

# The Priory School Newsletter

Autumn issue 6—Friday 18th November 2022

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## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

There's been growing concerns regarding school funding, so I hope that the reassurances we heard in the Chancellor's Autumn statement deliver. We received the funding consultation for 2023-24 this week from BCP Council, which proposed just a 0.5 to 1% increase in our revenue income.

80% of our expenditure is on staff costs, so a 1% increase does not cover the recently agreed 5% teachers' pay award or 8% support staff pay award (on average). The rising costs of energy (over 20% increase to date) and educational materials are also a significant factor.

You may have heard recent press reports that 90% of school leaders are saying that their schools will run out of money next year. This is not scaremongering and this will also be the case at Priory School based on BCP's proposal...unless the Chancellor's statement makes a difference.

What is needed is for the extra funding announced on Thursday to go straight into schools. This Government has continued to pump money, from the education budget, into vanity projects such as the Oak national academy (£34 million), the National Tutoring Programme (£349 million over a number of years) and the Accelerator Fund for English and Maths (£220 million). On behalf of the governing body, I am writing a letter to our local MP (Sir Christopher Chope), the Secretary of State for Education (Gillian Keegan) and BCP councillors, imploring them to prioritise funding to schools in these challenging times and to follow through on yesterday's announcement.

**We owe a responsibility to invest in the future of hundreds of local children who kept others safe during the pandemic and now deserve the opportunities which we ourselves were privileged to enjoy at their age.**

I would encourage every parent to write to their local MP, seeking assurances of a real commitment to our children in mainstream schools and adequate funding for SEND support services.

*Mr Ruffle*



## Worship Value: Remembrance

In Flanders Fields the  
poppy's blow  
Between the crosses,  
row on row

Our tradition of sharing poppy prayers during the remembrance service is well-established now, and I was very moved by the children's thoughtful reflections and hopes for the future. 21 prayers were read out by different children.

During the 2 minute remembrance last Friday, all the children stood in absolute silence, highlighting once again that 'respect' truly is a core value of the school.



## School Mission Statement

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



## Extra Bank Holiday - Monday 8th May 2023

We've now had confirmation that schools will be closed on the extra Bank Holiday (Monday 8th May) to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

For those eager Year 6 children, who were keen to sit their grammar SATs test on that Monday, we are yet to receive details of the revised plans. I suspect they will take place at another time during the week.



## Priory Goes Outdoors

The rain is not holding us back this week.

Y5 enjoyed a Science trail at Druitt Gardens.

Y5 and 6 boys' experienced a torrential downpour at their football tournament at Littledown, but kept playing.

A group of Y3 and 4 girls had an amazing (if soggy) time at the primary outdoor activity day, hosted at Moors Valley.



## Y6 Southampton Mosque Trip

Y6 were able to learn more about the Islamic faith by a trip to Southampton Medina mosque.

It was an opportunity to gain a better understanding of different religious traditions within the UK, to challenge stereotypes and to ask questions in an open forum. The imam was so welcoming and we are extremely grateful to the Southampton Islamic community for their hospitality.

Once again, the behaviour and respect of our pupils was commended by all the adults.



## Anti-Bullying Week Theme 2022 'Reach Out'

The children have been reminded about the importance of speaking out and reaching out if we see others being bullied in our community as part of our 2022 anti-bullying week.

In school, our ambassadors have spoken to the children about our keep safe code and that they can use the new 'what I want my teacher to know' boxes if they have a worry they want to share anonymously.

Dealing with arguments with friends is something many children have to learn during their primary years. However, when unkind behaviour targeting the same individual is repeated over time, this is bullying.

**STOP! - Several Times on Purpose**

**STOP! - Start Telling Other People = REACH OUT!**

Staff also receive regular training in 'child on child' abuse (which used to be known as peer on peer abuse). This is behaviour by an individual or group with the deliberate intent of causing physical, emotional or sexual harm in other children. It can take place in supervised or unsupervised spaces, such as the school toilets, or corridors or when walking home. It can often happen online. It is important to recognise that it could happen here. **We actively try to raise awareness and prevent all forms of child on child abuse, so please speak to Mr Ruffle or Mrs Fidge if you have any concerns or questions.**





## FIFA World Cup

On Monday 21st November England men's football team play Iran in their opening game of the football World Cup in Qatar. This game is due to take place during school time.

