

Priory News

October 2018



Dear Parents,

It has been a busy first half-term in school, with the launch of our Daily Mile, Y3 visiting Hunstanton, Y5 visiting the Space Centre, Y6 going to Cambridge museums, our Harvest assemblies, our Meet and Greet evening, the re-launch of Walk to School, and our first Parents' Evenings of the year next week. Not to mention our 50th Anniversary Celebrations!

Thank-you to everyone who sent in donations for our Harvest assembly. The food has been donated to St Neots Foodbank –who were extremely grateful to receive it. We were delighted to be joined by David Pacini, from St Neots Foodbank, for the assemblies who thanked everyone for the donations, and the wonderful assemblies.

St Neots Foodbank offers help to people who may be struggling financially. As a school, we are registered with the foodbank and as such, are able to support families with the provision of vouchers to use at the Foodbank, should the need arise. If you know of any family who might be in need, or are yourself, please do let me know, and we will be able to help you.

The children's performances and singing were wonderful, and were enjoyed by all who attended.

Don't forget, this half-term ends on **Friday, 19th October.**

We return to school on **Tuesday, 30th October.**

Diary Dates

Parents' Coffee Morning	9 th October, 9-10am
Individual Photographs	11 th October
Disco	11 th October
Y6 Cambridge Trip	12 th October
Priory at 50 Theme Week	15 th – 19 th October
Y3-5 Flu Vaccinations	16 th October
Parents Evenings	17 th / 18 th October

Half Term

22nd – 26th October

Professional Day – School Closed	29th October
Priory at 50 Community Event	3 rd November, 2–4pm
GB Athlete Visit	6 th November
National Anti-Bullying Week	12 th – 16 th November
Odd Socks Day	12 th November
Anti-Bullying Theatre Show	13 th November
Children in Need Day	16 th November
Y4 Bikeability Day	16 th November
Y5 Drumming Workshops	22 nd November
Open Evening	22 nd November
Y6 Viking Day	23 rd November
Parents Do Day	4 th December
Year 3 / 4 Christmas Performance	12 th December
Year 5 / 6 Christmas Performance	13 th December
Parents' Coffee Morning	18 th December
Christingle	19 th December
Progress Reports Sent Home	19 th December

End of Term

19th December

Spring Term Starts

7th January

Proud to Be Priory:

- ❖ The successful launch of our Daily Mile – with children already completing their first 10 miles.
- ❖ The children's performances at the Harvest Assembly – commented on by David Pacini from St Neots Foodbank.
- ❖ The superb Skellig writing in Year 6 – very descriptive and moving.
- ❖ The commitment to school life by our many monitors around school – showing our value of 'Responsibility'.



A reminder to all Year 6 parents to ensure you have submitted your Secondary School Application.

You must do this by 31st October.

Children in Need Day – 16th November
In return for a 50p contribution to Children in Need, we are inviting children to ‘Wear their Spots’.

Priory At 50 – Celebrations

The last week of this term will be a themed week of learning – and a commemoration of our 50th Anniversary year. There will be many activities focused on this throughout the week in classes and as a whole-school.

We will start the week with a birthday assembly – blowing out the candles on the school’s birthday cake, and we will also be holding a special birthday lunch that day – with the lunch reflecting a little of what might have been found on a menu 50 years ago (but brought up to date!).

We are planning to plant bulbs on the roundabout during the week – if the ground is soft enough for us to do so – so that we can enjoy a golden roundabout in the spring.

The children will also be exploring what it would have been like to come to Priory Junior School 50 years ago with some ‘guest’ pupils revisiting us.

We are really looking forward to this, and hope it will be a real community celebration of our wonderful school.

Community Event – 3rd November, 2 – 4pm

On Saturday, 3rd November – we are inviting past and present pupils, and staff to drop into the school. This will be an opportunity to meet with others, share memories, and help to create some new ones. If you were a Priory pupil when you were young, or know someone who was, please let them know about this event.

If you want to come along, please do. If you have any old photographs of Priory memories, please bring them along – and if you are happy for us to have them, we will scan them in to create a ‘History of Priory’ book.

Refreshments will also be available during the afternoon, courtesy of FOPJS.

Parent’s Evenings

Don’t forget parents evenings are next week, on 17th and 18th October – book your appointment online to meet with your child’s class teacher.



***Join us for the Daily Mile
8.30am every day***

Open Evening

*Our Open Evening takes place on 22nd November, from 5 – 6.15pm. This is **open to all parents** and is a wonderful opportunity to have a look around the school, and see your child’s classroom.*

Thank-you to all our parents who attended the Meet and Greet session at the beginning of September – again, we hope the opportunity to see your child’s classrooms and meet your child’s teacher early in the year was helpful.

