



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring 6 - Friday 1st April 2022

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

The school resounded to the sound of singing, ukulele strumming and piano playing on Wednesday, as we held our Spring Gala concert for the first time in 2 years in aid of the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.



It was wonderful to hear live music again and such a range of talent. Over 50 children took part and they simply shone - they were all so confident about performing in front of a sell-out crowd. I am very grateful to Mrs Moss and Mr Morrow for their expert help, however the gala would not have happened without Miss Etheridge. Along with Mrs Andrews, she auditioned the pupils, rehearsed with them over many lunchtimes and pulled the programme together. As ever, I am also in awe of our office team for keeping the show on the road, once again.



Donations are still being taken for Ukraine and we'll announce the total we have raised next week.

Mr Ruffle

Worship Value—Justice

Ecclesiastes 7 v14 “When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this:

God has made the one as well as the other.”

During our prayer buddy worship last week, the children considered the uncomfortable truth that sometimes life can seem very unfair. They shared with their buddy something that they were personally finding hard - for example whether someone in their family was poorly or that they hadn't been selected for a team. We also remembered children in Ukraine, who must wonder if there is any justice in the world as they flee their homes.



We realised that there are no easy answers. We listened to the story of Job in the Bible, who continued to trust God despite losing everything. We also thought about the story of Sai Weng, the man who loses his horse but learns that sometimes trials are blessings in disguise.

Our buddies prayed for each other, asking God to bring comfort, justice and peace.

School Mission Statement

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



Living with COVID-19 - Updated Guidance from 1st April

Under the Government's plan, 'Living with COVID-19' there are changes to the guidance on managing the pandemic. I am still waiting for the school's operational guidelines to be published, but the key messages are:



- Free testing ends today (01.04.2022)
- Anyone (including children) with the symptoms of a respiratory infection (i.e. Coronavirus), and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. *This means children with a high temperature should not be in school and will be sent home.*
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. *For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.*
- There is no longer any requirement for schools to provide remote learning for children who are absent from school. *This is a significant workload burden for staff. Going forward Priory school will only offer remote learning in exceptional circumstances.*

"The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk."

Those of us who know people who have fallen very ill from COVID-19 may have serious reservations about this next phase. It will be challenging for schools. We have had 6 staff off with COVID-19 in the last 14 days and a number of them have been very unwell - this causes disruption to children's learning.

In the same 'Living with COVID-19' document, Dame Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), is quoted: *"The pandemic is not over and how the virus will develop over time remains uncertain. COVID still poses a real risk to many of us, particularly with case rates and hospitalisations on the rise."*

I feel that over the last 2 years, we have all worked brilliantly as a community to keep one another safe. If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school. If your child is COVID-19 positive, please do not send them to school. Thank you.

New Milton Music Festival

Congratulations to all our musicians representing Priory School at the New Milton Music Festival (and thanks to Caroline Moss for preparing them so well):

- Sia Markland - Gold (Singing age 9-12)
- Eleni Ricketts - Gold (Uke Grade 3)
- Olivia Morison - Silver (Uke Grade 2)
- Daisy Hurley - Silver (Piano Grade 1)
- Eleni Ricketts - Merit (Piano Beginners)





Sports Update

Y5/6 Christchurch Netball Tournament

Team Priory came an incredibly respectable 4th in netball league but unfortunately they will not be representing Christchurch this year. The overall winners were Burton, who were just outstanding. Our results were:

- Priory 3 - 2 St Josephs
- Priory 2 - 0 Twynham
- Priory 1 - 2 Somerford
- Priory 0 - 6 Burton
- Priory 3 - 3 Christchurch Jnrs



Y3/4 Rippa Rugby Festival, Wimborne

We have a strong tradition in tag rugby and we are delighted with the performance of our Y3/4 mixed tag rugby team. The unofficial word is that the Priory team were unbeaten on the day - shame that it was only a friendly festival!

Y4 Football Friendly

In between the end of school and the gala, a number of Y4 children also managed to squeeze in a friendly football tournament with other Christchurch schools. I hear it didn't go quite as well as the rugby...



Y5/6 Moors Valley, Adventurous activities

A number of Y5/6 pupils were invited to spend an outdoor adventurous day at Moors Valley on Tuesday 22nd March. On a glorious Spring day, the children enjoyed activities such as orienteering and mountain biking around the forest tracks.



Dancing with the Stars Petya and Anya

We just loved seeing these photographs of Anya and Petya with Janette Manrara and Alijaz Skorjanec. Petya and Anya were invited to perform at one the 'Strictly Come Dancing' tour shows.



They are now World Champions in their age category, so I think we might see them on the actual show one day!



Staff Update

Mrs Clapcott is leaving her role as Teaching Assistant at Easter. She is an extremely popular and skilled member of our team and I know many children will miss her dearly, especially those in Class 5 who work so closely with her. None of us will forget her lockdown Art videos!

