



The Priory Church of England Primary School

Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve

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WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1 - Friday 25th October 2024

- Headteacher update
 - Worship
- Thank You Teachers
 - Key Dates

HEADTEACHER UPDATE



As we come to the end of our first half term, I have been reflecting on how we have demonstrated our vision as a 'City on a Hill' and shone our light. In school we use the phrase 'Nows, Ows and Wows' to talk about key moments in our lives. Over the past 8 weeks we have had all of these moments at some point, and our Team Priory light can shine brighter because of all of them.

Nows - Every day, in every lesson, I see the focus and engagement of your children in their learning. Whether it be learning sounds for the first time, improving their times table knowledge, having the perseverance to try a task again or collaborating on an activity, it is evident to see all children 'glowing' as learners and individuals.

Ows - Sometimes life doesn't go to plan. Sometimes we have to cope with disappointment. Mistakes and disappointments are part of our journey but together we can build trust or bounce back. Light overcomes darkness.

Wows - These are the moments that give you goosebumps or spring tears of joy. You know they are special because your heart feels like it is glowing inside. We have shared in many of these wow moments this term and the memories of these create an explosion of light.

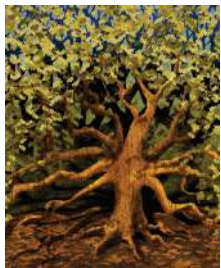
I would like to share these Wow moments with you from the past two weeks.

Thank you to all the House Captains for organising and leading our first House Day of the year. Apart from giving a celebratory cheer to every £1 coin that went into the toilet at the gate, each team led a fantastic motivational talk for their House members. As part of this, they reinforced the expectations of how we treat others in school, awarded 5 children from the team and shared a quote to remind everyone of their key message.





At the start of this week, six children from the Eco Team in year 6 took part in the Soup Dragon event pitching a presentation about how Priory School could be Gamechangers for the planet. These children have been reviewing how our school could be more environmentally friendly and sustainable. They presented a fabulous pitch in the hope we might win the top prize of £1000. There was some stiff competition but the passion and commitment of our Eco Team won the hearts and souls of the organisers and we came joint runners-up. What a brilliant result. We have been awarded £475 to help launch our eco project and as a result....



Our Acorn class had a special worship last week where each child was presented with a Prayer Book and a golden acorn. In our worship we thought about how an acorn has the power to grow a forest. In the same way, each child in our reception class has acorn power inside of them to help them to flourish. Mrs Richardson had acorn containers of all different sizes and the children helped sort them from smallest to biggest. All the children in Acorn class have started using their acorn power to help them in their learning and friendships. We also shared with parents a special video of their start to school which will be on our school website very soon.



Today, the children have thoroughly enjoyed 'Breaking the Rules'. This event follows the wonderful FPS disco held last week. I would like to express my thanks to the whole of the FPS committee and parents who have supported these events. They have brought much joy and happiness to the school and the children. We have also raised a fabulous £560 today which will go towards our new playground ideas.



May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. I hope you have a restful half term break and we will see your children on Tuesday 5th November.

Mrs Richardson

WORSHIP



We have been thinking about 'guiding lights' and took inspiration from Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." In our school we have special values that help to guide us to make the right choices or lead us to new opportunities. In worship, one child was sent along a path looking for the words which were hidden under piles of leaves or under stones. We are going to continue to use our values to help us be the best version of ourselves.



THANK YOU TEACHING TEAM

I had a visitor in school last week who spoke with two groups of children from across the school. He asked them what was special about our school. Their first response was 'we have amazing teachers'. The children talked about how their teachers are role models and support them in their learning. One child commented that their teacher never minds explaining something again. Another shared that their teacher makes sure everyone is included and understands everything before moving on. I am extremely lucky to work alongside such a committed, professional, creative and loyal team of teachers. I also know that the children are hugely benefiting from each teacher's skill, knowledge, passion, compassion, and consistency that they bring to learning in the classroom. But it goes beyond the classroom; all teachers go over and above in their role, offering after school clubs and being at the end of the phone. I cannot thank them enough for their support and hard work this half term.

This week you will have met with your child's class teacher at our parents' evening; we hope that you have found this meeting useful so that you are best able to support your child at home.



ST GEORGE'S TRICK OR TREAT PITSTOP

Pop along to St. George's Church in Purewell on Halloween Night for their special event: Trick-or-Treat Light themed pitstop. There will be games, face painting and free refreshments. Please see the attached flyer.



WINTER COAT AND CHRISTMAS JUMPER EXCHANGE

Our parent volunteers have set up a rail in the main entrance of the school to collect and store winter coats and Christmas jumpers. This exchange scheme is hugely beneficial to our community. Please see the attached flyers for further details.

Please see below for our upcoming key dates.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024-2025

Please find below our term dates for the academic year 2024 -2025. We hope that by publishing these dates in advance, families are able to plan in advance to avoid absences during term times.

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2024	Half term
Monday 4th November 2024	INSET day
Monday 11th November - Friday 15th November	Anti Bullying Week - Choose Respect
Thursday 14th November	House Day - wear a coloured accessory
Tuesday 12th November	New Reception Starter 2025 Open Morning
Thursday 21st November	New Reception Starter 2025 Open Morning
Friday 6th December	Treehouse Theatre Panto Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 10th december	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity 1:45pm
Wednesday 11th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity 5:30pm
Tuesday 17th December	Carol Service at Priory Church 6:00pm
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Lunch Day Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 20th December 2024	Term Ends School finishes at 1:15pm
Monday 6th January 2025	Term Starts
Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24th February 2025	INSET day
Friday 4th April 2025	Term Ends School Finishes at 1:15pm
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Term Starts
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2025	Half term
Monday 2nd June 2025	INSET Day
Tuesday 22nd July 2025	Term Ends School Finishes at 1:15pm