



# Priory Primary School Newsletter

Autumn 2- Issue 5

## The Priory Post

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*Dear parents and Carers,*

*As we move further into the autumn term, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support over the past few weeks. The generosity shown by our school community through donations for both **Remembrance** and **Children in Need** has been truly heart-warming. Your kindness and involvement make such a difference and help our children see the importance of coming together for good causes.*

### ***Community and Remembrance***

*We were incredibly proud to represent the school and wider community at **Dudley's Remembrance Parade** this year. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces from Priory in attendance, and we were honoured to be the **only school** taking part in the parade. The children who represented us did so with great respect and maturity - a real credit to our school values of Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe.*

### **Supporting Children's Wellbeing**

*This week, we were pleased to welcome the **NSPCC** into school to deliver their 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' sessions. These sessions play a vital role in helping children understand how to stay safe and know who to talk to if they ever feel worried. The NSPCC's work is invaluable, and we're proud to support their message.*

### **Sporting Success**

*It's been another fantastic fortnight for sport at Priory! Our **rugby team** reached the **final** in a competitive local tournament.*

*The **boys' football team** celebrated an impressive **win**.*

*Our **Year 3 and 4 pupils** also took part in **football and gymnastics competitions**, showing great teamwork and determination throughout.*

*A huge well done to all the children involved - their effort, attitude, and sportsmanship have been outstanding.*

### **Reading Focus and Rewards**

*We continue to be delighted by the growing enthusiasm for reading across the school. Please keep encouraging your child to **read every day** and record this in their **reading diary** - your support makes a huge difference. Our first set of **Reading Prize Winners** enjoyed a special trip to the cinema this week to watch Kensuke's Kingdom! Over the next two weeks, there will be more opportunities to win reading rewards, so keep up the brilliant reading at home.*

### **Online Safety Reminder**

*Finally, a gentle reminder about the importance of monitoring your child's **online activity**, particularly when using **WhatsApp and group chats**. While these platforms can be a way to connect with friends, they can also expose children to inappropriate content or unkind messages. Please take time to check your child's messages regularly and talk with them about staying safe and kind online. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement, and involvement in school life. We're so proud of what our pupils are achieving, and it's your partnership that helps make that possible.*

*Mr Griffiths*

## Upcoming Events

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· *Cinema reading winners - Thursday 27th November 2025*

· *Girl's Football Tournament—Monday 17th November*

· *School photos (catch up)- Thursday 20th November 2025*

· ***Term End - Friday 19 December 2025***

· *Year 6 Residential— Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th February 2026*

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## Attendance Update

Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's academic success and overall development. Every day in school counts, as it provides not only academic learning but also access to extracurricular activities and pastoral care, which are essential for your child's wellbeing and growth. Ensuring your child attends school regularly sets a strong foundation for their future success.

The overall attendance for the past two weeks (21/10/25 to 6/11/2025) is 92.86%.

**Congratulations to Year 6, who currently have the highest attendance in school.**



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*1st place: Year 6 with 94.21%*

*2nd place: Year 1 with 93.86%*

*3rd place: Year 3 with 93.85%*

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Hales Valley Trust strongly believes that attendance and punctuality are vital for a child to maximise their personal and academic development and create a feeling of belonging within their class and school community. We ensure that our policy and procedures actively promote attendance and punctuality amongst children and their families and this forms part of our commitment to respect the right of every child, under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to a quality education (Article 28).

Our attendance policy is rooted in a recognition-based approach that recognises both personal and collective achievements as well as barriers to attendance. This policy and related practice serves to prevent victimisation, cultivate positive environments, nurture

relationships, foster inclusivity, and ultimately develop intrinsic motivation among our children, families, and staff.

In promoting the belief that attendance and punctuality are important, we help equip our children for future success by adapting a multi-tiered system of support.

## The Importance of School Attendance

School attendance is not merely a requirement but a fundamental pillar of education. It plays a pivotal role in shaping academic success, personal growth, and future prospects, making it an indispensable aspect of any educational system. Regular attendance to school can have a significant impact on:

- **Academic Achievement:** Regular attendance directly links with academic success. Children who attend school consistently are more likely to keep up with the curriculum, perform better in exams, and improve their life outcomes. Recent DFE research, [The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year](#) (March 2025) state:
  - At both KS2 the higher the attendance band a pupil is in during the assessment year, the more likely they were to achieve a successful outcome.
  - At KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time. This means missing just 10 days of year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%.
- **Knowledge Acquisition:** School is where children gain knowledge and skills that are crucial for their personal and professional growth. Missing days means missing out on valuable learning opportunities.
- **Social Development:** School provides a vital social environment our children to interact with peers, develop friendships, and learn essential social skills. Consistent attendance ensures children remain connected to their peer group.
- **Building Routine:** School attendance establishes a structured routine in children's lives, teaching them time management and responsibility, which are valuable life skills. Recent DFE publication, [Year on year change in pupil attendance research report](#) (May 2025) states that children who develop poor attendance patterns are more likely to continue having poor attendance across their education.
- **Teacher Interaction:** Regular attendance allows for meaningful teacher-child interactions. Teachers can provide personalised support, address questions, and assess individual progress more effectively when children attend regularly.

