



The Priory School Newsletter

Summer 3 - Friday 27th May 2022

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Seeing the school decked out in bunting and the children looking fabulous in their smart clothes made the end of half-term feel very special today. It was a lovely way to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with the whole school enjoying an amazing picnic lunch outside (provided by HC3S), followed by free ice cream (thanks to FPS). The children have worked so hard this term and they all really deserved this treat. Even the Queen herself popped by to congratulate the children!

Don't forget there are more celebrations over half-term, especially the Christchurch town beacon lighting event on Thursday 2nd June.

I hope you are able to enjoy the extra bank holiday next week.

Mr Ruffle



 **CHRISTCHURCH
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Come and
Celebrate!**

**BEACON LIGHTING
EVENT**

On Thursday 2nd June 2022
5-10pm at Mudeford Quay

to include:

- Fun Fair rides and food all evening
- Children's candle-lit procession from Avon Beach to the Quay, led by the piper at 9pm
- Candle lit boats in the harbour
- Music from the British Legion Band
- The Bournemouth Piper; at 9.35pm with "Diu Regnare"
- Buglers, cornets at 9.40pm playing "Majesty"
- Beacon Lighting at 9.45pm by the Mayor (same time across the country) assisted by Christchurch Scouts

ENTRANCE FREE

Town Crier at 2pm at the Old Town Hall, Saxon Square.
Funky Choir from 1.30pm and raising of the Union Jack

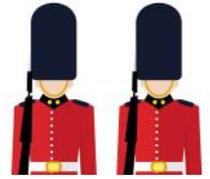




Staff and Governor update

Changing of the Guard

Continuing with the royal theme, it seems an appropriate metaphor to announce that two of the longest-serving members of the Priory team are stepping back from their key roles. In different ways, they have both made a hugely significant contribution to the lives of hundreds of children in our community.



Mrs Solly - Chair of Governors

Mrs Solly was the Chair of Governors when I was appointed as Headteacher, but she has been involved as a governor at Priory School for over **25 years** - in fact, since her own children were here! I have found her wise counsel and calm approach invaluable in our weekly catch-up meetings. She often prefers to stay in the background, but she has worked tirelessly for the school and I know that much of our recent improvement is down to her support (and challenge)! I will miss her enormously, but the time is right for her to step down at the end of term.



Mrs Solly **has agreed that we can thank her at the Leaver's Service on Thursday 21st July at Priory Church (9:45am)**. If you would like to contribute towards a thank you gift for Mrs Solly, please contact the school office. A new chair of governors will be elected at the September AGM.

Mrs Sibbald - Reception Class Teacher

Mrs Sibbald has been a class teacher at the Priory School for **37 years**, but from September her role will be changing, as part of a phased retirement, to solely focus on SEND pupils. We are fortunate that she is able to commit **2 days a week until Easter 2023 as our SENCO** (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), so children will still be able to benefit from her knowledge and experience.



Anyone who has visited our Reception Class is immediately struck by the nurturing and fun environment, which is a hallmark of Mrs Sibbald's teaching. I know that she has taught many of our parents as well as the current intake of pupils. She is definitely a 'Priory national treasure' and **Miss Etheridge has the unenviable task of replacing her as our Reception teacher next year**. We will mark Mrs Sibbald's incredible dedication and public service with a series of events in Spring 2023.

We are now starting the process of recruiting a new class teacher for September and once this is complete, hopefully at the end of June, I'll be able to announce our teacher and teaching assistant line-up for 2022-23. Thank you for your patience.

Other Changes

Mrs Woodhead – Foundation Governor, Responsible for Premises

In these challenging times, I don't know how anyone has the time (or energy) to be a governor, because for an entirely voluntary role it is so demanding. I am very grateful to Mrs Woodhead, who during the difficult days of COVID, was such a support as our Premises Governor. Her expertise on matters relating to health and safety and 'project managing' was extremely helpful. Understandably, due to other pressing commitments, Mrs Woodhead has decided she needs to step down from her role.

There are now 2 Foundation Governor vacancies and these are approved by the Priory Church PCC.



Pupil Wellbeing Survey - The Results

At the Priory School, we recognise that strong mental health is just as important as physical health. We take a coordinated and evidence-informed approach to promote good mental health and wellbeing for all staff, pupils and their families in our school community.



Just before Easter, Priory pupils completed an online wellbeing survey in school using Google Forms. Younger children received support with the reading of questions but answers were given independently. **We had 184 responses.**

A summary of the pupils' responses are attached. The answers will be used to inform our actions moving forward; for example, in building on children's evident appreciation of the outdoors or arts and crafts. The picture is predominantly a very positive one, with children feeling happy, healthy and secure at school.

At the same time, the survey highlights any additional learning or interventions we may need to introduce; for example, in equipping children with the vocabulary they need to describe their emotions and feelings or addressing why a small number of children may be feeling worried or lonely at school.

