



# The Priory Church of England Primary School

***Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve***

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## WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Autumn 2 - Friday 8th December 2023**

### HEADTEACHER UPDATE

We are certainly in the festive spirit at the Priory School as we celebrate advent and the lead up to Christmas. Here is a roundup of our Christmas events so far.

### Christmas Jumper Day

It was wonderful to see the children dressed in their Christmas Jumpers last Friday as we entered the start of advent. Their brightly coloured tops, bobbles and sequins shimmered around the school. Don't forget that we have another Christmas Jumper and non uniform day on the last day of term, Friday 15th December.

### Christmas Panto

Treehouse Theatre gave a fabulous performance of Cinderella last week. The actors were brilliant with their singing, comic timing and bringing the characters to life. The Ugly Sisters were truly despicable and the romance between Cinderella and the Prince warmed our hearts. It was fabulous to see the children participating in the tradition of panto, joining in loudly with their booing and hissing. There were also a number of children given small parts throughout the performance who demonstrated our Made to Flourish vision. What a fantastic memory!





## Christmas Fayre

There was a wintery feel to our Christmas Fayre last Friday which meant we enjoyed the hotdogs, mulled wine and hot chocolate all the more. A huge Thank You to all the FPS reps and staff who sprung into action and delivered us a mammoth dose of Christmas cheer and joy. I would like to congratulate our Year 6 pupils for organising and running their own stalls which were highly successful. And thank you to the whole Priory Community for turning out and sharing in our festive fayre. The total money raised is in excess of £2500 which will go towards future events and resources for the children of Priory School.



## Baarmy Bethlehem - Year 1 and 2 Nativity

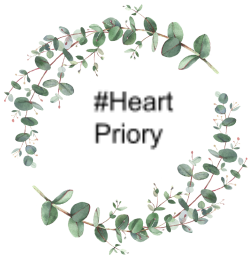
Our two performances of our Year 1 and 2 nativity, Baarmy Bethlehem, was another Christmas delight this week. The children were magnificent in their acting and singing, making us all very proud. A huge well done to all the children for learning their lines and songs to give us such a magical performance. They have been putting in lots of practice and I am sure that parents have helped along the way, so seeing their smiles and having their moment to shine was a fantastic reward for all their effort. I would also like to thank the staff and volunteers involved for supporting the children in the lead up to these performances.







## Looking ahead - Priory Carol Service



We are very much looking forward to sharing our Carol Service with you this coming Tuesday 12th December, 6pm at Priory Church. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate the birth of Jesus and come together in song and prayer. Without giving too much away, we hope to inspire you with our words, action, dance, and carols in a magical Christmas service.

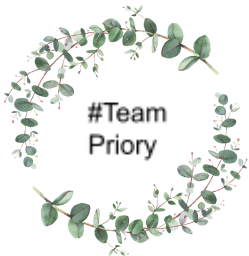
## Bottle Tops



You will remember that a couple of weeks ago we started a competition to see which class could collect the most bottle tops for local company Circular 11. It has been a close contest and our whole school total has very nearly reached 10,000 bottle tops. It is my pleasure to announce Class 2 as the winners of the Bottle Top Collection on this occasion. However, it is our collective act of community service that will ensure these bottle tops are saved from landfill and will have a future life as a much-loved product made by the Circular 11 team.



## Staffing update



I would like to update you on a couple of staffing changes for the coming term. This week we sadly said goodbye to Mrs Greavy, one of our Class 1 Teaching Assistants. I would like to thank Mrs. Greavy for all the support she has given the children of Priory School in her time here over the past 18 months. We wish her well.

We will also be saying a temporary goodbye to Mrs White next week as she begins her maternity leave. We wish her well in her final nesting weeks and look forward to hearing of the safe arrival of her little bundle in the new year.

It is sad news that Mrs Andrews, a long-serving member of the Teaching Assistant Team, will be leaving at the start of January. She has been endlessly positive, extremely caring and nurturing as well as being our First Aid Fairy. We will save our goodbye wishes for her until the new term begins.

We have two new members of staff joining the Priory team from next term. Mrs Amy Hall will be joining Class 1 and Mrs Chana Thorpe will be supporting Dolphins class for the next two terms. We very much look forward to them joining us in the new year.



## COMING SOON

### #Teach and Learn Priory - Made to Flourish



In Spring Term, our focus through our Christian Vision and Worship will be one of our next hashtags: #Teach and Learn Priory. To introduce this theme and to share our vision for the term ahead, I would like to invite parents to a short session on **Tuesday 9th January at 2:45pm.**

Working in partnership with parents and families is part of each child's flourishing journey and I hope to see many of you there.

During the spring term, we will be hosting a number of parent workshops based on different subject areas. The first of these sessions will be a Phonics Workshop for **Year 1 parents on Thursday 18th January 2:30pm - 3:15pm.**

More details to follow soon.

### Navigator Workshop

After such a successful workshop in November, Steph Rice, our School Navigator will be hosting another themed workshop for parents on Monday 15th January at 2:40pm. It will be based around communication within the family. More information to follow soon.

### And finally....

As we come to the end of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children and families for their continued support. Having completed my first term with you, I feel immensely blessed and proud of all we have achieved together. The family feel of Priory School is lived out each and every day and I extend my warmest Christmas wishes to each family this holiday season. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 3rd January.

*Mrs Richardson*



## INSET days and Key Dates

We have scheduled our final INSET day for Monday 15th April. Please take a close look at our key dates below so that you are aware of upcoming events.

# Key Dates Academic Year 2023-24

Date	Event
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Spring Term 2024	
Tuesday 2nd January	<b>INSET (school closed)</b>
Wednesday 3rd January	School Term begins
Friday 5th January	Epiphany Service at Priory Church 9:45am <b>ALL CHILDREN IN SCHOOL UNIFORM</b>
Tuesday 9th January	#Teach and Learn Priory Headteacher Vision 2:45pm Everyone welcome
Monday 15th January	Navigator Workshop - Communication in the Family
Thursday 18th January	Year 1 Phonics Parent Workshop
Monday 22nd January	Dogs Trust Workshop for children
Tuesday 6th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 8th February	FPS Disco
Monday 12th Feb - Friday 16th Feb	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 4th March	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 5th March	Parents' Evening
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day 2024
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	<b>INSET day (school closed)</b>
Tuesday 16th April	First day of Summer Term

Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 3rd June	<b>INSET (school closed)</b>
Tuesday 23rd July	Final day of Summer Term <b>School closes early at 1.15pm</b>