Odd Socks Day – 12th November

*As part of National Anti-Bullying Week, we are inviting all children to wear odd socks on **Monday, 12th November**, in recognition of celebrating differences.*

The BASE – our Before and After School Experience

Need a safe place for your children to go before or after school? Then The BASE could be for you. Situated within the school, we are able to provide an engaging environment for children – with a wide-range of activities to get involved in.

Places can be booked online using the School Gateway – to make a booking you will need to register for The BASE via the School Office. This will then allow you to view spaces, and make ad hoc bookings too.

Roofing Work

We are delighted to say that the roofing work is complete, and the scaffolding has now come down!

As such, our visitor's car park has now re-opened for use.

Roundabout

Please remember that the roundabout is for dropping off only in the mornings – this means that if you wish to leave your car, you will need to find an alternative place to park.

*Whenever the barrier is down, this means that the roundabout is closed. **This will be for safety reasons.** During these times, please do not park on the yellow zig zags at the entrance. This compromises the safety of our children, and is also illegal.*

Jewellery and PE

In order to ensure that Physical Education lessons and school sports activities are safe, it is important to note that children should be properly prepared to be active.

*Cambridgeshire County guidelines for the safe teaching of Physical Education state that, for all P.E. lessons, pupils should have a **change of clothing (including footwear), tie all long hair back and remove all jewellery.***

To comply with these guidelines, pupils will need to remove their earrings or come to school without them if they cannot remove them independently. Staff cannot be asked to remove or put in earrings. The reasons behind this are to ensure pupils do not get injured whilst moving about in their PE lessons, something that all school staff have to ensure happens.

As you are aware, Physical Education is a vital aspect of children's learning and development, with each class timetabled for 2 hours of P.E. per week so we really appreciate your support in this matter.

*If your child has recently had their ears pierced, they can still be removed for a short period of time for PE. If they have an infection and cannot be removed, **this will require medical evidence in the form of a doctor's note.***

Assemblies

*Class assemblies are held throughout the year and will take place on **Wednesdays at 9.15am.** Parents are welcome to come to these assemblies.*

This term, there will be class assemblies for: -

- *JC3 - 10th October*
- *KB5 - 17th October*
- *DR6 - 21st November*
- *CS6 - 28th November*

Water Bottles

A little reminder that children should bring a water bottle to school each day so that they can have a drink of water throughout the day. All classes have a drinking water tap within them – this means that children have ready-access to water throughout the day, but do need a water bottle with them to do so.

Water helps to keep the brain alert and helps children to remain focussed and learning.

Friends of Priory

Our PTA - Friends of Priory Juniors - held their AGM on 25th September, and it was great to welcome some new members to the committee to help organise all the fun events for the year. Planning is already underway for events this term and next, so do look out for more details in the weeks ahead.

At the AGM we received the details of the fundraising from last year and this totalled very nearly £7,000 - a truly magnificent effort. A very big thank you to you all.

The main focus of PTA fundraising is for a new extension to the school to provide an additional learning space which can be used for all sorts of different activities including music and small group work. This major project is likely to cost in the region of £40,000. That's a lot of money but, through all the generous donations over the last few years, the PTA has raised half of that total. We know that the governing body will be helping to contribute towards this too and we're now focussed on raising the rest so that our children can benefit from this new facility as soon as possible.

*Our next event is the **Glow Disco on Thursday 11th October** - look forward to seeing you there.*

Daily Mile

We are delighted to be holding a Daily Mile at school from 8.30am each morning. Children and parents are welcome to join us at this time to participate. We have been thrilled with the success we have seen – and the enthusiasm from the children for this event.

By holding the Daily Mile at this time, we hope the children will be alert and ready for learning in class throughout the day. There has been a real community spirit on the mile – you can walk, jog, or even run.

The children all have a bookmark for the mile, and collect date stamps when they have completed the course each day – when they reach specific milestones, they will be awarded prizes. This first one starts with a certificate for 10 miles.

The mile 'closes' at 8.45am each morning, to provide time for children to get to class ready for registration.

Parents' Forum

Our first Parents' Forum of the year was held last week, and it was great to have such good discussions about the focus topic.

Mr Coles and Mr Grieves came along to talk about the topics of swimming in year 5, and the introduction of the Daily Mile.

From this, Parents' Forum told us that they would like it if we ran swimming for a whole year – giving children the chance to really develop their skills. This is something we will look at doing in future years.

If there is a topic of interest you would like Parents' Forum to discuss, please email us at parentsforum@priory.cambs.sch.uk