At the Priory School, we have decided not to cancel lessons and watch the match in the hall altogether. While football still remains our 'national sport', I feel we have as much to celebrate in other sports (such as the T20 world cup win in cricket) and we would not cancel curriculum learning for those fixtures. It also seems at odds with the way that we came together to celebrate the Lionesses euro win in the summer. Perhaps it's just me that's fallen out of love with men's football, but our teachers are also keen to continue teaching our inspiring curriculum.



FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

In recognition of the fact that we do have some very committed football fans here, we will be showing the match 'in the background' for those classes who want it (or with live updates). We are also conscious of the concerns about the host country and we will use the opportunity to discuss human rights and our British Values.

## KS2 Cinema Trip 'Into film'



Having said that there's no time for football, we did have brilliant fun watching an animated blue hedgehog zip around the screen in Sonic 2!

It was the first time a number of children had been to the cinema and it did feel like a real treat for all of us (well, actually I'm not sure Mr Swain appreciated the sophisticated plotline).

Thanks to the Regent Centre for providing this free experience.

## FPS Disco & Quiz

Last week's disco was another success for the FPS team and it all seemed to run very smoothly.

Sorry for any sugar fuelled mischief when the children got home!

Don't forget the quiz tonight!



## Attendance

Attendance for the school year to date is still **95.7%**. Our goal for the whole school is to achieve 96+% this year, so we are currently slightly below target.

### Attendance Cup Winners

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

Percentage	Implication
96-100%	Excellent
95-95.9%	Beginning to cause concern
93-94.9%	Cause for concern
90-92.9%	Significant concern
Below 90%* Below	Persistent Absence
Continued Persistent Absence	Direct involvement with BCP inclusion team with possible last resort plan

## Celebrating Learning

### Learners of the Week

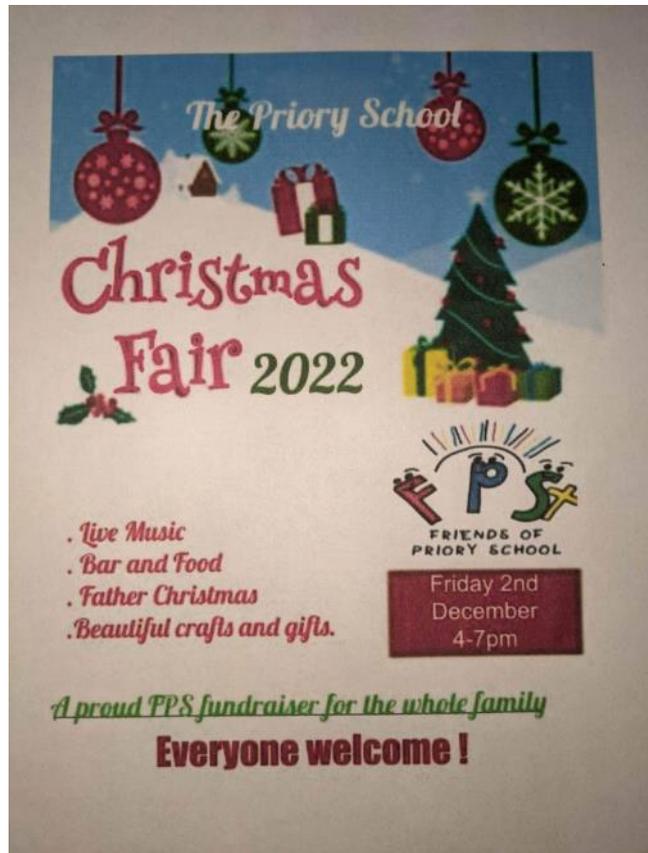
Congratulations to our learners of the week.



York	Salisbury	Canterbury	Winchester
89	78	82	116



## Friday 2nd December The Priory School Christmas Fair



## Last chance 2022 prospective parent tours



The Priory School aims to inspire a generation to learn, flourish and achieve, in a caring Christian community.

We have a 150 year tradition of serving local families, giving children the best start in life.

Why not become part of our family? See what our GOOD\* primary school can offer, and come and talk to our parents, staff and children - at one of our open mornings:

Wednesday 16th November 2022 1000-1130am  
Monday 9th January 2023 1000-1130am

The Priory CE VA Primary School, Wick Lane,  
Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 1HX  
[www.prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk)

\* Ofsted 2022 rating

## Live and inspired Randolph Matthews



We are very excited that next Friday, in partnership with BCP Arts, we have a live performance for the whole school. Randolph Matthews is a singer who works across a range of musical genres including Classical, Jazz and Contemporary.

