

The Priory School Newsletter

Autumn issue 4—Thursday 20th October 2022

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

In school, we can't believe that the first half-term of the year is over already - the days are flying by. The colours of the trees are beginning to change, but I'm relieved that I still haven't needed to turn the school boiler on yet. Phew!

Parents' consultations have been well-attended this week and it's encouraging to hear how well the children have settled into their new classes and how much they are enjoying their learning. It is recognised in our home school agreement just how important regular communication is between school and home. We would love to catch up with the small number of parents who we haven't been able to contact this time around.

I wish everyone a lovely October break.

Mr Ruffle



Worship Value - Community

**"For where two or three gather
in my name, there am I with
them"**

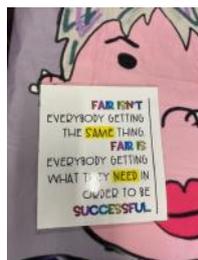
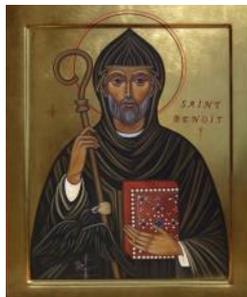
In our Wednesday worship times, led by the ministry team at Priory Church, we've been continuing to think about living well with one another.

Father Richard shared the story of St Francis of Assisi, who gave up his great wealth to help the poor. His great example inspired others to follow him and the Franciscan order was started.

Father Charles went on to show his icon of St Benedict and how Benedict went on to found 12 communities for monks in Italy. His writings, which became known as 'The Rule of St Benedict' began by reminding his readers to 'Listen carefully to one another'. Father Charles explained that this was good advice for today.

On Monday we had a visit from our friends at **Awesome Archie**, who celebrate neurodiversity in schools. It's always good to have a reminder that each child is unique, precious and of infinite value. For more info:

<https://www.awesomearchie.co.uk/>



World Faith Exhibition Friday 4th October



This year, as in previous years, we would like to encourage children from across the school to undertake an interest-based project, in place of their regular homework from Monday October 17th, to share with the school community on **Friday 4th November from 2.30pm in the hall.**

There is no set format for the project. It could be based on a particular faith or festival. It may be work with a focus on a particular story/parable/prayer. It could be based on a special visit or a specific place of worship. A model your child has made, with information to accompany it, would make a wonderful display.

The projects will be displayed in the hall and classrooms on Friday 4th November from 2.30pm for parents to view. Please ask the children to explain their projects to you and feel free to ask questions.

School Mission Statement

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



Celebrating Learning

Learners of the Week

Congratulations to our learners of the week:
Annabelle, Justice, Elliot, Elsie, Evie, Daniel, Ollie

Housepoints (Autumn 1 results)

York	Salisbury	Canterbury	Winchester
311	321	278	350

Reading Rewards

You might now spot some children wearing our new reading reward badges.



A few children have achieved 50 nights reading (they must have started on our first inset day!) and so they have now earned our bronze reading owl.

Many children are very close to achieving their bronze star badge for 8 green stickers. Keep up the excellent behaviour!

Attendance

Attendance for the school year to date is **96.7%**. Our goal for the whole school is to achieve 96+% this year, so we are currently on track.

Attendance Cup Winners

Well done **Dolphins** with 100% last week.

Staff update

I am sad to announce that Mrs Homan has decided to resign from her role as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant at The Priory School, deciding that the time is right for a new adventure.

Mrs Homan has been a tremendous servant of the school - for over 20 years she has worked here! I know that she has been an incredible asset during this time, particularly supporting our youngest children make a great start. In recent years she has taught Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes diligently and conscientiously, covering while the teachers have their planning time. She has such a gift working with children, that I am delighted to hear that she will be continuing to use this in a pre-school setting. She will be amazing, but we are going to really miss her.

Mrs Homan's final day will be on Friday 4th November. In the short term, most of her teaching responsibilities will be covered by Mrs Russell and such is the pressure on school budgets at the moment that we are not looking to recruit a replacement at this stage.



Y4 Hindu Temple Trip



By visiting the Vedic Society Hindu Temple in Southampton, Y4 Pupils got the chance to explore life for people living in different cultures and traditions. They reflected on how this relates to their learning in RE.

We are grateful to the Hindu community in Southampton for their extremely warm welcome.

Y2 Bournemouth Aviation Museum Trip

The surviving cast of Year 2 had a brilliant time at the Bournemouth Aviation Museum on Wednesday. From sitting in cockpits to seeing a plane take off, this trip was a fantastic finale to their 'flight project'.

Thanks to all the staff and volunteer helpers who made this trip 'take-off'.





Sports update

Girls' Football

Last Thursday saw our first fully competitive fixture of the year. We took a full squad to the County qualifiers at Two Riversmeet and finished joint 4th. The girls' played very well and all our games were really close.

- 4-2 win against Mudeford Primary
- 1-0 loss to Twynham Primary
- 1-0 loss to Highcliffe St Marks (1)
- 1-1 draw with Highcliffe St Marks (2)
- 2-2 draw with Christchurch Jnr

Congratulations to Highcliffe St Marks who go on this year to represent Christchurch in the Dorset County Finals.