- **Preventing Knowledge Gaps:** Frequent absences can lead to significant knowledge gaps, making it challenging for children to catch up with missed lessons, potentially resulting in long-term academic struggles.
- **School Engagement:** Children who attend school regularly are more likely to engage in extracurricular activities, sports, and other enriching experiences that contribute to their overall development.
- **Legal and Parental Responsibility:** Parents or guardians are legally responsible for ensuring their child's regular school attendance. Failing to do so can lead to legal consequences.
- **Community Well-being:** High levels of school attendance contribute to the overall well-being of communities.

## Remembrance Parade

This week, our school community joined others in marking Remembrance Day with the annual parade and service. It was a moving occasion to reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who have served, and to express our gratitude for the peace and freedoms we enjoy today.

We are proud to be part of a community that comes together to remember and to ensure that the significance of this day continues to be passed on to future generations.

*Lest we forget.*





## Reading at Priory



We are excited to share that our school libraries have been refreshed with new books, now organised into themed baskets to make it easier for children to find something they love to read. In the KS1 library, there is a wide range of non-fiction books that children may enjoy exploring to support their learning across different subjects.

Accelerated Reader (AR) remains a key part of our reading programme. We encourage children to quiz frequently on the books they read, and we hope that our new library additions will make reading even more enjoyable.

We would like to encourage **all children to read at home at least three times a week**. Please support your child by signing their planner each time they read. Teachers will be selecting a Secret Reader at random each week—children who have read three times and had their planner signed will be in with a chance to win a prize or treat!

Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey!

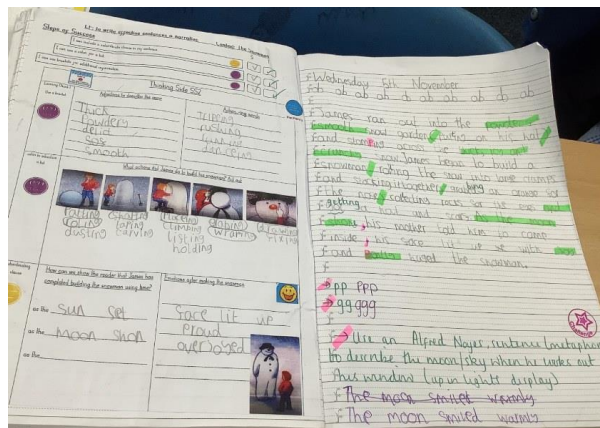
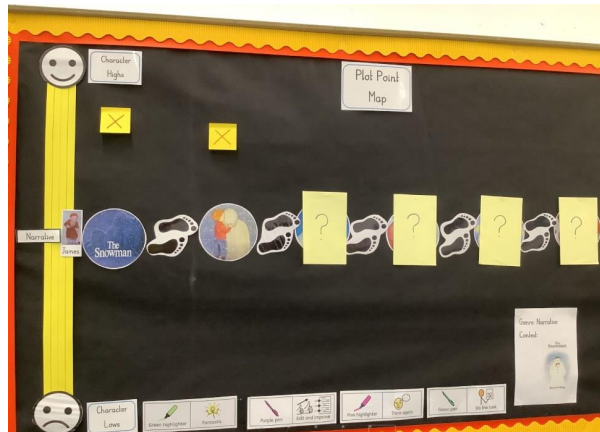
### **The English Team**



### **Spotlight on Upper Key Stage 2**

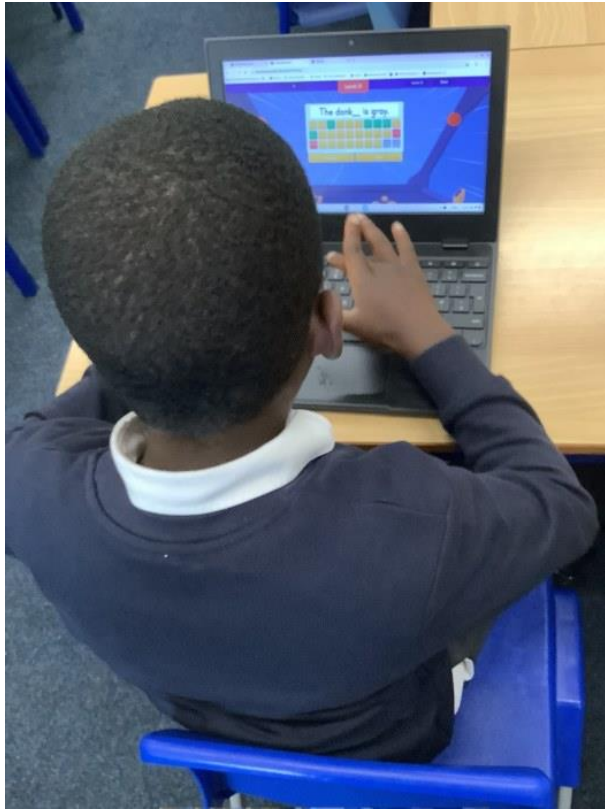






We have also thoroughly enjoyed developing our spelling skills through the Emile online programme. The children have been confidently identifying spelling errors in everyday contexts and applying new spelling rules with increasing accuracy. The platform has provided an engaging and interactive way to reinforce and extend their learning.