We hope you find the results of interest. The questionnaire is part of a cycle of surveys linked to wellbeing. In the Autumn term, we carried out a survey on staff wellbeing and in the Summer term, our parents survey will have a wellbeing component. There have also been a number of wellbeing initiatives, including the setting up of a schoolwide wellbeing team (with representation from staff, parents and governors). In every class, we have a 'What I'd like my teacher to know' box, for pupils to share anything they wish to with their teachers. **Every child's wellbeing matters to us.**

Relationships, Sex and Health Education

Parent Information Workshop - Wednesday 8th June 4:30pm

During the next half-term (Summer 2), we are planning to teach the 'Changing Me' part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) programme of study. This includes lessons on sex and relationships. The school continues to follow the Jigsaw scheme of work and this is unchanged from last year.



We are holding a virtual parent information meeting (via zoom) on **Wednesday 8th June** in order to share the lesson content of some of the more sensitive material (particularly around puberty and body changes in Year 4 and human reproduction in Year 5/6). It is an opportunity to ask questions, especially if this is an aspect of the curriculum which concerns you. Ofsted considered our PSHE programme and wider personal development curriculum a strength of the school.

Miss Webber, our PSHE coordinator, will be leading the session and Mr Ruffle will also be present. Due to the sensitive nature (and copyright) of some of the material and questions, this meeting is not recorded. If you have attended this meeting in the last couple of years, there is no need to come again as the material is the same.

Please contact the school office if you require the zoom link to be resent.

Sports Update

It's been another busy few weeks of sporting action. The Y3/4 tennis team came 2nd in the Christchurch competition. The girls' football team, once they made it to the correct Twynham school, won 1 and lost 2 in a friendly event. The Science quiz team came a respectable 3rd place and we are still awaiting the results of this week's Quad kids (outdoor athletics).

To top it off, Year 6 Bikeability also took place this week and everyone passed.





Attendance Update

The Government continues to release updated guidance for schools relating to school attendance. We are currently reviewing our attendance policy in time for the start of the new term.

Unauthorised holidays in academic year 2022-23

There's been a significant increase in the number of holiday requests this summer, with many families seeking to take previously postponed or cancelled trips. Where this has been genuinely unavoidable, we've still had to categorise this absence as unauthorised but we haven't requested a penalty notice. **From September, all unauthorised holidays which exceed 5 days (in total over the year, not necessarily in one consecutive block) will be subject to a penalty notice.**

Illness Exclusion Advice

The 'Health Protection in Education and Childcare Settings' guidance seeks to find the right balance between encouraging children to be in school and protecting others from infection. It's a common sense approach. Following this advice, we have updated our minimum exclusion period for common illnesses and medical conditions. The NHS website has a [useful resource](#) with more information. Our wonderful office staff can help but they are not medical experts and we trust you to make decisions in the best interests of your child and others.

Common childhood illnesses/ disease	Minimal Exclusion Period
Athlete's Foot	None. Children should not be barefoot.
Chickenpox	At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all blisters have crusted over.
Cold sores (herpes simplex)	None. Avoid contact with the sores.
Conjunctivitis	None.
Respiratory infections including coronavirus (Covid-19)	Children should not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell. Children who have a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend school for 3 days after the day of the test.
Diarrhoea and vomiting	Pupils can return 48 hours after symptoms have stopped (and they are eating and drinking again).
Diphtheria	Exclusion is essential and Public Health notified.
Glandular fever	None.
Hand foot and mouth	None.
Head lice	None, but it should be treated as soon as possible.
Impetigo	Until the skin has healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
Measles	4 days from onset of rash.
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling.
Ringworm	Not usually required.
Rubella (German measles)	5 days from onset of rash.
Scabies	Need not be excluded once appropriate treatment has been given.
Slapped cheek	None.
Threadworm	None.
Tonsillitis	None.
Warts and verrucae	None; verrucae should be covered when barefoot
Whooping cough	2 days from starting antibiotics or 21 days from onset of symptoms if no antibiotics.
Monkey Pox	We've received advice not to be overly alarmed by the recent news. Monkey pox is not like COVID in the sense that it is a known virus, with vaccines and treatments. Identification is much easier with a painful and distinctive rash and most cases are mild. Exclusion is essential and public health notified.



Dolphins, Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day

Wednesday 15th June (Gates open at 1:15pm)

We are delighted that we can invite parents and grandparents again to our EYFS & KS1 Sports Day; we hope you have an enjoyable afternoon.

The sports are done on a rotational basis, and you will be able to view your child's participation from the safety zones indicated on the plan below. The afternoon is supported by our own Bronze Sports Ambassadors and Year 7 Sports Leaders from Twynham School.

Please ensure children have their PE kits in school and bring a water bottle and sun hat. Depending on the forecast, you may need to apply plenty of sun cream in the morning! Children will need to wear their House Colour t-shirts; **York – Yellow; Canterbury – Red; Winchester – Green; Salisbury – Blue**.