Bronze Ambassadors

Our play leaders and Bronze Ambassadors doing a really valuable job leading active play at lunchtime with younger children. There is a tough application process and in the end Mrs Miller took 15 of our Y6 pupils along to Bronze ambassador training at Grange School yesterday.

Dare to believe events

Children across the school continue to participate in these inter-school friendly sports events, organised by the Christchurch Sports Partnership. Pictures to follow in a later edition.



Wessex Rotary Club Christmas Shoebox Appeal (part of our Global Neighbours response)

We are taking part in the Wessex Rotary Shoebox Scheme in conjunction with Bransgore Rotary and have just taken delivery of 60 empty shoeboxes. Disadvantaged children in Albania, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and the Philippines will benefit from our kindness.



A copy of the leaflet with more information and instructions is attached to each box. They are ready to be collected from the School Office.

The deadline for completed shoeboxes to be handed in is Tuesday 1st November, which allows for the half term to put your gift together. We hope you will be keen to join us in supporting this worthy cause.

Hub Competition –The Winners

Miss Dyer has been helping to run a competition in school to redesign the side of the Hub artwork, with motivational quotes and sayings. We've had lots of amazing entries so Miss Dyer, Mr Ruffle and our Head Pupils had great difficulty in choosing the winners.

These winning designs will be turned into a giant display by Miss Dyer and hopefully be inspiring Priory pupils for years to come. **Congratulations to Erynn, Camille, Clark, Pixie, Jessie, Bobbie and Elijah.**





School Tours for Prospective Parents (for early years admission Sept 2023)



We believe that Priory School has something unique and special to offer Christchurch families, as a one form entry Church of England school, with a long tradition of serving the local community. After our 'Good' Ofsted in February last year, we are keen to promote ourselves and recognise that you, the parents, are our best advocates.

If you know anyone who is looking for a school place for next September 2023 (even across the river in Southbourne / Tuckton area), please encourage them to consider Priory School and come to one of our Open Days. We feel that prospective parents need to see Priory in action, during the school day, so they can make an informed choice.

We had 26 parents at our open afternoon this week, which was really encouraging.

Wednesday 16th November 2022 10 – 11:30am OPEN MORNING
Monday 9th January 2023 10 – 11:30am OPEN MORNING

Support with the cost of living—Household Support Fund

Families in receipt of Pupil Premium will benefit from additional food vouchers this October holiday.

If you are in need of support with bills, you can apply for help through the Household Support Fund via this link: <https://www.citizensadvicebcpc.org.uk/hsf/>
Alternatively call BCP Citizens Advice 0800 278 7939.

We continue to be a referral service for Christchurch foodbank, so please also speak to Mrs Fidge / Mr Ruffle to set that up for you.



Hot School Meals Price increase from Monday 31st October

We have managed to keep the cost of our school meals at £2.30 throughout the pandemic. Unfortunately, we can no longer continue to absorb the increasing costs of energy and food.

To give you some idea of the impact of rising costs, Hampshire Catering (our provider) are recommending the daily lunch price should be £2.80.

At Priory School, we do not make any profit from our hot lunch provision and we simply want to break even. **From Monday 31st October the cost of a hot school dinner will be £2.50 (20p increase).** I feel this still represents really good value for money for a nutritional lunch, freshly cooked onsite. Please also note that the Universal Free school meal for children in Year R, 1 and 2 is still automatically applied.

Governors will continue to monitor the cost of providing school meals and a further increase may be necessary after Christmas.



Upcoming Diary Dates (Autumn 2)

Our provisional whole year calendar and term dates are available to view on the [school website](#).

A number of dates are still to be added to our Christmas plans, including all the Autumn 2 sports events and class trips.

Monday 24th Oct to Friday 28th Oct		Half-term holiday
Monday 31st October	8:35am	Start of Autumn 2 All children back to school Balance bike training starts in YR and 1
3rd Nov	Afternoon	Y6 National Child Measurement Programme (school nurse)
4th Nov	2.30 - 3.15 (open to parents)	Home learning exhibition RE - World faith projects
14th - 18th Nov		Anti-bullying week
16th Nov	10 - 11.30am	Open morning for prospective parents
2nd Dec	4—7pm	FPS Christmas Fayre
6th Dec	1.30 - 2.30pm	Y1 and Y2 Nativity performance (hall)
7th Dec	am	Whole School Panto Image Theatre perform The Wind in the Willows
7th Dec	5.30 - 6.30pm	Y1 and Y2 Nativity performance (hall)
9th Dec	All day 12 - 1.30pm	Christmas Jumper Day Save the Children fundraiser Christmas Dinner
13th Dec	6—7pm	Whole school Carol Service The Priory Church
14th Dec	1 - 3pm	KS1 Christmas party
15th Dec	1 - 3pm	KS2 Christmas party
16th Dec	2 - 3pm 3.15pm	Christmas sing-along School Closes for Christmas Holiday