



# The Priory School Newsletter

Summer 1 - Friday 21st April

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## \*NEW\* Headteacher Update

Please find an important update from our Chair of Governors, Geoff Tabor, regarding our search for a new Headteacher.

Hello everyone! I hope you have all had a good first week back after Easter! I last wrote on the 10th March updating you on our progress in recruiting a new Headteacher. I promised to update you in April.

On Tuesday of this week, we held an Assessment Day with candidates, and then invited selected shortlisted candidates to an interview on Wednesday, which also included providing a presentation to the Selection Panel focused on "If successful, what are your Immediate Priorities and 3-year Plan". It was a tough but enjoyable couple of days for all involved, however, THE most important thing is that I'm delighted that we identified our successor to Mr Ruffle!

**Mrs Sarah Richardson, currently Deputy Headteacher at St Katharine's Primary School in Southbourne has been successful in securing the role of Headteacher of the Priory School from September 2023.**

Mrs Richardson was outstanding throughout the 2 days; delivering a fabulous Collective Worship as one of the tasks that we set; and demonstrated an obvious passion for developing people, reading and running!

Thank you very much to all of the governors who supported the 2 days, along with the staff team who helped run the Assessment Day.

Finally, thank you to the pupils! All got to play a part in the Assessment Day; participating in a Collective Worship. Dolphins provision was the subject of another task, so they had visitors in the room for much of the morning. Additionally, the School Council created and then posed questions to (interrogated) the candidates. It's fair to say, that all the children behaved impeccably throughout the day and once again gave a great impression of the Priory School.

Thanks again to all involved!

*Geoff Tabor*

I am delighted that the school has been able to make such a terrific appointment. The work that all the governors, but especially Geoff, have put in to get the process set up and carried through in such a short space of time has been absolutely phenomenal. We also appreciate the support provided by the education team at Winchester Diocese and the BCP school improvement team.

These are exciting times for the school and the leadership team of Mrs Richardson and Mrs Fidge is an exceptional one. I know that everyone will now be looking forward to September with confidence and anticipation.

*Mr Ruffle*



### School Mission Statement

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



## NEU Industrial action Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May

The NEU teaching union feels they have no alternative but to announce further strike days on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. This will be the 4th and 5th day of strike action this year and it will have a significant impact on our school. The reason Priory School is more affected than other local primary schools is because 70% of our teaching staff are in the NEU, while some other schools have very few members.

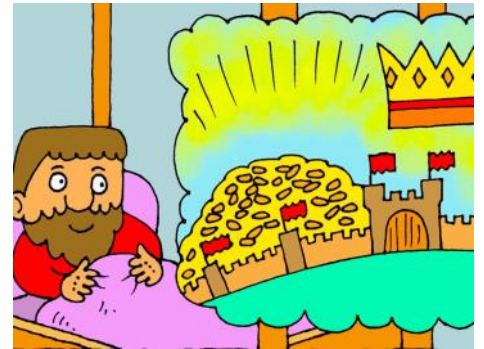
Due to the ongoing nature of this industrial action and its increasing impact on our children, I have taken additional measures to try to open the school to as many children as possible including the use of agency staff. I appreciate all parties feel that they are acting in the best interests of children, so I continue to thank everyone for your patience.

Class	Open or closed on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May	Other considerations
Dolphin Class	Open	
Year 1	Open	
Year 2	Closed	
Year 3	Closed	
Year 4	Open	<u>Thurs</u> Chance to shine - on Ukulele - on  <u>Tues</u> French will still take place
Year 5	Open	<u>Thurs</u> Chance to shine - on Bible Explorers - on Ukulele - on Cricket club - on <b>The tag rugby festival is cancelled</b>  <u>Tues</u> Bikeability - on French will still take place
Year 6	Open	<u>Thurs</u> Chance to shine - on Cricket club - on <b>The tag rugby festival is cancelled</b>  <u>Tues</u> French will still take place



## Worship Value - Wisdom

“Please make me wise and teach me the difference between right and wrong. Then I will know how to rule your people. If you don't, there is no way I could rule this great nation of yours.” 1 Kings 3 v9



In our worship this week, Mr McLean introduced our new value of wisdom. If you could wish for anything, what would you ask for? The children were introduced to a young king, who when faced with this question, wished for wisdom.

