



The Priory School Newsletter

Summer 2 - Friday 5th May 2023

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Headteacher Update

Our coronation celebrations have been taking place today, with the children looking resplendent in their 'wild crowns' and red, white and blue outfits. A highlight of the day was definitely the Year 3 Maypole dance.

Pupils from Year 3 will be joining together with other Christchurch primary school children on Saturday at 1:15pm, to perform a collective Maypole dance in the Quomps as part of the town's coronation event. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

The results of our Spring pupil wellbeing survey are attached to this newsletter. It continues to show encouraging trends but still there is more that we can all do.

I hope you enjoy the extra Bank Holiday and we look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Tuesday 9th May.

Mr Ruffle



Christchurch Town Council Presents
THE CORONATION ON THE QUAY
Saturday 6th May 2023

Live Music • Large Screen • Fairground Rides
Face Painting • Fancy Dress Competition
Dancing • Food Trucks • Licensed Bar
Christchurch Quay 11am - 6pm

THE AUDIO ALLSTARS
WEDDINGS PARTIES EVENTS

THE ACOUSTICS

BB BIGGER BITES
DONUTS ETC

LONG JOHN'S
FISH & CHIPS

Free Entry

School Mission Statement

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



Standardised Assessment Tests—SATs (Year 6 and Year 2)

SATs stand for Standard Assessment Tests. SATs are administered by primary schools during May to measure children's educational achievement in years 2 and 6, with the ultimate aim of holding schools to account for the attainment of their pupils and the progress they make. This is the first year since the COVID pandemic (2019) that the results will be publicly released so parents will be able to compare the performance of Priory School with the local and national picture.

Year 6 SATs take place from Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May.

Year 2 SATs will take place at various times from Tuesday 16th May.

Children in other year groups (not EYFS) will complete their own 'end of year' assessments in the week commencing Monday 29th May. This gives time for the results to be added to the end of year reports.

We are proud of our children and all their hard work and we want them to their best. **One of the best things that parents can do to help their child during this period is to make sure that they get plenty of quality sleep. Research shows that this supports learning.** It's an easy win!



Having enough sleep is an often underestimated, protective factor for children. Sleep helps to regenerate their brains and bodies, process information and memories, boost immunity, guard against obesity and stress, and help concentration, learning and behaviour. **Studies (including the NHS) indicate that Primary school-aged children generally need around 9 to 12 hours of sleep a night.** With the constant availability of entertainment at any time of day or night (via phones, tablets or x-boxes), this is getting harder for families to manage, but healthy routines can make a real difference.

If you would like any support with establishing healthy sleep patterns for your child, then please contact Mrs Fidge via the school office who can arrange for our school navigator to speak with you.

Collective Worship Value - Wisdom

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him."

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart." 1 Samuel 16 v 7



I had to squeeze an NFL reference into my assembly last week, as it was the NFL draft when the best new college players are picked. The children were asked to imagine what it's like to be picked last. In the NFL, the last player to be picked in the draft is called 'Mr Irrelevant' and we wondered why this name was used. Last year, Mr Irrelevant, Brock Purdy, turned out to be one of the most important players in the league and he earned himself an incredible \$3million contract. He's a living example that sometimes the last can be the first.

How does God pick people for his team? We revisited the story of Samuel when he had to choose a new king of Israel. God directed him not to the oldest, strongest or the most intelligent but to pick the youngest son—Mr Irrelevant in the family. David, the shepherd boy, was to become one of Israel's greatest king. No-one is written off in God's team because God looks at the heart.



FPS Summer Disco Thursday 18th May 2023

The disco raises valuable funds for the school so we'd like as many of our school children to attend as possible. The disco features all the latest songs, a tuck shop and a chance to see Mr Ruffle boogie on on the dance floor for the very last time in his infamous gold sequinned jacket!



Date: Thursday 18 May

KS1 (Dolphins, Classes 1 & 2) - 4:30-5:30pm

KS2 (Classes 3, 4, 5 & 6) - 6:00-7:00pm

Venue: The Priory School Hall

Cost: £5 per child which includes a drink and tuck shop goodies

Tickets and payment: Tickets can be purchased from outside the school next week (at pick-up only) from Wednesday 10 May until Tuesday 16 May.

