



# The Priory Church of England Primary School

*Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve*

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## WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Autumn 2 - Friday 13th December 2024**

- Christmas Events
  - Worship
  - Tail Trail
- Staffing Updates
  - Key Dates

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE



### Christmas pantomime

Treehouse Theatre gave us a fantastic production of Treasure Island last week. Their humorous and skilled performance gave plenty of opportunity for the children to clap along, boo, cheer and laugh in full panto tradition. Thank you to FPS for funding this experience.



## **Christmas Lantern Parade and Fayre**

It was wonderful to see everyone in the Priory School community coming along to support our Lantern Parade and Christmas Fayre last Friday. The FPS pulled out all the stops to create an evening of fun including carol singing, stalls, games, food, entertainment and prizes. A special well done goes to our year 6 pupils for designing and running their own game and craft stalls. These were extremely creative and highly popular. A special thank you goes to Miss Field for supporting the year 6 children. Another thank you goes to Mr Swain, Miss Etheridge, Mrs Wright, Miss Bull and Miss Worrall for organising the entertainment: choir, ukulele, musical theatre club, Class 1 and 2 Nativity songs, Class 5 Twelve Days of Christmas and our soloist. You were all AMAZING!

All of your donations and support on the evening has resulted in a fantastic £2000 of funds raised for future projects in school.



## **Class 1&2 Nativity - The Angel who nearly missed it all**

We had two magical performances from class 1 and 2 this week as they took to the stage to share their Nativity. This is a hugely important part of each child's personal development. There has been a great deal of effort and resilience made by all children to learn lines, lyrics and stage directions. They sang their hearts out and gave two spectacular shows. Thank you to all parents, grandparents and friends for coming along to support the children. I would also like to thank the year 1 and 2 staff teams for their hard work over the past few weeks, helping the children to prepare.





## Looking ahead

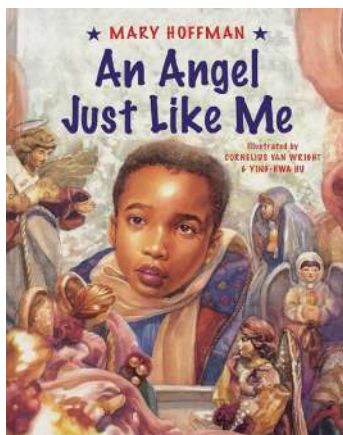
We are looking forward to our whole school Carol Service at Priory Church on Tuesday 17th December at 6pm. Please see below the exact timings. **We politely ask that children arrive promptly at the designated time in order to get everyone seated in their positions ready for the service.**

5:30	Children's arrival time at the main entrance of Priory Church. A member of staff will be on the door to direct the children inside. Please can adults keep any coats so that the children have nothing in their hands.
5:45pm	Parents will be invited in to take their seats. Please queue outside the front entrance.
6:00pm	Service starts
7:00pm	Estimated finish time. Children will leave the stage and stay as a class with their teacher in a designated area of the church. We ask that ONLY ONE adult per child collects their child from this area. Children will not be able to leave unless a parent is there to collect them.

## WORSHIP



As we began the season of advent, we brought out our special advent candles to remind us about counting down to Jesus' birth. Our first candle, the candle is hope, let us reflect on things we can be hopeful for. The second candle this week represents peace. We have been writing Christmas cards to share friendship and peace with others.



In worship, I shared the book *An Angel Just Like Me*. This story about a boy called Tyler, who longed for an Angel that looked like him, helped us to reflect on our theme of diversity. We are all different and unique. In response, the children have decorated their own small, wooden angel and glued on a picture of themselves. We would like to say a big thank you to FPS for purchasing the angels for the children to decorate. The children will be given their angel at the FPS Secret Present session next Thursday so you can hang them up at home.

## THE TAIL TRAIL WITH JULIA'S HOUSE

You will remember that in the last newsletter I shared with you an exciting fundraising project Priory School is taking part in to support Julia's House, a local charity. We were set the challenge to decorate our Tiny Tail and I am pleased to say that with the children's help, their wonderful imaginations and design skills we have created a magnificent Tail full of aspirations. Each child contributed ideas which were selected to go on our final design. These children have worked alongside Miss Dyer to complete the project. Our Tiny Tail has now been safely packed away until the Great Tail Trail launch in Spring. We will keep you posted about this event and our fundraising plans in the new year.



## STAFFING UPDATES

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Parker our year 3 Teaching Assistant at the end of this term. She is delighted to have secured a teaching post at Highcliffe St Mark Primary School in the new year. We would like to thank Mrs Parker for being such a fantastic member of our team and for all her work, particularly with reading groups across the school. We wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

Miss Dyer, who has recently returned following a period of absence will be working in class 3 alongside Miss Ross from January. She knows this class extremely well having worked with them in previous years and will ensure a smooth transition.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs White will be returning to Priory School in January following her maternity leave. She will be working in Class 1 on Monday and Wednesday each week. Mrs Thorpe, a current member of staff, will be in Class 1 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of the staff of Priory school for their hard work and commitment during a very busy term. Their contributions during and beyond the school day are greatly appreciated and ensure that our pupils receive the best care and learning experiences enabling them to flourish.

### Ukulele

We are sad to announce that Ukulele Club will be ending this term and we will be saying farewell to Mr Morrow. We have been extremely lucky to have Mr Morrow share his time and talent with us for the past few years. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to him for all the children he has inspired musically and for all the wonderful performances they have shared.

I will be pursuing alternative musical providers in the new year so that Priory can continue to offer its pupils further opportunities in music education. Thank you for your patience whilst we explore other options.

## 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.

Tuesday 17th December	Carol Service at Priory Church 6:00pm
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Lunch Day Christmas Jumper Day FPS Secret Present
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