14th March. If we are inundated with requests, we will prioritise older children and performers will be limited to one act (not including ukulele or choir groups).

We look forward to this exciting opportunity of coming together to celebrate the musical talents of our school community.

Kind regards

Miss Etheridge
Music Leader

The Great Science Exhibition Friday 11th March - Hall and Classrooms Open from 2:15pm



We are looking forward to receiving the children's science projects on Friday 11th March.

There is no set format for the project. It could be a subject of special interest to your child. 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! 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 and classrooms 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.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Swain
Science Leader



FPS News

FPS work together to provide vital funding for the school to enhance every child's educational experience. Sadly, with the school's budget frozen for next year and costs spiralling (utility bills are due to go up by at least 20%), this money will be needed more than ever!



Spending Plans - 30 New Chromebooks

Thanks to FPS the school has been able to purchase 30 new chromebooks which are already being used to support core learning every morning (programmes such as Times Table Rockstars, Reading Plus and IXL).



Spending Plans - Teacher Walls in Class 3 & 4

The school's vision is to upgrade and modernise our classrooms, to create calm, clean and safe environments for the children to learn.

A key aspect is improving the storage and sink areas and maximising the space in our smallest rooms by decluttering unnecessary units.



The teacher walls project in classrooms 3 and 4 is part of a wider plan to redecorate, recarpet and refurbish all the classrooms in school as funding permits. The top picture is representation of Class 4 and the lower picture is Class 3. We are hoping this work will take place at Easter.

FPS Disco

Great news! The fantastic FPS disco returns next week and the details are as follows:

Date - Wednesday 9th March

KS1 (Dolphins, Classes 1 & 2) - 4.30pm-5.30pm

KS2 (Classes 3,4,5 & 6) - 6pm- 7pm

Cost - £5 (includes Tuck shop)

Please return the completed flyer forms to the school office, thank you. Please transfer your payment of £5 to the FPS account:

Name - Priory School Parent Society
Sort code - 30-90-89
Account number - 39918560
Reference - Child's name

If you previously paid for the November disco, cancelled due to COVID, then please indicate this on the registration form so the FPS can cross-reference the payment(s).

Thank you for supporting the FPS in raising funds for our school.



Learner Centred Consultation Evenings 14/15th March 2022

We are pleased to confirm that our **face to face** Parents' Evening will take place on **Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th March, 2022.**

This is an opportunity to look through your child's work and then to talk to the class teacher. In a change from previous years, consultations will take place in your child's classroom - however you will be collected from the school hall (or library area for Dolphins). Consultations will be strictly kept to 8 minutes, signalled by a message over our walkie talkie system. We would ask you to respect this so we can keep to time. If a longer discussion is needed, a meeting can be arranged for another time.



Children are encouraged to attend and all children will be awarded a learning hero certificate to be collected from Mrs Fidge or myself. They will have to explain why they were chosen for this particular award.

Last year we introduced SchoolCloud which is an easy-to-use online appointment booking system. It allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointment(s).

Appointment bookings will open from **7pm on Monday 7th March 2022 and will close at midday on Thursday 10th March 2022 so working parents are not disadvantaged.** Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the School Office.

Please visit <https://theprioryce.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointments. You will be asked to login with the following pupil information:

Preferred first name (please note this is the preferred name you have registered with the school, for example Josh as preferred name, rather than the legal first name of Joshua)

Surname

Date of birth

We look forward to welcoming you back into school!

Exciting News - Changes are Coming Early Reading and Phonics

You may notice a few tired faces on Wednesday mornings, because for the last couple of Tuesdays we've been having extra evening training on the way we teach Phonics and Early Reading. We have adopted one of the Government's recommended (and DfE validated) systematic synthetic phonics programmes called 'Little Wandle' and are set to launch phase 1 in a couple of weeks. More information will be coming out soon, but if you want to learn more about the programme, their website is really helpful: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>





Worship Focus Justice and Lent

“He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?”
Micah 6v8



Father Charles spoke really powerfully to the children on Ash Wednesday about our new value of Justice. He reminded the children that we should stand up and sound the alarm when we see things which are unfair and that we should also be people who pray for peace and that Jesus can bring peace, even when there is trouble in our lives and the life of our nation.

A child asked about the war in Ukraine and Father Charles gave some really helpful advice, as we've had a number of children (and parents) talking about this unfolding tragedy this week. I thought I'd share it here so you can see what messages children have been receiving in school.

- The actions of President Putin and the Russian Government are wrong, but we should not blame the Russian people because they have not been hearing the truth. Many Russians want the war to stop.
- It is not fair that some children in Ukraine have had to shelter in basements or flee their homeland because of bombing.
- If the children have any worries that the fighting might spread, they should talk to a trusted adult.
- 'To do justice' is not just to talk or think about it, but to act to make a positive difference.
- Older children have had the opportunity to watch newsround and ask questions, but for younger children we are not going into any more detail. All classes are encouraged to pray for peace every day and all children are encouraged to ask any questions they have to a trusted adult.

A number of staff are getting involved in a walk/run organised by Mr Swain for the people on Ukraine next Sunday. Anyone who wishes to support this can give directly to the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal: <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

As we approach Easter, it may be appropriate to direct some of our school fundraising to the victims of this war. We will keep you informed of any plans we/the children decide to make.

Positive Behaviour Policy Launch - Lots of Green Stickers!



You may remember just before half-term, Mrs Fidge wrote to advise you that as part of our commitment to improving behaviour, we are introducing a new Positive Behaviour policy. It has been shared and approved by pupils from the School Council, all staff and Governors, including Parent Governors.

We have now gone live with this new approach and the children have responded brilliantly. **If they have a green sticker on today it means they've been amazing all week and we want to celebrate that!** I've attached the classroom posters that we are referring to with the children, so you can support the school's expectations at home.

Our Rules



Show respect to all members of the Priory community.



Listen carefully and respond appropriately to others.



Use kind words and keep hands and feet to yourself.



Treat equipment and the environment with care.



Follow instructions given by all staff.

Consequences

1

Reminder



2

Verbal Warning

‘You are not following the rule of I am now giving you a verbal warning and you now need to’

3

Yellow Card

5 minutes of play missed.

Parents informed at collection / email.

No green sticker this week.

4

Red Card

Break and lunchtime missed.

Parents informed at collection / phone call.

Restorative meeting and reflection form.



Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 9th March	KS1 (Dolphins, 1&2) - 4.30pm-5.30pm KS2 (Classes, 3,4,5&6) - 6pm-7pm	FPS School Disco
Thursday 10th March	Throughout the day	Auditions for the Spring Musical Gala
Friday 11th March	8.30am-4.30pm 2.15pm	Y2 Marwell Zoo Priory Great Science Exhibition - School Hall & Classrooms
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 10:45am 3:15pm	Easter Service at Priory Church Easter Bonnet Parade (Dolphins, 1 and 2) School Closes for Easter

Storm Eunice Damage

Mr Swain had the excitement of it raining inside - in the middle of teaching a lesson! Despite our best efforts to check for storm damage, it seems that Storm Eunice has had the last laugh and done unseen damage to our school roof. We've now got a few leaks in Class 5. We have had the classroom checked and it is safe to be used but it will take a few more days for the problem to be fully fixed as we wait for the insurers and funding to be released.



Let's hope for a few dry days in March and thank you to Mr Hanslip for working extra hours to make the area safe for children and adults.



Whole School Attendance

Week Ending
04.03.22
95.90%

Year to Date
92.71%