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| October 2017 Newsletter |
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The Priory Parish CE Primary School



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| Events Autumn Term **Tuesday 14th November**  Keeping Up With The Kids – 9.00am – 10.00am  **Friday 17th November**  Children in Need Monday 20th NovemberYear 6 Oaklands Residential **Tuesday 28th November**  F2 parent reading activity morning  **Thursday 30th November**  Pre school admissions support session – 9.00am – 10.00am  **Tuesday 5th December**  Whole school to see Robin Hood at the Williamson  **Thursday 7th December**  Christmas Fair 3.30pm – 6.00pm  School closed – staff training day  **Tuesday 31st October**  School reopens for children |
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| **Dear Parents**  Last half term flew by packed with events, special visitors, clubs, learning and much more. We were delighted to host the Archbishop of York at our after school club. He left a wonderful, lasting impression on the staff and children. This was closely followed by a visit from Ofsted. We were pleased that the Inspector found that we continue to be a good school. You should have received the report a number of weeks ago but you can visit the Ofsted website to read it if you haven’t already. Whilst there were many encouraging comments in the report we know there is still much more we can do to fulfill our vision for the children.  Over the last few weeks I have been quite awestruck by a large number of our year 6 pupils who applied for the post of Head Boy or Head Girl. They began by writing excellent letters before being interviewed. I have to admit I got emotional reading them and thinking about the journeys the children have been on since they started at our school. All have developed in so many fabulous ways – we are incredibly proud of them. The children are named later in this newsletter.  Additionally, I was fortunate to spend a weekend at Quinta with ten year five children. This was alongside over thirty staff and pupils from our friends at St Peter’s Heswall, Christ Church Moreton and Holy Spirit Leasowe. I may be a little biased but our children were stand out in terms of how they approached all the activities and behaved all weekend. They were a credit to the school, their families and themselves.  I hope that we can continue to work closely together to benefit the children we care about.  Best wishes  Mr Edwards |
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**Questionnaires**

**Tuesday 12th December**

Pre school and F2 Nativity (am)

Key Stage 1 Nativity (pm)

**Wednesday 13th December**

Pre school and F2 Nativity (am)

Key Stage 1 Nativity (pm)

**Friday 22nd December**

School closes at 1.15pm.

Several weeks ago we sent home a questionnaire. These are really important for you to let us know how we can improve our school. Please, please, please, if you haven’t already, could you spend a few minutes to fill it in and give us your valued feedback.

Thank you to all those who have responded. One thing we know we have to get better is communication. As a staff, we have had several discussions about improving this and will do better. The most efficient way for us to communicate with you is via email. It is quick and saves the school significant sums of money which can be spent in other ways.

**If you haven’t already given us your email address or would like support creating one please pop in.**

**Parking**

I am sure we all agree that the safety of our children is always paramount. Therefore can we please ask that you do not park your car in the yellow zig zag lines on Aberdeen and Trinity Street. I have asked the local authority and police to support us with this. In September, three people were fined £60 for stopping in these zones outside our school.

**Head Boy and Head Girl**

As mentioned earlier we have selected our first ever head boy and head girl. It is a reflection of such a fine year 6 class that we had so many children who wanted to go for the positions. Such was the quality of applications and interviews that we decided to give all the children the opportunity to be role models and represent the school.

Head Boy – Dylan MacDonald Head Girl – Ellie Mae Torrington

Deputy Head Boy – Owen Rooney Deputy Head Girl – Aleysha Hanley

Prefects: Dennis Baker, Ellisha Evers, Lacey Kelly, Katelyn Batty, Alexia Billington - Mearns, Lily – Rees Barker and Karolina Kosecka,

**New Staff**

A warm welcome to Mrs Cardus who has taken over from Mrs Farrell who is now on maternity leave. We wish her all the best. Mrs Cardus has been teaching for just over three years and has recently left Egremont Primary School. In pre-school, Mrs Jones left for pastures new and we have replaced her with Mrs Lloyd who is currently a deputy manager at Busy Bees Nursery in Bromborough.

**School Houses and Class Dojos**

You may well be aware that several weeks ago we launched a new ‘house’ system for the school. We chose the names of influential figures from our town: Joseph Paxton, John Laird, Charles Thompson and Wilfred Owen. All children and staff were allocated to one of these. Well done to Joseph Paxton who were last half terms winners.

All year groups are now using the class dojo system. This is a great online tool that allows us to reward the children with points for positive things and also communicate these to you. **Can I stress that this will only be used to pass on positive messages to you. We will not check or respond to individual messages. Please contact the office if you need to communicate with your class teacher.**

**Thank you from a special visitor**

We had another special visitor on Thursday 1st November when ex pupil, Megan Cummins, came into school to say a huge thank you for helping her raise over £200. Megan is now in year 11, having left our school in 2011 to go to Birkenhead High School Academy and in two weeks will travel to Bulgaria as part of the Great Britain trampolining team competing in the World Championships. She visited each class, who asked her an array of questions whilst also having the opportunity to look closely at the many medals and trophies she has won. We all wish the very best.

**Holidays in school time**

This was relayed to you in our newsletter in July. However, I want to reemphasise the change to our policy regarding fines if holidays are taken in term time.

You may be aware that a recent Supreme Court hearing regarding a fine that was issued after a father took his children on holiday upheld the decision of the school. We work closely with the local authority and our absence policy reflects the guidance that they have provided to us. Therefore, we have decided to issue fixed penalty notices for holidays from September 2017 in accordance with recent published protocol which says:

“Penalty Notices may be considered appropriate in the following circumstances:

* Attendance below 90% with at least 10 days lost due to unauthorised absence. These do not need to be consecutive.
* **5 days or more unauthorised absence due to holidays in term time.**
* Pupils stopped on Police Truancy Sweeps in some circumstances, for example, if this is repeated.
* The presence of an excluded child in a public place at any time during school hours in that child’s first five days of a school exclusion without good reason.
* A pupil arriving late after the registers are closed (using a code U) on 10 or more separate occasions.”

As a school we want to work closely with you to ensure attendances don’t drop below levels that really affect the achievement of the children. **If you plan to take holidays in term time please ensure you collect a leave of absence request form from the office so that we can judge each case on its merits.** Please don’t hesitate to contact either myself, Mrs Sutton or any of our staff if you have any concerns.

**Home School**

Our Home School is always looking for ways to raise much needed funds for the school. If you are able to spare a little time to support any of our events please pop in or speak to Miss Smith or Mrs Booth. This term is always busy and we desperately need your help to support us.

**Attendance**

Overall attendance from F2 to year 6 is 94.9%. This is below national statistics for attendance and obviously impacts on not only the academic achievement of our children but also their social and emotional development. It is disappointing to see that several of our classes attendance has again dropped this term. Every day missed is crucial to the development of your child. Please aim to get in by 8.50 ready to go into school for 8.55am.

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| F2 –  97.1% | Year 1 – 96% | Year 2 – 95.1% | Year 3 – 94.6% | Year 4 – 94.1% | Year 5 – 95.5% | Year 6  93.6% |

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly …”

Colossians 3:15-17