



# Priory News 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from the half-term break. I hope that you all enjoyed the time together.

We had many enjoyable occasions during the first half-term – with 68 children taking part in Young Voices at the O2 Arena being 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 FOPJS Chocolate Bingo evening was well attended – and some very lucky winners went home laden with chocolate prizes.

Of course, last term’s highlights also included the launch of Pobble in school – we are delighted to see the enthusiasm of the children for Pobble, and hope you are enjoying their writing on it.

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

## Parents Evenings – 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Should you have missed booking an appointment, please contact your child’s class teacher – who will be happy to make a time to meet you at the end of a school day.

## Staffing

We were pleased to welcome Mrs Kemp to our Teaching Assistant team this term, joining the Year 3 team.

We are also delighted to be welcoming Mrs Jones to the team at the BASE – as a new Play Worker there.

## Diary Dates

<b>Parents Evenings</b>	20th / 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
<b>World Book Day</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>FOPJS Movie Night</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Quicksticks Hockey Tournament</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> March
<b>Young ‘Uns Visit</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>HR5 Class assembly</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Parents Information Evening – Computing</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Year 4 Gymnastics Competition</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Talent Show</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Parents Do Day</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>KB4 Class assembly</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Y3 Greek Day</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Parents’ Coffee Morning</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> March
<b>FOPJS Discos</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> March
<b>Y5 Egyptian Day</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>Sports Relief</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>Theme Week – Birds</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Nite Owls Visit</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Easter Lunch</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>End of Spring Term</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Summer Term starts</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> April

## Class Assemblies

Well done to NS5 and DF4 for their wonderful class assemblies!

This half-term’s class assemblies are:

**HR5– 8<sup>th</sup> March (Thursday)**  
**KB4 – 21<sup>st</sup> March (Wednesday)**

Class assemblies take place at 9.15am – parents / grand-parents are very welcome to attend.

## Well done to:

- Our incredibly talented choir, who performed at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices concert – they performed with much enthusiasm!



### **World Book Day – 1<sup>st</sup> March**

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

### **Talent Show**

*The deadline for entering the talent show is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – not long to go!*

*This is usually a superb evening – with many children sharing their brilliant talents with us all. The event is open to all families to come along to watch – for a small donation to charity – a letter about the event will be sent to you in the near future.*

### **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.*

### **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.*

### **Young 'Uns Visit**

*We are looking forward to welcoming the Young 'Uns to our school in March.*

*The Young'uns are an English folk group from Stockton, County Durham, who won the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards "Best Group" award in 2015 and 2016. They specialise in singing unaccompanied, and they perform traditional shanties and contemporary songs.*

*They will be working with Year 6 during the day, and sharing their work with the whole school during a special assembly.*

### **Sports Relief Day**

*We will be having a Sporty Friday on 23<sup>rd</sup> March – children are invited to wear their sports clothes - for a 50p donation to Comic Relief.*

### **Parents' Information Evening – Computing**

*We have received several requests for an information evening about computing – so, here it is!*

*Please join us on 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in the hall to find out more about the Computing Curriculum in school. A letter will be sent out in the near future – please book your place on the Gateway.*

### **Nite Owls and Theme Week**

*We will end the term with a themed week about Birds. All year groups will be taking part in learning about birds, including a treasure hunt around the school grounds – with the opportunity to earn a mini-egg.*

*The highlight of the week will be a visit from the Nite Owls – who will be bringing Owls with them to show the children in assembly. The children will also get the opportunity to be photographed with an owl – if they would like to.*



## **End of School Day Procedures**

*As part of our home-time routines, the children leave via the playground doors at the end of the school day, meeting their parents on the playground.*

*For Year 3 children, class teachers will hand them over to you from the classroom door, and the cloakroom door (for BP3). As the children progress to Year 4 and above, the class teachers lead them onto the playground to meet with parents collecting them.*

*We will only hand children over to the adults we know are collecting them, so please do let us know of any changes. If you know you are delayed for any reason, please do let the office know by telephoning ahead. If any child is uncollected, they return to the School Office – where we will take care of them, and ring you to let you know. A member of staff checks the playground at the end of collection time to make sure no child is still uncollected. Please help us to keep all our children safe by informing staff if you feel a child is uncollected too.*

*We recognise the importance of the children developing their independence during the junior years, in preparation for secondary school, and so, understand that some children might be walking a short distance home with a friend. **However, we strongly recommend that Years 3 and 4 are collected by an adult.***

***Please also inform us if your child will not be attending a club on a particular week – if we do not hear from you, we will expect them to be there.***

## **Parking**

*Please remember to be considerate to our neighbours when parking your car to collect your child at the end of the day. Good places to park include the marked spaces along Longsands Road, and the car park at Priory Park, which is a short walk away.*

## **Attendance**

*You will be aware the children whose attendance falls below 90% are classed as persistent absentees. As you know, 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:*

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