



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring issue 1 - Friday 13th January 2023

<https://prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk> | office@prioryceprimary.co.uk | @PrioryCEPrimary |

Tel: 01202 484105

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Happy New Year everyone!

Despite being buffeted by wind and rain nearly everyday since we've returned to school, the new term has got off to a really positive start. The Christmas break has done staff and children the world of good and I see so much renewed enthusiasm for learning.

Generally speaking, for many children this term is one in which the most progress is made. In my first assembly of the new year, I shared my hope that we would all be committed to excellence—to be the best that we could be, but also that we would be kind to ourselves and others when mistakes happen. This might be when we break a school rule or if we are finding some aspect of learning difficult. We simply need to be encouraged to pick ourselves up and start again.

Mr Hall, Miss Field and Mr Swain are in training for a half-marathon. We made Mr Hall a healthy smoothie with 9 fruits—a delicious recipe! It reminded us that God's recipe for a healthy life uses the 9 fruits of the spirit. We are going to focus on one of them this half-term...forbearance. This value is a combination of patience, endurance and tolerance and it is our aim to "encourage one another daily." Hebrews 3 v13

All we need now is a clear night for Year 5's star gazing 'space walk', later on this evening.

Mr Ruffle



Worship Value: Epiphany Service at Priory Church

"We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2 v2

Our start of term worship at Priory Church focused on Epiphany, as we marked the period of the Christian calendar which celebrates the visit of the Magi (the Three Kings) to Bethlehem.



Father Charles helped us to compare their visit to that of the shepherds, noting there were some key differences, with the Magi being rich, non-Jews, having travelled from afar and finding out about the birth from the star. The shepherds, by contrast, were poor, Jews, nearby and were alerted by angels. What this demonstrates is that Jesus was a gift for everybody in the world.

Having read myself at the very special lessons and carols service, I know how daunting it is to read aloud at Priory church so I was hugely impressed with our Y5 readers and Y4 prayers. Thank you.

School Mission Statement

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



NEW Family hub partnership

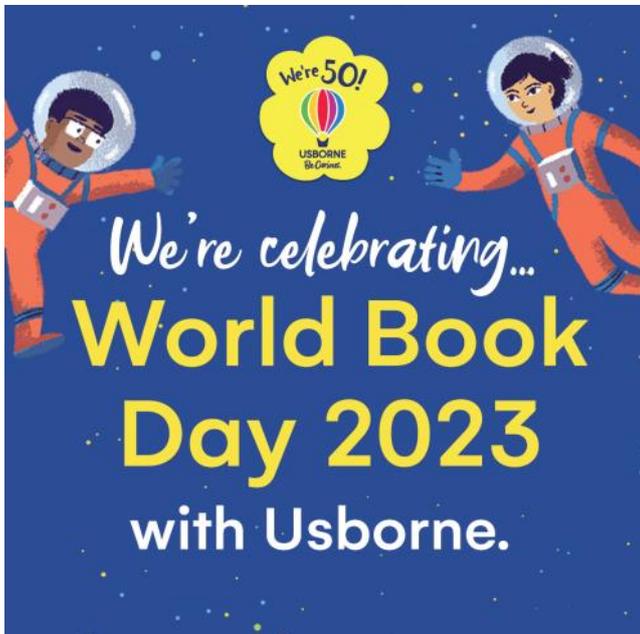
We are delighted to announce a new partnership with the **Somerford Family Hub**, which is next to Somerford Primary School. Our 'navigator' for this partnership will be **Steph Rice**. Her role is to work alongside the school and offer support and guidance for parents/carers and children in a whole host of ways; from providing parenting advice to signposting families to external support. 'Navigators' are employed by BCP Council.



We held a very positive first meeting before Christmas and have planned a series of drop-in sessions/workshops here at the Priory over the next few months.

The first one is just a lovely chance to meet Steph and to hear more about programmes at the Hub; everything from baby massage to courses on living with teenagers. **Please do come along after drop-off on Monday 30th January** - Steph will be in school from 9am - 10.30am. Mrs Fidge has promised there will be refreshments!

World Book Day Coming soon...



Further details to follow nearer the time...

York House Autumn 2 reward

As a reward for earning the most House Points in Autumn 2, pupils belonging to York House were invited to a hot chocolate celebration with a twist.

This time, the Team Captains (Maggie and Pip) chose to do a sleepover style event. Children were allowed to bring in pillows, blankets and lounge wear! They then enjoyed a special storytime, led by Maggie and Pip and an Encanto singalong!





Spring term Prefects and Head Pupils

We have another very strong team of prefects for the Spring term. Well done to Eleni, Matilda, Beau, Elsie-Mae, Flo, Tom, Daniel, Pip and Judah.

Our head pupils were chosen for their contribution to school in previous years as well as for their attitude in Year 6. The race is not always to be the first, the fastest or the loudest but sometimes to be the most humble, gentle and kind. Finley and Emily are both superb role models and they make great ambassadors for Priory school.



Staff update

It is with mixed emotions that I need to announce that Mr Hanslip, our amazing caretaker, is leaving his role of caretaker here at Priory School on Friday 10th February. I am delighted for him that he has secured a promotion as Site Manager at Livingstone Free School (a new all through school based in Lansdowne, Bournemouth), but we are very sad to see him go.



Mr Hanslip has quietly and diligently done a fantastic job on the school premises. He has been with us just under 2 years and in that time he has repaired the swans, repainted classrooms, fitted new fire doors and PAT tested all our electrical equipment to name but a few of the improvements. Mr Hanslip has also stepped up as a lunchtime supervisor and helps prepare the hall every day, alongside our H3CS kitchen team. To say we are going to miss him is an understatement, but we wish him every success in his exciting new venture.

