



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring issue 2 - Friday 3rd February 2023

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

January is not the easiest of months, so a week focussing on Children's Mental Health seems particularly well-timed. Mrs Fidge and our 'wellbeing' team have planned a week of activities on the theme of 'Let's connect' starting on Monday through to Friday (6th—12th Feb).

Mrs Fidge and myself were privileged to attend the Church of England's education conference for school leaders last Friday, where there was a similar theme entitled 'Flourishing together'. The Archbishop of York spoke movingly about the need to see adults flourishing in order to bring out the best in children. "For us to lead to anything well, we need to pay attention to our own spiritual and pastoral support."

This message seems particularly poignant when nationally, teacher morale is extremely low, culminating in the industrial action by NEU members on Wednesday. The impact on Priory school was significant with six out of seven classrooms closed. While pay is central to the dispute, there are wider concerns around workload, being asked to do more for less (especially as external services are so stretched) and supporting children's social and emotional needs since lockdown.

I hope that next week provides an opportunity to remind ourselves of the importance of wellbeing for everyone in our community.

Mr Ruffle



Y5 Space Walk - Star gazing

Class 5 had great fun star gazing near Stanpit Marsh a couple of weeks ago. The blinding lights from the Two Riversmeet outdoor pitches nearly scuppered Mr Swain's plans, but we were still able to see both Mars and Jupiter.

The children were rewarded for their efforts, by enjoying a delicious hot dog and hot chocolate supper back in school. Let me say a big thank you to Mr Swain, Mr Hall, Mrs Colebeck, Mr McCormack, Mrs Palmer & Mrs Andrews for making this possible.



School Mission Statement

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



Worship Value: Patience and Perseverance

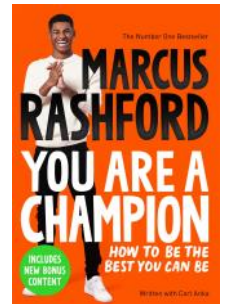
Daniel 3 v 17-18 "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."



Our series on perseverance has nearly concluded. We've spent time looking at how different Bible characters and modern day celebrities have persevered both in pursuit of their own individual goals, and also in order to make the world a better place.

Last week's story was the fiery furnace and how Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego resisted the temptation to bow down before the king's idol. Instead they stood firm and when they were thrown into the fire, they discovered that a fourth man stood alongside them, protecting them from the flames. We remembered that Jesus has promised to be with us today, when we face trouble or hardship.

A modern day hero who persevered is Marcus Rashford (Canterbury's House learning hero for 2022-23). Thanks to a kind donation, we have been able to give a copy of his 'You are a champion' book to every child in class 5.



Children's mental health week

Monday 6th February - Friday 10th February

Dress to Express - Friday 10th February

Next week, Priory School will be taking part in Children's Mental Health 2023. This year's theme is **Let's Connect**.



Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections.

People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.

We have organised daily activities in class linked to the theme 'Let's Connect' (using resources from the [Place2Be charity](#)), our School Council will run worship on Tuesday and on Friday we would like to invite all pupils to [Dress to Express on Friday 10 February](#). You could wear your favourite colour or a unique outfit to express how you're feeling, it can be as simple or elaborate as you like!

Dress to Express is an opportunity for self-expression and to help us start conversations about what makes us unique! We would love it if you could bring £1 donation; this is voluntary.

More information about Place2Be can be found [here](#). Mrs Fidge

Pupil News

We have some very exciting news to share about the achievements of our pupils. Sia (Y5) successfully auditioned for a place in the National Children's Choir of Great Britain while James (Dolphins) was Bournemouth's rugby club player of the month.





Safer Internet day Celebrated in school on Tuesday 21st February

Nationally Safer Internet Day will take place on 7 February 2023 (celebrated in school on 21st February), with celebrations and learning based around the theme **‘Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.’**

The website link **‘Safer Internet Day 2023 - UK Safer Internet Centre’** is a good starting point to explore some of the resources available to parents as well as school.



Mr McLean’s workshop on Priory School’s online safety curriculum was well attended—if you missed it, the notes are available on the updated online safety page on the school’s website.

Here’s are a few tips we’ve been asked to share by BCP’s safeguarding team:

1. **Parental controls** - you should use parental controls which will help to keep your children safe when they are using the internet at home – these are accessible via your internet provider and usually fairly easy to install.
2. **Talk to your child about their online world.** What games are they using, make sure these are age appropriate, have you viewed them, is this what you think is suitable for your child? What chat rooms are they accessing, remind them that the person they are talking with is not necessarily who they say they are. What limits can you put on this? What does your child access on their phone, do you know much about these links and groups? Find out if you don’t and then decide if you think they are ok for your child.
3. **Raise any concerns you have with the Online Safety Champion (Mr Ruffle and Mr McLean) at your school or you can access advice online.** Serious concerns of grooming or criminal activity should always be reported to the police.

