



Priory News 2019



Dear Parents,

We are now at the end of half-term, and I am sure you are all looking forward to some time together over the coming week.

We had many enjoyable occasions during this half-term – we have our newly installed all-weather Daily Mile track open – with many children and adults making use of this every day. We also took 84 children to take part in Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena – this is a particular highlight. All involved had a fantastic time, and I am sure the memory will live with them for a very long time. The Year 6 Macbeth Day was also fantastic – with the whole-school enjoying a brilliant performance at the end of the day.

There are also lots of events to look forward to after half-term too – more details of these can be found in this newsletter.

Diary Dates

Half-Term	18 th – 22 nd February
DR6 Library Visit	25 th February
EW4 Library Visit	26 th February
Parents Evenings	27 th / 28 th February
Book Fair	26 th February – 5 th March
Book Week	5 th – 8 th March
Parents Do Day	5 th March
World Book Day	7 th March
JC3 Library Visit	11 th March
Red Nose Day	15 th March
Year 6 Bikeability	18 th – 21 st March
BP3 Class Assembly	20 th March
SH5 Library Visit	21 st March
Year 5 Egyptian Day	25 th March
TR4 Library Visit	26 th March
TR4 Class Assembly	27 th March
Author Visit – Isabelle Thomas	28 th / 29 th March
BP3 Library Visit	1 st April
Parents Coffee Morning	2 nd April
NW3 Class Assembly	3 rd April
End of Spring Term	5 th April
Summer Term starts	23 rd April

World Book Day – 7th March

Children are invited to dress as their favourite book character on World Book Day.

Red Nose Day – 15th March

To support Comic Relief, children are invited to donate 50p in return for wearing non-uniform (and a red nose, of course!)

Parents Evenings – 27th and 28th February

This round of Parents' Evenings is a good time to catch up with your child's class teacher about the progress they are making so far this year, and to find out what the next steps in learning are for your child.

Appointments can currently be booked using our Parents Evening booking system – please don't miss this valuable opportunity to come and meet with us.

Class Assemblies

Class Assemblies usually take place on Wednesdays, at 9.15am.

Parents are very welcome to join us for these occasions. Next half-term, the following assemblies will be taking place:

BP3 – 20th March
TR4 – 27th March
NW3 – 3rd April

Red Noses for Sale!

We will be selling Red Noses after half-term – available from the School Office.



Well done to all our children who took part in Young Voices 2019 – you were amazing!

New Management Information System in School – Pupil Asset

We are in the process of changing the systems we use to hold our information in the School Office to a system called Pupil Asset. This should streamline our systems further, making them more efficient.

As part of this, we will, in the future, move away from Gateway – with you being able to pay and message us using Pupil Asset. But for now, don't worry – Gateway is still in use. Please continue to make use of this to communicate with us.

However, we will begin to make use of Pupil Asset to send messages to you – and so, you might begin to receive email messages from Priory Junior School @ Pupil Asset – these messages will be from us, and genuine.

Does your child have Asthma?

Should your child be diagnosed with asthma, and need an inhaler, please let the school office know.

We will provide you with our Asthma Care Plan and Medicine Permissions forms for completion, which will be used to help provide the best care for your child in school.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that inhalers are provided in the box they are issued in (with spacers), and that these are clearly labelled with your child's name. These must also be kept in-date – please make sure you provide replacements for your child in good time.

Parents Do Day – 5th March

Come and join us on 5th March for our Parents Do Day. This will be themed around books and stories, as part of our Book Week work.

Year group times are as follows:

*Year 6: 9.15am – 10.15am
Year 3: 11.15am – 12.15pm
Year 5: 1.20pm – 2.20pm
Year 4: 2.20pm – 3.20pm*

Lost Property

Have you named all your children's belongings?

If you have, we can easily return missing items to their owners – we still gather a large amount of lost property that isn't named. Please help us to help you by putting names on belongings.

Readathon

Are you ready for the Readathon between 4th – 8th March?

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, we are trying to reach the target of us all reading for a collective 50,000 minutes during book week.

All children should set a personal target. Once we have all sponsorship forms back, with signed confirmation of reading times, one lucky winner will receive their height in books! All children taking part will receive a bookmark too.

Friday Snacks

We have noticed that we have a small number of children who are beginning to bring in sweets and large chocolate bars for Friday snacks.

Please remember that these should not be brought into school for a Friday snack – a small bag of crisps or a healthy piece of fruit is allowed on a Friday for snack time.

Attendance

You will be aware the children whose attendance falls below 90% are classed as persistent absentees. As you know, if children are withdrawn from school for the purpose of a family holiday, parents may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

The information below shows how attendance can affect your child's future progress:

195 school days in a year
Above 97% (Less than 6 days absence a year - 2 days per term) <i>Excellent attendance - these children will almost certainly get the better grades leading to better prospects for the future - college, university or work.</i>
95% (10 days absence a year) <i>These children are likely to achieve good grades and have opportunities for college, university or work, but could still improve their attendance !</i>
90% (19 days absence a year) <i>Children in this group are missing a month of school per year; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best.</i>
85% (29 days absence a year) <i>Children in this group are missing 6 weeks of school per year; it will be very difficult for them to keep up with their work and they are unlikely to do their best..</i>
80 % (38 days absence a year) <i>Children in this group are missing a year of school over 5 years . It will be almost impossible to keep up with their work</i>

While we recognise that some absences are unavoidable, we would ask you all to ensure your children are at school whenever they can be. Please also remember to notify the school office on the first day of any absence, by telephoning the office or via the School Gateway.