



The Priory School Newsletter

Autumn issue 7—Friday 2nd December 2022

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

What a fantastic turnout for the FPS Christmas Fair tonight. Thank you all for coming and squeezing into school! It was so lovely to have the Christmas Priory Tavern back for the first time in 3 years and for pupils to be able to visit Father Christmas again in the wonderful new grotto.

It was also a chance to meet new friends and to see some returning ones, although I'm sure Twynham must put something in the water as so many ex-pupils are so tall! It's very humbling to be towered over by year 9 & 10s, but we loved hearing how well they are all doing.

So far, the fair has raised an incredible £3,500 - with some more money still to be counted. Wow! Thank you to the small, committed team of FPS helpers for organising the event, to all our parents for your generosity (especially with cakes!) and to our Y6 who raised over £400 with their stalls. We couldn't have provided any musical entertainment without the voluntary support of Mr Earl & Mr Morrow. Last, but not least, I would like to thank members of the school staff who stayed for the whole fair and tidied up! This is quite a feat, on top of everything else I ask them to do at this time of year. As we haven't held the fair for a number of years and we will review how it went in the new year—so please forward any feedback to the school office or the FPS team. I hope it got you in the festive mood!



Mr Ruffle



Worship Value: The Light of Hope project

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1 v5

We loved taking part in the Light of Hope project this advent. The photos are from our prayer buddy worship on Monday, when the children sat in pairs with someone from a different year group, with the light holders they had made. The children then lit their small tealights, symbolising that even a tiny light can penetrate the darkness and together we can make a big difference.



School Mission Statement

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



Christmas Tree—Thanks

The Priory School Christmas tree always has pride of place in our foyer.

We are so grateful to the Redcliffe family for donating the tree again this year.



We will be auctioning the tree off on the last day of term to a deserving home. To put a name in the hat, please speak to the school office. Collection only!

Christmas craft afternoon

While the FPS team were busy setting up half the school for the fair, the children made Christmas decorations.

We loved the chance to cooperate with other year groups.



Y1 Toy Trip

Report from Miss Harriss.

"I just wanted to say how amazing you all were on our trip to the Museum of East Dorset today. We have had a wonderful day learning about toys from the past and we were very lucky to get to hold some really old toys.



We listened to a lovely story of the Gingerbread Man and really enjoyed finding the different characters in the story on a little treasure hunt.

One of our favourite things to do was to play some traditional Victorian games - we had lots of fun!

Another enjoyable activity was making our own peg dolls, with lots of very colourful outfits!"

Winchester House Autumn 1 reward

As a reward for earning the most House Points in Autumn 1, pupils belonging to Winchester House were invited to enjoy a hot chocolate with toppings, and a gingerbread biscuit (freshly prepared by Mrs Adams in our kitchen) by a firepit on Wednesday!

After all that effort, I think the Y6 riddles were actually the real highlight for the children!



Soundstorm - 'Live & Inspired Tour 2022' Randolph Matthews

Randolph Matthews brought joy to the school last Friday with a truly inspiring musical performance of song and laughter. All children left with a feeling that anything is possible, with determination and a little rhythm.

Soundstorm made a short film of his visit to Priory school, which can be accessed here:

<https://youtu.be/vqDkgUHm29U>





Children in need

Thank you for supporting our spotacular day for children in need. The total Priory School children raised was £195.

Christchurch foodbank +

We are proud to be a referrer for Christchurch foodbank plus and we have spare 2for1 vouchers for the Christmas period.

As temperatures drop & energy bills rocket, this will be a difficult winter for many of us, so please ask for help if you need it. All enquiries are treated in strictest confidence.

If you are in receipt of free school meals, the Christmas vouchers will be posted out to you automatically.



Y4,5 & 6 Indoor Athletics & Y3,4 Handball

Sports competitions have continued. The indoor athletics squad of 24 came a respectable 3rd in the Christchurch finals.

It was a 'friendly' handball festival and Mrs Miller was very pleased with how the children played (even stepping into other teams when they were short of players).



Attendance & illness

It has been a difficult couple of weeks for school attendance, with a wave of illness affecting both children and staff. 50% of our teaching assistants were very unwell with COVID the previous week, so thank you for your patience as we did our best to provide continuity for the children. This week has seen a marked increase in children feeling unwell in KS2 (coughs, temperatures and sickness). The latest attendance figure for the school year to date has fallen to **95.1%**.

National advice about Group A Streptococcus

Following on from several recent media releases regarding cases of Invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS) in schools, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has issued an update (at the link below) with helpful information. [UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep)

What is 'Strep A'?