Booking may also be done remotely and tickets paid for by bank transfer. If you would like to book ticket(s) for your child please send an email to prioryfps@gmail.com advising the following 4 points:

- child(s) name- school disco time ie 4:30pm or 6:00pm according to their class- any allergies, and who is to collect them at the end of their school disco.

Bank details:

Acc Name: Priory School Parent Staff Society Sort Code: 30-90-89 Acc No: 39918560

Please reference your child(s) name, class no, and disco as a payment reference on the bank transfer (e.g. 'PRuffle6Disco').

Thank you for supporting the FPS to raise funds for our school.

Tickets on sale after school 10-16 May

The Priory CE VA Primary School

SCHOOL DISCO

THURSDAY 18 MAY

KEY STAGE 1 4:30-5:30PM
KEY STAGE 2 6:00-7:00PM

£5 per child, inc tuck shop!

Book and pay for tickets online by emailing prioryfps@gmail.com

Account Name: Priory School Parent Staff Society
Sort Code: 30-90-89
Account No: 39918560
Reference: Child's Name, Class No. and Disco eg 'PRuffle6Disco'



Governor Vacancies—WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you, or someone you may know, are interested in joining our Priory School Governing Team we would be really excited to hear from you.

We have 2 Foundation Governor vacancies, and as of September, 2 Parent Governor vacancies

In the first instance, if you are interested in any of the above roles, please contact Geoff Tabor, Chair of Governors for a chat: gtabor@prioryceprimary.co.uk

Our school Governing Body is made up of governors from all walks of life and many come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school and are the link between the school and the community it serves.

What are we looking for?

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- An interest in the performance of the school.
- A desire to contribute to and represent the community.
- An open and enquiring mind and the ability to look at issues objectively
- The confidence to ask questions and join in debate.
- A willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- The ability to work well with others
- Time to spare
- Expertise in health & safety, academia and/or diversity and inclusion would be helpful.

If you match the above description, you may be the very person to become a Governor. Everyone has something to offer and we want people from as many backgrounds and with as wide a range of interests as possible.

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic management
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors and staff in improving our School
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our School
- The pleasure of helping students reach their potential

What is the Governing Body's Role?

The Governing Body of our school plays a key role in:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
- Deciding policy and future development plans as well as attending meetings, governors are also asked to look at specific areas of the school's work in more detail.

Parent Governors play a vital role on governing bodies, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school. Through the children, they have a first hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum, and how the school is perceived from the 'consumers' point of view. Parent Governors are elected via parent election.

Foundation Governors represent the Christian faith and it is expected that they will themselves be practising Christians and members of one of the mainstream Christian Churches. Foundation Governors need to be nominated by the PCC of the Priory Church and appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education.



FPS NEWS

SAVE THE DATE

Summer Fair 2023
Friday 23rd June 4—7pm

We need volunteers to run another successful fair so we can raise essential funds for the school. Email FPS chair Hazel Hill on prioryfps@gmail.com if you can help or, in a new initiative, if you have any experience in successfully applying for grants.

Without the FPS there would be NO:

- Play equipment at playtime
- Chromebooks
- Pupil lockers
- Traversing wall
- Christmas panto
- Reception mud kitchen

To name but a few of the spends in the last 5 years.



Sports & Outdoor News

Despite the stop-start nature of this term, a summer of sport is getting underway. Year 5 enjoyed their bikeability workshops this week and our largest ever catch up swimming programme for KS2 pupils is due to start on Monday 15th May.

The Y3/4 Shooting stars festival at the Grange School



CHANCE TO SHINE
SCHOOLS

Chance to Shine workshops for staff and pupils in Y3, 4, 5 and 6

We are lucky to have a cricket coach with these classes for this half term to teach cricket skills and promote the sport of cricket, teaching children to become the next Katherine Brunt or Ben Stokes.