The Safe Schools and Communities Team are very helpful with advising on online safety issues SSCT@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk

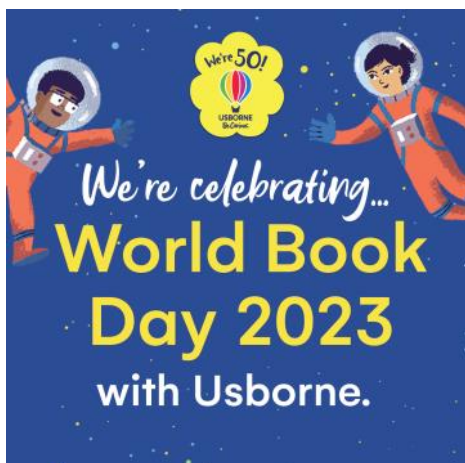
School Prayer Group (for parents)

***REVISED TIME**

The new parent prayer group led by Harvey Gollins (Children’s and families worker at Priory Church) is now from 8:40 - 9am in the school hub, every Wednesday. It is 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.

World Book Day 27th Feb - 3rd Mar

Further details to follow nearer the time...



Celebrating Learning

Learners of the Week & weekly House point totals

York	Salisbury	Canterbury	Winchester
89	103	88	65

January attendance data

The winning class in January was **Class 4** with a super 97.6%.

Overall our year to date figure is still below target on 93.5%.





SCHOOL DISCO

£5 per child, includes tuck shop

THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY
2023

KS1 4.30-5.30PM
KS2 6.00-7.00PM

Tickets on sale Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
after school outside the office or email
prioryfps@gmail.com to book online

Science Quiz Team Christchurch CHAMPIONS

Hurray! Our Science team came first in the Christchurch Science competition. Well done to all the children who took part and good to know that our Science teaching is top of the pops.



Singing Schools initiative with Priory Church

We are delighted to be part of a new initiative with Priory Church to develop the joy of singing in primary schools.

Susannah Nettleton and Simon Earl are coming into school on a number of afternoons to work with our Year 4 and 5 children to develop their singing and deliver part of music curriculum. The project will culminate with a final performance to parents next half-term (dates tbc).

Pancake Racing Tuesday 21st February



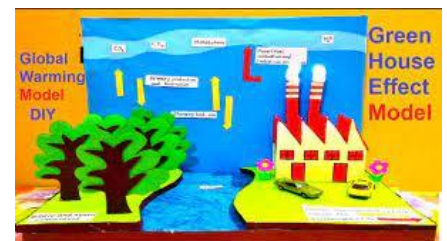
It's time to bring back a traditional favourite. On shrove Tuesday, we will be organising pancake races for the children at lunchtime. Pancakes and frying pans provided.

Children are welcome to bring in an apron to complete the look!

The Great Science Home Learning exhibition Friday 24th February

This year, as in previous years, we would like to encourage children from across the school to undertake a science project, in place of their regular homework from Monday February 6th, to share with the school community on Friday 24th February in the hall.

There is no set format for the project. It could be a subject of special interest to your child. I know many children are interested in dinosaurs! A model your child has made, with information to accompany it, would make a wonderful display. Children could also undertake a scientific experiment. **Please consider ideas that involve sustainability and the environment.**



Upcoming diary dates for Spring term 2023

Date	Time	Event
Monday 6th - Friday 10th February	All week	Children's mental health awareness week
Wednesday 8th February	3:05pm	Y5&6 Handball Tournament The Grange School
Thursday 9th February	All day 4:30—5:30pm 6—7pm	Explorers day (Y2) - dress up day EYFS and KS1 FPS Disco KS2 FPS Disco
Friday 10th February	All day	Dress to Express Children are allowed to wear mufti clothes £1 donation for place2be
Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February	Feb half-term	School closed for half-term
Monday 20th Feb	8:35am 9 - 10:30am	School reopens for Spring 2 Steph Rice (School Navigator) Coffee morning Open access for families to discuss concerns Start of Spring assessment week (mid-year)
Tuesday 21st February	Lunchtime	Pancake Races Children are allowed to bring in an apron for the races Safer Internet Day Special assembly
Friday 24th February	2:30pm	The Great Science Exhibition Home Learning projects displayed. School open for parents to visit.
Wednesday 29th March	Afternoon evening	Mrs Sibbald's afternoon tea and tributes Spring gala and farewell to 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

Upcoming diary dates for Summer term 2023

Date	Time	Event
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 III School closed
Tuesday 9th May—Friday 12th May	All week	Year 6 Statutory Assessment Week (SATs)
Friday 19th May	Afternoon	Year 6 cycle and beach trip
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
Tuesday 13th—16th June	All week	Year 6 residential with Land & Wave
Wednesday 14th June	pm	KS1 Sports Day (Dolphins, 1 and 2)
Friday 7th July	Pm	KS2 Sports Day
Friday 21st July	9:45am 1:15pm	Leaver's Service School closes for the summer holiday
Friday 1st September		INSET DAY—School closed
Monday 4th September		INSET DAY—School closed
Tuesday 5th September	8:35am	Start of Autumn term