**This event is being filmed by BCP Council** and we will apply your existing photo consent. If you have given consent for your child's image to be used by an external organisation and you wish to amend that - please let your class teacher / school office know. **All children will be part of the performance, but some will be seated away from the view of the camera.**

A clip of Randolph's previous work can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWOBQjXtRcl>

## School Collaboration St Katharine's and St Joseph

Pre-COVID, the school was part of an informal partnership programme with St Katharine's (Southbourne) and St James (Pokesdown), where teaching and learning initiatives were supported across the 3 schools. The challenge and input we received from these 'peer to peer' reviews was a significant factor in our rapid improvement.

St James has now become part of the Diocese of Chichester MAT and works with schools in that trust. We are delighted that St Joseph's in Somerford has agreed to step in to become our third member.

Recently a small team from Priory went to St Katharine's to work together on children's writing. Over the next few weeks, teams from St Katharine's and St Joseph's will be coming to Priory to look at how we teach early reading and phonics. We also hope to share good practice in early years too.

## Dates in the next fortnight

Date	Time	Event
Monday 21st Nov	After school	<b>Gardening Club CANCELLED</b>
Tuesday 22nd Nov	All day	<b>Flu Immunisation Day (whole school)</b> (delivered by the Dorset nursing team)
	3 - 5pm	<b>Indoor Athletics Competition @ The Grange Y4-6</b>
Wednesday 23rd Nov	After school	<b>Indoor Athletics Club CANCELLED</b>
Friday 25th Nov	Morning	<b>Live &amp; Inspired (Randolph Matthews)</b>
	Afternoon	<b>House reward for Winchester (Autumn 1 winners)</b>
Monday 28th Nov	During the week	<b>Autumn Assessment Week</b> Y2—6 pupils complete summative tests to assess progress against age-related expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths
	All day	<b>Year 1 toy trip to East Dorset Museum</b>
	2:30pm	<b>Light of Hope - Special Advent service in school</b> If possible, can all children bring in a battery operated tealight. Spares will be available in school.
Wednesday 30th Nov	After school	<b>Y3 &amp; 4 Handball Festival</b> (at the Grange)
Thursday 1st Dec	During the month	<b>Reversible Advent Calendar</b> (all classes) See also <a href="https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/family-activities-advent-calendar">https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/family-activities-advent-calendar</a>
	During the month	<b>Christmas postbox open</b> Children can send Christmas cards to each other
Friday 2nd Dec	During the day	<b>Christmas decorations day</b> The school tree is decorated All children make a tree decoration
	4—7pm	<b>FPS Christmas Fayre</b> <i>More details from FPS to follow shortly</i>

## Upcoming diary dates in Autumn 2

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

Please see our special Christmas 2022 planner 'Follow the Star' for full details in the latest news section of the website.

Date	Time	Event
6th Dec	1.30 - 2.30pm	Y1 and Y2 Nativity performance (hall)
7th Dec	am	<b>Whole School Pantomime</b> Image Theatre perform The Wind in the Willows
7th Dec	5.30 - 6.30pm	Y1 and Y2 Nativity performance (hall)
9th Dec	All day	<b>Christmas Jumper Day</b> Save the Children fundraiser
	12 - 1.30pm	<b>Christmas Lunch</b>
	1:30—2:30pm	<b>Santa Dash</b>
	2:30—3pm	<b>Carols around the tree</b> Dolphin parents only
13th Dec	6—7pm	<b>Whole school Carol Service</b> The Priory Church
14th Dec	All day	<b>Year 5 Beaulieu Victorian Christmas</b>
	1 - 3pm	<b>KS1 Christmas party</b>
15th Dec	1 - 3pm	<b>KS2 Christmas party</b>
16th Dec	2 - 3pm	<b>Christmas sing-along</b>
	3.15pm	<b>School Closes for Christmas Holiday</b>
Monday 19th Dec - Monday 2nd Jan		School Closed for Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 3rd January 2023		School Closed for staff inset training
Wednesday 4th January 2023	8:35am	<b>School reopens for Spring Term</b>