This means we are on the hunt for a new caretaker/handyperson (see overleaf). Our adverts should be going live over the weekend (all the information and application forms are already on the school website), so if you know anyone who might be suitable and interested, please do pass on the details.

In the meantime, it is likely that current staff will have to plug the gaps until we get a replacement so please be patient if the person you want to speak with is testing fire alarms or water temperature after half-term!

Premises update

1. New Caretaker Office

You may be aware that currently, our caretaker is sandwiched between the library and the IT Suite in an open plan area. This isn't ideal to say the least, so we are converting our Art cupboard into a new caretaker office area.

2. Improved Security at the front entrance

We are installing a new mechanism on the front entrance so it can be locked at certain times of the day and only released as necessary by the office team - from the safety of their office. The door will open as normal during standard office hours (8:30—9:30am and 2:30—3:30pm). This project should be complete by Easter and it will add an extra layer of protection should anyone with malicious intentions try to enter the school.

3. Fencing project

This project has been in development for a number of years now, but it is inching closer to starting this summer. The plan is to replace the fencing around the school and install a new double gate for easier access, avoiding the staff car park.

Online safety talk for parents

I have attached Mr Mclean's online safety presentation from this morning. Thanks to all who supported this event.

A further workshop will run next Autumn term.





Caretaker

Required for April 2023

30 hours per week, Mon – Fri 7am – 1:30pm

The Priory CE (VA) Primary School is looking to appoint an experienced and dedicated caretaker from 17th April 2023 (*or earlier if possible*), following the promotion of the previous postholder.

The successful candidate will carry out a full range of duties to provide for the general security and maintenance of the school premises, to include handyperson activities.

The higher grading reflects additional supervision duties, including fire safety coordination, health and safety responsibilities and grounds maintenance. The role is for 30 hours per week, 7am to 1:30pm (*excluding 30 minutes unpaid lunchtime*) for 52 weeks.

Pay will be on Dorset Council Grade 5 (£21,189 to £21,968 full time equivalent), which is an hourly rate of £10.99 - £11.39 depending on experience and qualifications.

This is an excellent opportunity for a reliable and practical person to join our happy team and make a difference in our good school.

For full details of the vacancy and an application form, you can visit our website <http://www.prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk>

Please apply either online through Dorsetforyou.com or by post or email: office@prioryceprimary.co.uk

Candidates should complete the application form in full and return it (online or by post) so that it is received no later than **Wednesday 8th February 2023**.

Interview date: **Wednesday 22nd February 2023**

School Prayer Group (for parents) School Trinity Club (for children)

Harvey Gollins, the children's and families worker at Priory Church is leading a new prayer group for Priory School parents on Wednesday 8:50—9:10am in the school hub. It will be very relaxed and informal. Please feel free to stay behind after you've dropped your children off and join others in praying for our school and community.

Harvey is also restarting Trinity Club for Y5 and 6 pupils on a Wednesday lunchtime. This is entirely voluntary and last week we had 14 pupils attend.



Training the next generation of teachers

Since receiving our 'Good' Ofsted status, we are delighted that a number of different teacher training organisations have chosen the Priory School as one of their key providers.

Currently we have 3 student teachers training with us, so you may hear some new adult names being mentioned at home. Mr McCormack, from the University of Southampton is working in Year 5. Miss Cheeseborough, from the University of Winchester is working in Year 4 and Miss Hodgson is on a 6 week placement in Year 2.

This is a great opportunity for our staff to develop as mentors and coaches and for our children to benefit from additional adult support in the classroom.

We will welcome more students during the summer term.



Celebrating Learning

Learners of the Week & weekly House point totals

Congratulations to our learners of the week.



York	Salisbury	Canterbury	Winchester
168	116	134	109

Attendance

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%*	Persistent Absence
Below	
Continued Persistent Absence:	Direct involvement with BCP inclusion Team with possible fast track plan.

There's been a significant uplift in attendance since the Christmas break, but after that difficult December period our year to date is still below target at **93.9%**. I am hopeful, in a similar trend to last year, that we have seen infections peak so children can enjoy a sustained period of schooling. This is particularly important for pupils in SATs years 2 and 6, as assessments are taken in early May.

Attendance Cup Winners

Well done **Year 1 with 99%** and **Y5 with 99.5%**.

School lunch—further price increase £2.80 from 20th February 2023

Regrettably, the cost to prepare the hot school lunches continues to rise astronomically and the Governors are having to increase prices again. Hampshire County Council catering recommended that the price per school lunch should be £2.80 from last September. We have resisted this increase for as long as possible, as we are aware that the cost of living is proving difficult for many families. Unfortunately, due to ongoing increases in staff and food costs, this is no longer viable and from Monday 20th February (after February half-term), the price per school lunch will be set at the recommended £2.80.

For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 school lunches will continue to be provided free of charge - and for any older pupils in receipt of 'pupil premium'. Please enquire at the school office if you think you might be eligible - it can make a real difference.

Upcoming diary dates for Spring term 2023

Date	Time	Event
Monday 16th January	Pm	Year 3 curriculum swimming starts at 2 Riversmeet Staff led after-school clubs restart
Tuesday 24th January	Pm	Quidditch Festival Year 3 and 4
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 summer 1
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday	School closed
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday	Coronation of King Charles 111 School closed
Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June	Half-term	School closed for half-term
Monday 5th June	INSET	School closed
Tuesday 6th June	8:35am	School reopens for summer 2