Toilets for spectators are in Year 6, if young children are accompanying you, or you can use the accessible unisex toilet in the main reception area.

Should your child approach you, we would appreciate you encouraging them back to their class group or activity.

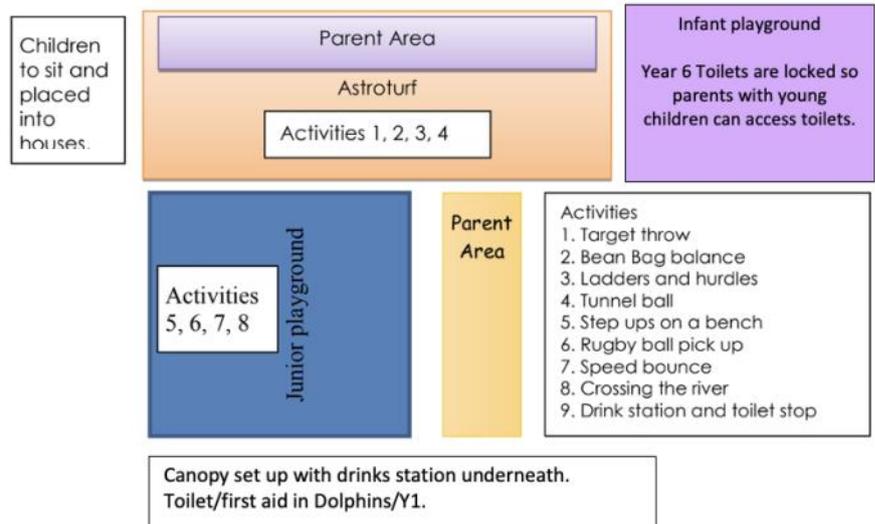
Refreshments are available for the children (see the location plan) - you may want to bring a drink for yourself.

First Aid is available in the Dolphins shared area.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Miller

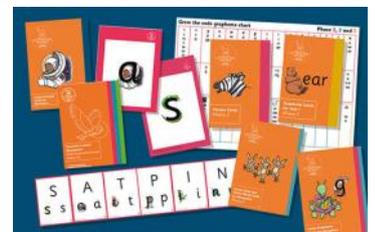
Priory School Sports Leader



Early Reading

The introduction of Little Wandle, our new phonics programme is going really well. Children in Year 1 and Reception are enjoying their daily phonics teaching based on this scheme and we are ready to move to stage 2 - applying the phonics knowledge they have learned in fully decodable reading books linked to the Little Wandle progression.

The change you will begin to see after next half-term (in Reception and Year 1) is that children will bring home **2 reading books**. One will have a 'phase' sticker and this is their **decodable reading book** which they should practise independently. The other book will be a **reading for pleasure book** which is for sharing.



In Reception and Year 1, book band colours are **not** matched closely enough to a child's secure phonics knowledge and so they are **no longer being used as an indicator of a child's reading fluency**. Please see our attached **home readers - book progression advice for parents** for more information.



Year 2 Sponsored Run

Evidence before payment!



Sad news

Mike Varnham (Mike the lollipop man)

It is my sad duty to inform you that Mike the lollipop man passed away on Wednesday 25th May.

For 25 years, as our dedicated school crossing patrol officer, Mike kept Priory School children safe coming across Wick Lane.

His funeral will be held at Bournemouth Crematorium on the 15th June at 3:15pm. Anyone who would like to attend will be most welcome.





Summer 2 Diary Dates (June)

Date	Time	Event
Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June		Half term holiday. School Closed
Monday 6th June	all day	INSET Training. School Closed
Tuesday 7th June	8:40am	Start of Summer 2. All children return. Multiplication tables check Y4 commences. Phonics Screening Y1 commences.
Wednesday 8th June	All day 4:30pm 7pm	Y5 Portsmouth Historic Dockyards visit Sex Education Curriculum - Parent Information Workshop (via zoom) FPS Meeting in the School Hall Final meeting before the summer fair
Monday 13th June - Fri- day 17th June	all week (11:30am arrival) All day	Y6 Residential at PGL Osmington Bay 'Can Do' Water Sports Festival <i>Invited pupils only</i>
Wednesday 15th June	1:30pm - 3pm 3:30pm	KS1 Sports Day (Dolphins, Y1 and Y2) Y5 Kwik Cricket Festival
Thursday 16th June	All day	Town Sports Athletics Competition <i>Invited pupils only</i>
Tuesday 21st June	All day	Dolphins Weymouth Sea Life Trip
Wednesday 22nd June	6 - 7:30pm	New Reception Class Welcome Evening
Friday 24th June	1:30pm 4 - 7pm	Waterwise Talk in Y4 FPS Summer Fair
Wednesday 29th June	TBC	Y3 Dance Festival
Thursday 30th June	All day	Y6 Houses of Parliament Trip
Friday 1st July	All day	Transition Day. Y6 pupils attend their secondary school setting. New Reception class in school. Children spend time with next year's teacher