

The Priory Post

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year. It has been a long and busy first half term but one that has seen the children make a great start to the year both academically and personally. Our new children in Nursery and Reception have adjusted to school life well and our children in Year 1 to 6 have come back with increased drive and determination to succeed.

We have already started the year with both sporting and academic success. Over 250 children have been accessing clubs and yesterday our football team from year 4 and 5 won the Smile football competition at West Bromwich Albion. Children across the school are already making academic progress and this is being supported at home and in school with increased usage of Century, TT Rockstars and Accelerated Reader. On average each child in school is reading for 10 minutes a day - let's see if we can increase this even more before Christmas.

Attendance figures have started well and are higher than last year; we need to keep this over the winter months.

Last week, we hosted a visit from OFSTED. It was an intense few days but the children and staff were incredible. I look forward to sharing the report with you when it is released.

Finally, I am proud to announce that Mr Griffiths has been promoted to Head of School and he will take up this role after half-term. Mr Griffiths will now be in charge of the day-to-day leadership and management of the school. Mr Griffiths has been with the school for over 4 years and has been a significant part of the school improvement journey we have been on. He is acutely aware of our next steps and has a vision for the school of continued success. I am sure that you will all give him your continued support.

Have a happy and healthy half term break and we will see you all soon,

Mr. K. Daley

Key dates

Monday 4th November
Inset Day

Tuesday 5th November
Children back at school

Friday 20th December
Children break up

Reminders

Uniform until Easter:

- White polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt/cardigan (no hoodies) Black or grey trousers/skirt
- Black sensible plain shoes (no trainers or coloured logos)

'Always Child' Raffle Winners

As part of our recognition for children being Ready, Respectful, Safe and always trying their best we have started to present weekly and termly prizes. This will include Star of the week, Priory Prize Pot and spaces on trips. This time 12 children were nominated for their learning behaviours and visited Forge Mill Farm. The children had an amazing time and some of the activities included worm walk, crop planting, meeting and feeding the animals and milking the goats.

Well done everyone who has been praised!



Attendance continues to be an areas for improvement at Priory. So far this year our attendance is 93%. 83 children have been in school every day of the Autumn Term.

Safeguarding Section

10 WAYS TO IMPROVE SLEEP FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN



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| Consistent bedtime
Aim to put your child to bed at a similar time every night. | Sleep - friendly environment
Create a quiet, cool, dark room with as little distractions as possible. |
| Limit screen time
Avoid all types of screens for at least 30 minutes before bed. Swap for a calm activity. | Encourage physical activity
Encouraging physical activity can tire them out, aiding in better sleep. |
| Diet and nutrition
Avoid sugary, rich and heavy foods in the evening as these can disrupt sleep. | Address anxieties
If your child has fears about bedtime, spend time reassuring them. |
| Be mindful of naps
Avoid naps, especially in the afternoon and evening. | Teach self-soothing
Teach them to fall to sleep and get back to sleep by themselves. |
| Calm routine
Create a calm routine before bed which includes activities such as reading, colouring or gentle play. | Model good sleep habits
Let your children see you prioritising sleep and maintain a consistent routine. |

4 questions to ask before your child goes on a playdate

Who will be supervising the children?

Ensure that a responsible adult will be present with the children and that they will not be left in the care of someone else, like an older sibling.

Will there be any other unknown people there?

It's crucial to be aware of whether your child will be in the presence of unfamiliar adults or other children.

What activities will they be doing?

Verify that the activities are both safe and suitable for your child's age. While flexibility is key, prioritising your child's safety is essential.

Are internet connected devices monitored?

Ensuring that your child cannot access inappropriate content on another person's device is vital for their online safety.



ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

- MONITOR VIEWING HABITS**
 Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
- CHECK ONLINE CONTENT**
 Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.
- CHECK AGE-RATINGS**
 Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age limit.
- CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS**
 Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
- SPEND TIME ON THE APP**
 Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE**
 Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING**
 Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK**
 Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE**
 If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT**
 If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.



Music performances for parents



This term, children in 3M have been learning how to play and perform instruments such as Djembe drums. To help children enjoy their achievement, we have planned an afternoon where they had the opportunity to do a Music showcase. Parents and carers have helped us celebrate children's achievements during this final performance. Children had an amazing time and so did all grown ups! What a fantastic performance we created in partnership with Dudley Performing Arts!



School football

Big congratulations to the children who attended and won the WBA competition at the academy dome!

The children played 7 games, won 5 and drew 1 and only conceded 1 game.

We played amazing football and were praised by the other teams for our sportsmanship, especially checking on other team players when they were injured/crying.



Please encourage your child to read every day



A reader for pleasure is more likely to be happier, healthier, to do better at school.

Priory Primary School Reads!

In this school year, students have read...

1,036 Books

4,122,865 Words

for **10** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®

DID YOU KNOW?



2,206 posties were injured by dogs in the past year.

That's **42** attacks each week, with some suffering life changing injuries.

PLEASE HELP US PROTECT YOUR POSTIE

- Never open the door to a postie when your dog is not secured away
- Invest in a letter cage or external delivery point to stop bites through the letterbox
- If your dog is running loose outdoors on your premises your mail can be suspended



Following changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in May 2014, an owner or/and a person in charge of a dog, can be prosecuted if that dog attacks anyone, *in any place* in England, Wales or Scotland.

For more information, please visit royalmail.com/dogawareness

