



# Priory News 2017

Dear Parents,

*It has been a busy first half-term in school, with Tom Palmer, children's author visiting, Y5 visiting the Space Centre, our Harvest assemblies, our Meet and Greet evening with the FOPJS Family BBQ, the launch of Walk to School, and our first Parents' Evenings of the year.*

*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 shared a little about the work of the Foodbank itself.*

*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.*

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

*Don't forget, this half-term ends on **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October.***

*We return to school on **Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> October.***

## Diary Dates

### Diary Dates

TAG Rugby Tournament	16 <sup>th</sup> October
JC3 Class Assembly	18 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Professional Day – School Closed</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> October</b>
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>
Year 4 Residential Group 1	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov
Parents Coffee Morning	1 <sup>st</sup> November
A Team Football Tournament	2 <sup>nd</sup> November
Bonfire Lunch	3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Year 4 Residential Group 2	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> November
B Team Football Tournament	9 <sup>th</sup> November
Parents' Maths Information Evening	9 <sup>th</sup> November
CS6 Class Assembly	15 <sup>th</sup> November
FOPJS Discos	16 <sup>th</sup> November
Anti-Bullying Theatre Show	17 <sup>th</sup> November
Children in Need Day	17 <sup>th</sup> November
Y6 Bikeability Week	20 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov
Y5 Peer Mediator Training	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov
Open Evening	23 <sup>rd</sup> November
Y3/4 Flu Vaccinations	28 <sup>th</sup> November
DR6 Class Assembly	29 <sup>th</sup> November
FOPJS Christmas Craft Evening	30 <sup>th</sup> November
Y6 Viking Day	1 <sup>st</sup> December
Parents Do Day	6 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Lunch	12 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Performances	13 <sup>th</sup> / 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Christmas Jumper Day	15 <sup>th</sup> December
Parents' Coffee Morning	18 <sup>th</sup> December
Christingle	19 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>End of Term</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b>

### Proud to Be Priory:

- ❖ *There has been some brilliant writing taking place in school this half-term – Tom Palmer commented on the quality of the children's writing – he was very impressed!*
- ❖ *We received a wonderful letter from the DfE commending us on gaining the School Games Mark for the 5<sup>th</sup> time – we are one of only 120 schools to have achieved this.*
- ❖ *The children's performances at the Harvest Assembly – commented on by David Pacini from St Neots Foodbank.*



### **Staffing**

*Shortly after half-term, Mrs Harper will be commencing her maternity leave. We look forward to meeting her baby in the near future!*

*We will be welcoming Mrs Raw to our staffing team, who will be covering Mrs Harper's maternity leave.*

### **Open Evening**

*Our Open Evening takes place on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

### **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.*

### **Children in Need Day – 17<sup>th</sup> November**

*In return for a 50p contribution to Children in Need, we are inviting children to 'Wear their Spots'.*

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

*You must do this by 31st October.*

*Paper applications are available from the school office.*

### **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.***

### **School Roundabout / Parking**

*Just a little reminder that the roundabout is open for dropping off only in the mornings – this works really well if everyone keeps to this, and has alleviated a lot of traffic problems. If you wish to come in / leave your car, please use the visitor car park.*

*Please do not park in front of the school kitchen at this time as this blocks the entrance for deliveries.*

## **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 - 18<sup>th</sup> October*
- *CS6 - 15<sup>th</sup> November*
- *DR6 - 29<sup>th</sup> November*

## **Lost Property**

*We have a large amount of lost property at the moment. This will be put out during this week for children to reclaim.*

*Any items that are left at the end of this week will be disposed off.*

*Please help us by making sure your children's clothing is named.*

## **E-Safety**

*All Y3 parents should now have replied to the Acceptable Use letter sent to you, for your child to make use of our IT resources in school – please make sure we have. If you have any questions about this, please drop in and speak to Mr Folly, our Computing Leader.*

*We will be sending home the latest copy of Digital Parenting in the near future. This is a very informative magazine for families; we hope you find it helpful.*

*In the meantime, do you have children who like to take part in gaming? If so, here are some helpful tips for parents:*

1. **Play Together:** *Keep games consoles in communal rooms and play games together. There are a number of active and sports titles available for consoles that the whole family can join in with.*
2. **Check PEGI ratings:** *These statutory age ratings help parents identify appropriate games based on their content.*
3. **Set up parental controls:** *Ensure you have specified what content children can access with secure passwords and user settings.*
4. **Regular breaks:** *Screen time studies vary but all agree that regular breaks are essential. Take one every 45-60 minutes.*
5. **Check play history:** *See what your child plays, and for how long, by checking the user history on their profile.*

## **Attendance**

*You will know that at the beginning of last year, the DfE defines Persistent Absence as attendance that is below 90%. This means that if a child has an overall attendance of 90% or less they will be classified as a persistent absentee pupil.*

*Parents will be advised by school if attendance is a concern, either by a letter or a request to attend a meeting in school. If attendance fails to improve during a monitoring period a Penalty Notice fine may be issued to parents/carers.*

*Expected levels of pupil attendance are 97% or above.*

*Attendance will be monitored from this month, and if your child's attendance is below 95% or lower we will notify you.*

*You can also check your child's attendance on the School Gateway.*