Year 5 local area visits

Year 5 are enjoying discovering more about the town of Christchurch in their local area study.





School Finances 2023 and beyond... Parent Fund Launch

The Senior Leaders of the School, and the governors, work very hard to ensure that the school finances are in good shape.

Sadly, we are in unprecedented times: the cost of living crisis is hitting us, and I'm sure you are also seeing the impact. Our energy costs have increased by 300% which is significant, but the biggest impact is the unfunded teacher pay increases. The government has agreed salary increases for certain staff, however has not increased our grant income sufficiently to pay for this!



Our primary consideration is to ensure we have enough adults on-site to keep our children safe, and deliver a quality education. We also believe that maintaining class sizes of 30 across the school will ensure we can meet the needs of all children. The cost of this takes up much of our income.

Our building is old, and is maintained meticulously to ensure we have a safe school. Much of any spend on premises is funded by the Diocese, but the school has to contribute a proportion, and therefore we have to budget a few thousand every year to cover these eventualities. This takes funds away from key spend areas, and this year we have had to make savings through a reduction in teaching assistant hours, a reduction in online learning resources e.g. IXL, a reduction in online tutoring e.g. Third Space Maths Tutoring, withdrawal of Relax Kids and a large reduction in non-IT learning resources e.g. exercise books, science equipment, art stock etc.

We are setting up a "parent fund", which will initially be used to free up the funds we allocate to the school premises fund, and will enable us to reinstate some of the items listed above.

If you would like to support the school, you can donate a one-off payment, or preferably set up a standing order. Any amount, large or small will be gratefully received. If you feel you are able to support the school in this way, the value of the contribution is up to you. We do appreciate that this will not be possible for everyone.

More and more schools are reluctantly asking for donations as a last resort to bring their budgets back from breaking point. Parents should not have to dip into their own pockets to make up for the investment that the government is unwilling to provide, however, we have little option but to seek funding from all available sources.

If you do wish to contribute, you can transfer funds direct into our Parent Fund or set up a standing order.

Name: Priory School
Sort code: 20-68-95
Account number: 80065536

Your donation will be crucial in the short-term, but invaluable to support future building projects. Thank you, in advance, for any donation you are able to contribute.

Many thanks,

Geoff

These are difficult decisions, but the financial pressure on schools is having real consequences. We have had to reduce spending in our 2023-24 budget in order to return to a balanced budget and to ensure that the school is in a secure position moving forward. I am grateful that the support of FPS, The Priory Church, parent volunteers and others will mitigate some of this impact. Many of the planned cuts will not take effect until September, so there is still time to find solutions, especially in collaboration with Mrs Richardson and with the launch of this parent fund.

[Financial information](#) about the school can be accessed from our school website.

My personal hope is that parents will demand that local and national decision-makers prioritise investment in children and put education (and all children's services) back at the top of the political agenda.

Mr Ruffle

Summer 1 2023

Date	Time	Event
8th May	All day	Coronation Bank Holiday
9th - 12th May	Mornings	KS2 SATS Y6 pupils arrive at 8:20am for welcome breakfast. Normal start times for all other pupils.
10th May	Afternoon	Year 2 Local Area Walk
12th May	Afternoon	Salisbury House Reward Children to wear PE kits. The Salisbury House captains have planned a wide game, based on 'Capture the Flag' for the children to play on Friday afternoon.
15th May	Afternoon	Start of top up swimming at 2 Riversmeet Invited children from KS2.
17th May	Morning	Y3/4 Tennis Festival By invitation only. Flavours Cookery School Demonstration
18th May	4:30—7pm	FPS Summer Disco
19th May	All day	Year 6 Beach cycle ride and picnic See separate letter.
22nd-26th May		School Assessment Week for Y1, 3, 4 and 5 year groups
24th May	Afternoon	Quidditch Festival for Y3/4
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
Autumn Term 2023	
Friday 1st September	INSET (school closed)
Monday 4th September	INSET (school closed)
Tuesday 5 th 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
Spring Term 2024	
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
Summer Term 2024	
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 School closes early at 1.15pm