Group A Streptococcus or Streptococcus pyogenes is a bacterium that can be found in the throat and on the skin. Most Group A Streptococcus illnesses are relatively mild, with symptoms including a **sore throat** ("strep throat"), **scarlet fever** or a **skin infection such as impetigo**. However, on rare occasions, these bacteria can cause other severe and sometimes life-threatening diseases.

We have had a number of cases of impetigo in school and 1 confirmed and 2 suspected cases of scarlet fever.

Scarlet fever

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it will still feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

Children who have had chickenpox or influenza ('flu) recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever. If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately.

What are the symptoms of invasive Group A Streptococcal disease?

- High Fever
- Severe muscle aches
- Localised muscle tenderness
- Redness at the site of a wound

What should I do if my child becomes unwell?

If your child becomes unwell contact your GP practice. Alternatively, you can call NHS111 and you should also call NHS111 if your surgery is closed.





Celebrating Learning

Learners of the Week & weekly House point totals

Congratulations to our learners of the week.



York	Salisbury	Canterbury	Winchester
80	61	93	87

Autumn Assessments & closing the gaps

Over the last few weeks, children in Y2 to 6 have been completing Autumn term assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths. Teachers analyse these results and then send the test papers home for parents to see what is going well and which areas may need more support.

Despite some quick wins after returning from lockdown, many children have been impacted by the disruption of recent years and you may be concerned by your child's 'test score'. We are continuing to focus specifically on ensuring provision is in place to close any gaps in reading and maths, no matter how small.

Reading

There are targeted interventions going on daily across the school led by TAs, based on rigorous phonics assessments. In addition, some children who need a little more support with their reading are heard daily by our bank of volunteer helpers. Some children need support with their decoding skills (phonics / fluency) and some children need help in understanding what they've read (comprehension development). We also use Reading Plus in Y5 & 6, which is an online tool to support reading fluency.

Maths

All classes are continuing to do extra number fluency work, as the quick mental recall of number facts and times tables is lower than it was before the pandemic. We also continue to make use of one to one tuition to provide additional weekly Maths support in KS2, through our tuition partners 'Third Space Learning'. We are spending over £5,000 on this over the course of the academic year.

Year 1	10,078
Year 2	14,761
Year 3	9,067
Year 4	7,057
Year 5	1,270
Year 6	6,242

The use of Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars has a positive impact (as seen in our Y4 multiplication test results last June). Please see the latest leader board below for the top ten users across the school.

Using IXL

IXL is a great (if slightly repetitive) resource, which can help children practice any skill in the UK Maths & English curriculum at any time. As a school, children are completing about 30,000 questions a month—which is a tremendous result and will help reinforce learning done in the classroom.

The chart shows the number of questions which each year group has attempted since Sept. At the moment, Year 3 are in the lead as the most prolific users—well done!

If you are concerned regarding your child's progress in Reading, Writing and Maths, helping them use IXL & TTRS at home may be an important first step if they don't yet do so. Equally, please talk to the class teacher about what is being done in school to support them.

Rockname	Initial Studio Speed	Current Studio Speed	Rock Status	Lifetime Earnings
Bluebell Palace	5.71	0.99	Rock Hero	478,913
Burning Steele	16.22	2.60	Rock Star	350,252
Sam Storm	5.04	1.36	Rock Legend	341,843
Beatrice Jagger	15.00	4.76	Support Act	312,217
Matt Whitesword	16.22	2.20	Rock Star	298,694
Spider Stanley	13.33	2.96	Rock Star	291,214
Bill Riley	24.00	16.22	Wannabe	289,950
Henry Suhler	7.69	2.30	Rock Star	286,358
Amazon Francis	15.38	1.81	Rock Legend	247,030
Red Saller	8.33	2.36	Rock Star	244,483



School Cash Office (SCOPAY) - new payment provider

Parents pay for school goods and services (such as school meals and trips) via the portal SCOPAY, also known as Tucasi. From January 2023, the payment provider for SCOPAY is changing from Worldpay to VMS.

We have been assured that these changes are in the background and that your user experience should be unaffected. A positive is that in future you should be able to use Apply Pay and Google Pay and save card details.

It may be that school payment details in your statement change from 'Worldpay' to 'VMS'.

Christmas events

The next few weeks are very busy in school.

The calendar on the next page contains all the information you need to know!



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

* Ofsted 2022 rating

Priory School Admissions Policy 2024-25 Public Consultation

The Priory CE Primary School governing body are running an admissions consultation on the school's admission arrangements 2024/2025 with effect from 30th November 2022 to 12th January 2023. This new policy will affect pupils due to start at the school in Sept 2024 and any in-year admissions or appeals from that date.