Please continue to visit the link at home: [Emile](#)



## Year 6

**We were delighted to reward a group of ten children with a special trip to the cinema! These pupils were chosen for their consistent and outstanding effort shown both in their classroom learning and in their independent studies at home. We enjoyed watching the adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's classic, *Kensuke's Kingdom*, which sparked some great discussion afterward. Well done to all the recipients—your hard work truly paid off!**

**A key focus this term has been reinforcing our school values of being Ready, Respectful, and Safe.**

- We had a very important visit from the NSPCC, who led an assembly and workshop on their Speak out. Stay safe. campaign. This helped the children understand what it means to be safe and to look after themselves and others by identifying trusted adults and knowing they always have the right to speak out if they are worried or unhappy.
- We also welcomed a visitor from the Local Authority Road Safety Team. With many of our pupils now travelling to and from school independently, this session was incredibly timely. It reinforced how to be responsible and safe pedestrians and cyclists as they travel to and from school, reminding them of the need to be ready for their journey and respectful of others on the road.



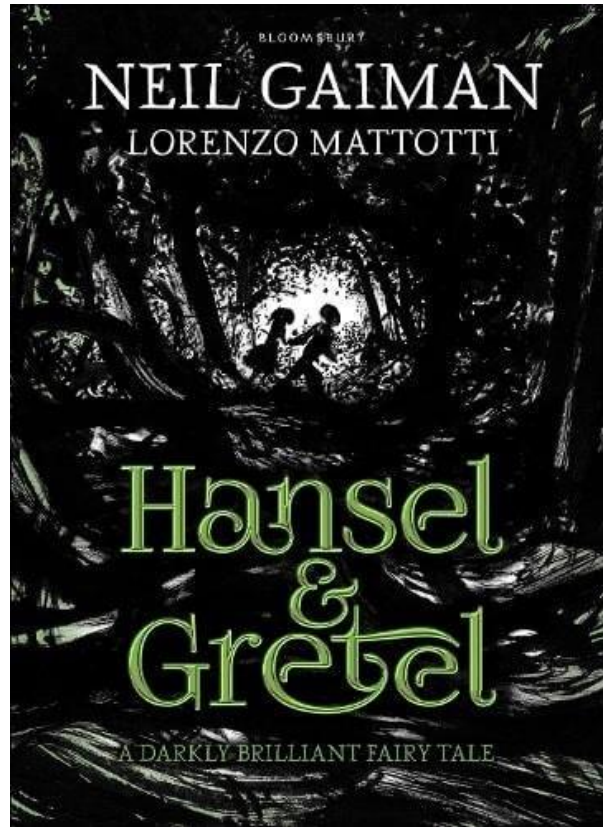


**In English, we have delved into the world of traditional tales, using Hansel and Gretel as a powerful stimulus. The children have loved exploring the familiar elements of the story before putting their creative skills to work, writing their own imaginative variations and modern adaptations of the classic fairy tale. Their unique plots and character twists have been a pleasure to read!**

**The coming half-term promises to be just as engaging:**

- **Design Technology (DT):** We will be getting hands-on in DT by learning the skills required to bake delicious bread. This project will involve exploring ingredients, kneading techniques, and understanding the baking process from start to finish.
- **Science:** Our next exciting unit is Light. We will be conducting experiments to investigate reflection, refraction, and how light travels, helping the children understand this fundamental concept.

**Please continue to encourage your child to read widely and complete their weekly home learning. We look forward to another wonderful half-term.**



## Sports at Priory



This month has been filled with exciting sporting achievements across the school.

The **Year 3/4 Football League** also begins on **Wednesday 11th** at The Link Academy. We look forward to watching the team develop their skills and sportsmanship over the course of the fixtures.

In addition, on **Thursday 12th**, a group of pupils will be representing the school at the **Gymnastics Festival** held at Dudley Gymnastics Club. This event offers a wonderful opportunity to showcase the pupils' balance, coordination and confidence in a supportive environment.

We are also pleased to celebrate **Class 4B**, who have been awarded *Living Streets Class of the Month* for October, recognising their excellent commitment to active travel.

### Active Travel Results – October:

- **Total Active Trips:** 3,853
- **Total Non-Active Trips:** 228

Well done to all pupils for their enthusiasm and continued dedication to sport and healthy lifestyles. We look forward to sharing more celebrations as the year progresses.



On Tuesday 5th November, the Year 6 Tag Rugby team attended the North Dudley, Tag Rugby Competition. 18 teams took part across two leagues. The team played 9 matches and showed excellent teamwork, respect and sportsmanship as well as fantastic tag rugby skills throughout the morning.

The team won 5 games, drew 2 and lost 1, which secured them a place in the final competition which will be played in June.

A fantastic achievement — well done to the whole team!