God's answer to Solomon was remarkable.

“Solomon, I'm pleased that you asked for this. You could have asked to live a long time or to be rich. Or you could have asked for your enemies to be destroyed. Instead, you asked for wisdom to make right decisions. So I'll make you wiser than anyone who has ever lived or ever will live.”

The children went on to look at some of the wise words of Solomon and how they could help us to live wisely with one another this week.

## Relationships, Sex and Health Education

### Parent Information Workshop - Wednesday 26th April 4:30pm



During the next half-term (summer 2), we are planning to teach the 'Changing Me' part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) programme of study. This includes lessons on sex and relationships. The school continues to follow the Jigsaw scheme of work and this is unchanged from last year.

We are holding a virtual parent information meeting (via zoom) on **Wednesday 26th April** in order to share the lesson content of some of the more sensitive material (particularly around puberty and body changes in Year 4 and human reproduction in Year 5/6). It is an opportunity to ask questions, especially if this is an aspect of the curriculum which concerns you. Ofsted considered our PSHE programme and wider personal development curriculum a strength of the school.

Miss Webber, our PSHE coordinator, will be leading the session and Mr Ruffle will also be present. Due to the sensitive nature (and copyright) of some of the material and questions, this meeting is not recorded and children are not invited. If you have attended this meeting in the last couple of years, there is no need to come again as the material is the same.

**All parents will receive a copy of the zoom invitation by email on Monday. The presentation will last for approximately 40 minutes. The zoom meeting will then close and restart on the same link for a question and answer session.**

## Staff Update




I am delighted to announce that Mrs Miller is expecting her second baby later this year.

Mrs Miller fully expects to continue working during the summer term and we wish her a safe and healthy pregnancy.





## In case you missed it... Our new designated safeguarding leads

<p><b>Paul Ruffle</b> HEADTEACHER Lead DSL Online Safety Champion Operation Encompass key adult (domestic abuse) Health and Safety</p>	<p><b>Mel Fidge</b> DEPUTY HEADTEACHER Deputy DSL Anti-bullying Champion Attendance Lead Pupil Premium Champion Pastoral Support Designated adult for Looked After Pupils</p>	<p><b>Sarah Russell</b> SENCO <b>Deputy DSL (in training)</b> Special Educational Needs Coordinator</p>
		

## In case you missed it... Navigator drop in—Monday 24th April (from 8:45am)

As you already know, we now have a 'school navigator' whose role is to support children and families in lots of different ways, including signposting to local resources, courses and services for families. Our navigator, Steph Rice, will be in school next Monday. Please do pop in for a catch-up and a cup of tea.

## In case you missed it... Our new SENCO and vision for SEND

Mrs Russell, supported by Mrs Sibbald (yes, she's back!), held an enjoyable coffee morning earlier today.

Mrs Russell restated our vision for pupils with SEND.  
*"Supporting a positive, inclusive environment where all children, regardless of their starting point, can reach their full potential is at the heart of all we do. Ensuring that all pupils are fully integrated into the school and have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. We have high aspirations for all children and strive to help them achieve excellence."*

One of Mrs Russell's first actions has been to clarify the school's procedures for requesting an external referral, due to the paediatric system being in crisis. This advice is attached as a separate leaflet to our newsletter.

## In case you missed it... Our new caretaker has hit the ground running

Mr Dangerfield started after the holidays and he has made a fantastic start.

He is already known as 'Mr Fixit' by the children.





## Famadagascar—thank you

Your generosity has made a difference. I am pleased to share this email I received earlier this week.

Dear Mr Ruffle,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to fund raise for Famadagascar at the Gala last term. £102.40 was collected in total! Really incredible and a wonderful demonstration of all the parents and teachers generosity on those afternoons.

