



Priory News

March 2021

Dear Parents,

I just wanted to say a massive thank-you to you all for your endless support, patience and understanding, getting through these ongoing tough times and the challenging Spring term 2021 school closures together so well. I know it has not been easy – especially for most of you who have been remote learning at home.

I hope you have all felt well-informed about our full re-opening arrangements, along with the many protective measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Let us hope that:

- *there will be no more school closures needed;*
- *through teamwork, we may continue to play our part in keeping the school community safe;*
- *and that we may gradually return closer and closer to normality - bit by bit moving forwards. Fingers crossed!*

Having missed you all, the whole staff team and I have enjoyed welcoming the children back this week. I hope that your children have enjoyed it too – I am sure they will be ready for a rest over the weekend.

Stay safe.

Warm Regards,
Tracy Keefe



Joseph Coelho – Author Visit

We have planned to have the children's poet, Joseph Coelho visit us this term. This will take the form of virtual workshops with each class meeting Joseph and working with him to produce poetry.

We are very excited about the visit. To watch a little of Joseph's work, you can see it here:

<https://www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com/>

Diary Dates

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| School Re-opened | 8 th March |
| Joseph Coelho – Author Visit | 15 th / 16 th / 22 nd / 23 rd March |
| Red Nose Day | 19 th March |
| End of Spring Term | 26 th March |
| Summer Term starts | 13 th April |
| Skipping Workshops | 14 th / 15 th April |
| The Great Priory Run | 1 st – 3 rd May |
| Professional Day | 28 th May |
| May Half-Term | 31 st May – 4 th June |
| End of Summer Term | 22 nd July |

Contact us on :

office@priory.cambs.sch.uk

Book Week

It was great to see so many children join us for our Book Week Assembly. In and out of school, we enjoyed watching The Masked Reader sessions – there were some great disguises!

The book 'What We'll Build' by Oliver Jeffers followed on well from our initial work in September – and we will continue to refer back to this as we look forward to rebuilding our school in the coming weeks.

Red Nose Day

It is Red Nose Day on Friday 19th March.

As a school, we are inviting children to come in their non-uniform for a donation of £1 to Comic Relief.

This year, we are asking you to be creative in your red noses – either paint your nose red, or maybe wear some deely boppers instead! Please keep all your plastic red noses at home this year – to help us be Covid-secure.

Donations can be made through our Just Giving page by clicking [here](#).

Free School Meals

We have put in place support for all families who are eligible for free school meals at this time.

If your circumstances change, and you become eligible, please do check and apply, so that we can help you too.

You can quickly apply at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

Skipping Workshops

It's been brilliant to see how the school has enjoyed skipping, and how well our skipping skills are developing too.

The children told us that they would love to have some more time with Dan the Skipping Man, and so we have organised for them to revisit us during the first week of the summer term – we can't wait to learn some new tricks!

2021-22 Term Dates

I know many of you have been enquiring about the term dates for next year. Please find them attached to this newsletter.

School Lottery

Friends of Priory Junior School have teamed up with Your School Lottery for a remote fundraiser. It is very exciting!

There are weekly draws on Saturday at 8pm. If you match all 6 numbers you win the grand prize of £25,000. They have guaranteed at least one winner from our school a week. See the poster for more information.

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

£1 per week

Weekly cash prizes

£25,000 jackpot

Splitting the £1.00

How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Priory Junior School St Neots.

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Priory Junior School St Neots

■ 40p goes to our school
■ 36p goes to cash prizes
■ 20p goes to admin costs
■ 4p goes to VAT

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means
= £30 weekly cash prize
= £2,080 a year for our school

Buy A Ticket

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

Parents' Evenings

Please note that our usual Spring term parents' evenings will take place early in the Summer term.

They will take place using the remote video sessions we used in the Autumn term and we will write to you with all information you need about this in the near future.

Face Coverings

Thank-you for all your support with wearing your face covering to school for drop-off and collection. We hope this will enable everyone to be a little more safer when visiting the school site at these busier times.

Absences

If your child is unwell for any reason, please inform the School Office as soon as possible, along with the reason for the absence – this can be done using Pupil Asset or by leaving a message on the telephone system: 01480 226730.

Should your child be experiencing any symptoms related to Covid-19, please do not send them, or their siblings into school unless you have had a negative test. Without this, your child should remain at home for 10 days.

Symptoms are:

a new, persistent cough

a high temperature

or a sudden loss of sense of smell or taste.

Should anyone in your household be experiencing symptoms, your child should not come into school and should self-isolate for 10 days.

If you have any queries about this, please call the school office.

Asymptomatic Testing for Families

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

through your employer, if they offer testing to employees

by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests

by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Here is the link to the government guidance that explains how to get a lateral flow test:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>