As many of you know, Mrs Clapcott is founder of 'Awesome Archie', a charity which seeks to celebrate neurodiversity and inclusion in schools, with a particular focus on autism awareness. This work continues to grow and combined with the need to support her wider family, Mrs Clapcott has decided the time is right to reduce her work commitments. However, she has promised to return for our Arts Week in the summer and stay on the books as one of our cover team.

You can support the next chapter of her 'Awesome Archie' work here: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/awesomearchie?utm_term=qBWQaaazE

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Palmer has agreed to join our Teaching Assistant team for the Summer term. Mrs Palmer was originally appointed as a Midday Supervisor, but since January she has been virtually working full time as a Teaching Assistant due to COVID-19. A trained graphic art worker, she is a natural at supporting children with their learning and she is a brilliant addition to our team.



Easter Journeys at Priory Church

We are extremely grateful to Vicky, the new Children and Families Worker at Priory church, for such a warm welcome. Vicky and her team have helped all the children to reflect again on the Easter story and some of the fundamental Christian doctrines, such as salvation.





Young Carers

We are delighted to let you know that we are now working in partnership with the local charity MyTime, which supports support young carers and their families in Dorset. Already, the MyTime team have supported the leadership team with the drafting of a new policy which sets out the school's approach to supporting young carers and their families. All staff will receive training on how to identify and support young carers and all pupils will attend an assembly about the role of young carers just after Easter.



We know that there are young carers within our Priory family, both registered and unregistered. We would like to establish a young carers register so that we can make sure we are supporting pupils who are young carers as fully as possible. Please find attached a letter from MyTime which gives more details about the charity and the different channels of support it offers, including connecting young carers via a zoom youth group, activity days and weekend retreats.

If your child does having caring responsibilities, please let us know either by returning the slip on the letter OR via the school office.

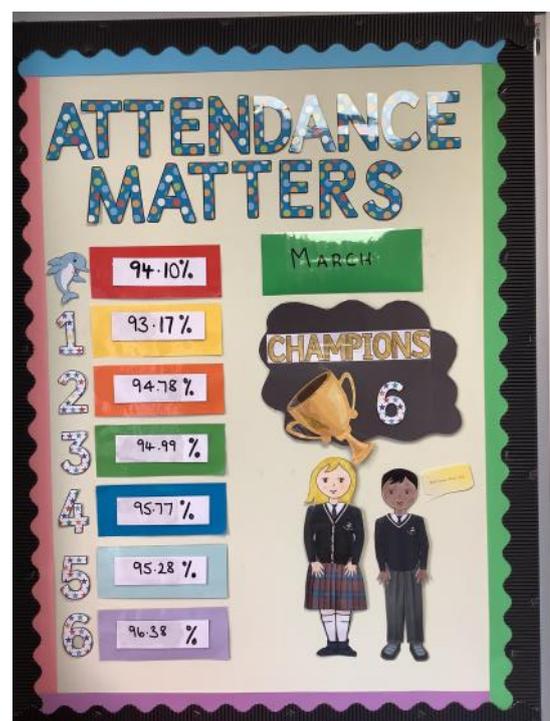
If you have any questions at all, please contact Mrs Fidge via the school office.



Whole School
Attendance

Week Ending
01.04.22
94.71%

Year to Date
93.01%





Diary Dates

Please note there are no staff led extra curricular clubs next week, except the early morning booster groups.

Move to Learn, Learn to Move is also cancelled next week and will restart after Easter.

| Date | Time | Event |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Monday 4th April | 6 - 7pm (School Hall) | Ofsted Feedback to Parents <i>(The presentation will be available on Google Classroom, but not recorded)</i> |
| Wednesday 6th April | 2:40pm (Side gate entrance) | Year 2 African Exhibition <i>(Year 2 parents only)</i> |
| Friday 8th April | 9:45am 10:45am (Timings approximate - after the Easter service) 3:15pm | Easter Service at Priory Church (open to all) Easter Bonnet Parade Each child in Dolphins, Year 1 and 2 is invited to come to school wearing an Easter bonnet for a parade <u>after</u> the Easter service. It is just for fun and not a competition. We are hoping the parade will take place outside this year, weather permitting, and parents can come and watch. School Closes for Easter (collection at normal time) |
| Monday 25th April | 8:40am | School reopens for the summer term |
| Monday 2nd May | SCHOOL CLOSED | Bank Holiday |
| Thursday 5th May | All Day | Superhero Day to raise money for Dorset Mind This fundraising event is being organised by the School council. £1 to come dressed as your favourite superhero (or just to wear a cape). |

A full list of diary dates for the Summer term and 2022-23 term dates will be shared in the next newsletter, Friday 29th April.