Details of the consultation and our policy are available to view on our school website (under the heading 'School Policies').

The changes proposed are highlighted in red on the draft policy. In summary:

- The addition of a new oversubscription criteria relating to the children of school staff
- The inclusion of an advisory note requesting that parents refer to the school's procedures relating to admissions 'out of school year' i.e. parents requesting a delayed entry to Reception for summer born children or pupils to be placed in the year above or below their chronological year. Our procedures for 'out of school year' applications are unchanged and can also be seen on the school website.

Responses must be submitted either in writing to the governing body via the school office, The Priory CE Primary School, Wick Ln, Christchurch BH23 1HX or by email to office@prioryceprimary.co.uk by 12th January 2023.

In future, the governing body may have to consider increasing the KS2 class size from 30 to 32 in order to balance the books. This is not in the current proposal for 2024-25, but your feedback on this point would also be welcome.

Upcoming diary dates for the next 2 weeks

A reminder that all staff led school clubs have stopped until the new year. A list of the Spring term extra curricular clubs will be released in the final week of term.

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 6th Dec	1:30 for a 1:45pm start	Y1 and Y2 Nativity performance 'Magical Christmas Journey' See separate letter. Ticketed.
Wednesday 7th Dec	am	Whole School Pantomime Image Theatre perform <i>The Wind in the Willows</i>
Wednesday 7th Dec	5.30 - 6.30pm	Y1 and Y2 Nativity performance Children arrive at 5:10pm (side gate) Doors open at 5:20pm. Ticketed.
Friday 9th Dec	All day	Christmas Jumper Day Save the Children fundraiser. Children are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper and accessories and bring a donation for children in need. Trainers for the dash!
	12 - 1.30pm	Christmas Lunch Needs to be ordered in advance.
	1:30—2:30pm	Santa Dash
	2:30—3pm	Carols around the tree with Dolphins <i>Dolphin parents & grandparents only. Doors open from 2:15pm (no tickets required).</i>
Tuesday 13th Dec	All day	Carol service rehearsals at Priory Church
	6—7pm	Whole school Carol Service at Priory Church See separate letter. Whole school wear uniform, except Dolphins who wear nativity outfits. Arrive 5:40pm. Unticketed. All are welcome.
Wednesday 14th Dec	All day	Year 5 Beaulieu Victorian Christmas
	All day	All day Christmas singing workshop with Mrs Moss Year groups and schedule to be confirmed. This may result in a final performance at Saxon Square.
	1—3pm	KS1 Christmas party R, 1 and 2 allowed to wear party clothes. No food.
Thursday 15th Dec	1 - 3pm	KS2 Christmas party 3, 4, 5 and 6 allowed to wear party clothes. No food.
Friday 16th Dec	Morning	Christmas movies
	2 - 3pm	Christmas sing-along
	3.15pm	School Closes for Christmas Holiday

Upcoming diary dates for Spring term 2023

Date	Time	Event
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	School reopens for Spring 1
Friday 6th January	9:45pm	Epiphany Service at Priory Church
Monday 9th January	10am	Prospective parent open morning
Monday 16th January	Pm	Year 3 curriculum swimming starts at 2 Riversmeet Details to be sent shortly
Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February	Feb half-term	School closed for half-term
Monday 20th Feb	8:35am	School reopens for Spring 2 Start of Spring assessment week (mid-year)
Wednesday 29th March	Afternoon evening	Mrs Sibbald's afternoon tea and tributes Spring gala in honour of Mrs Sibbald
Friday 31st March	9:45am 11am 3:15pm	Easter service at Priory Church tbc Easter bonnet parade (EYFS and KS1) School closes for Easter
Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April	Easter holiday	School closed for Easter
Monday 17th April	8:35am	School reopens for the summer term

Priory Church services this Christmas

The Parish of Christchurch Christmas Services

Christingle Service*

Sunday 11th at 3pm in the Priory

Carol Service

Sunday 18th at 3pm in St. George's

Lessons & Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 18th & Tuesday 20th at 6.30pm in the Priory

Carols in the Car Park*

Thursday 22nd at 5pm by the Priory

Crib Service*

Saturday 24th at 11am & 3pm in the Priory

Midnight Mass

Saturday 24th at 11.15pm in the Priory

Holy Communion (BCP)

Christmas Day at 8am in the Priory

Sung Eucharist

Christmas Day at 9.30am at St George's

Sung Eucharist

Christmas Day at 10am in the Priory

* Services particularly suitable for young children