To put it in context, this amount provides a whole business start up package for a family in Madagascar and will buy them all the equipment and resources they need to start something like a vegetable stall or a hair dressing business, or a small carpentry business. For a single mum with children, along with our continued social work support, it means she has a brighter future ahead won't have to beg on the street or abandon her children at one of the overcrowded orphanages. Stark but true! We already have 30 ladies on our women's economic empowerment project thanks to a grant from the Southern Africa Development Fund which is having a profound impact on some of the city's most struggling families.

Thank you once again!

Cath Butlin



## Summer 1 2023

Date	Time	Event
24th April	8.45 - 10.15am	Navigator workshop/drop-ins
26th April	4.30 - 5.30pm	Sex Education and Relationships (Parent workshop)
27th April	All day	NEU industrial action. Class 2 and 3 closed.
1st May	All day	May Bank Holiday
2nd May	All day	NEU industrial action. Class 2 and 3 closed.
5th May	All day	Coronation events - Details to follow inc. Y3 Maypole Dance
8th May	All day	Coronation Bank Holiday
9th - 12th May		KS2 SATS testing
15th May	Afternoon	Start of top up swimming at 2 Riversmeet
19th May	All day	Year 6 Beach cycle ride and picnic
22nd-26th May		Assessment Week for all year groups (KS1 SATs will take place throughout the month of May)
26th May	Morning	Safety awareness workshop with Escapeline Y5/6
29th May - 2nd June	Week	Half-Term Holiday
5th June	All day	INSET - school closed

## Summer 2 2023 - New Dates Added

Date	Time	Event
6th June	8:35am	Start of Summer 2
6th June	All week	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
9th June	Morning	Soundstorm musical workshop Y4/5
12th June	All week	Year 1 Phonics Screening
13th - 16th June	-	Year 6 Residential to Land and Wave
14th June	1—3pm	Year R, 1 and 2 Sports Day
7th July	1 - 3pm	KS2 Sports Day
21st June	6.30 - 8pm	New Reception parents welcome meeting
tbc	3.30 - 7pm	Summer Fayre
28th June	All day	Y2 trip to Marwell Zoo
30th June	All day	Transition Day <i>Y6 pupils to secondary school</i> <i>Priory pupils spend time in new class</i>
3rd-4th July	All day	Dogs Trust workshops (Y1-6)
6th July	All day	Class photographs
10th-14th July	All week	Arts Week
10th July	9.15 - 11am 6 - 7.30pm	Y6 dress rehearsal Y6 production
11th July	6 - 7.30pm	Y6 production
13th July	All day	Y3 Hengistbury Head trip
14th July	-	End of Year Reports to Parents
17th July	3.30 - 5pm	Open Evening to view work, Arts Exhibition and discuss report
19th July	2 - 3pm	Leavers Award Ceremony (in school only)
21st July	9.45 - 10.45am 1.15pm	Leavers' Service at The Priory Church School closes for the summer

### Term Dates 2023-24

All maintained schools are required to have 5 compulsory inset days (staff development days) across the academic year. 4 of the 5 inset dates have been confirmed. A fifth date will be added once the new Headteacher has been appointed.

Date	Event
<b>Autumn Term 2023</b>	
Friday 1st September	INSET (school closed)
Monday 4th September	INSET (school closed)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	First day of Autumn Term
Monday 23rd Oct - Friday 27th Oct	Oct Half-Term Holiday
Friday 15th December	Final day of Autumn Term School closes at usual time 3.15pm
Monday 18th Dec - Monday 1st January	Christmas holiday
<b>Spring Term 2024</b>	
Tuesday 2nd January	INSET (school closed)
Wednesday 3rd January	First day of Spring Term
Monday 12th Feb - Friday 16th Feb	Feb Half-Term Holiday
Thursday 28th March	Final day of Spring Term School closes at usual time 3.15pm
Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April	Easter holiday
<b>Summer Term 2024</b>	
Monday 15th April	First day of Summer Term
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May	May Half-Term Holiday
Monday 3rd June	INSET (school closed)
Tuesday 23rd July	Final day of Summer Term <b>School closes early at 1.15pm</b>