







Headteacher's News

Good afternoon all,

## Jubilee Celebration – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Last Friday was such an amazing day. The children had a great time learning in a '50s' style during the morning. Seeing the whole school outside on the field during the picnic was an awesome sight. The children spent the afternoon creating unique art work based on the book, the dot. We hope to showcase their creations on display in the main foyer so everyone can admire it.

The staff worked so hard to get the school ready for our celebration and I extend my thanks to them all in particular the admin team, the site team and the catering team.

The choir sang for the VIPs and despite the long break and being short on numbers, they were fabulous. I was so proud of them all. Lucas Tsang also impressed our VIPs with his performance on the piano. I thank the choir and Lucas for their wonderful performances.

I must also extend my gratitude to James Moore, Jessica Saroay, Ela Bilurdagi and Rishan Varia who were our tour guides for the day. They must have walked miles, they conducted about 4 tours on Friday. They spoke so passionately and proudly about their school and all our VIPs were immensely impressed with them. They really are a credit to the school.

When talking to our VIPs, they all commented on how happy the children looked in class and how proudly they spoke of their school when they chatted with them in their classes. They really all did us so proud.

The celebration of our 70<sup>th</sup> year does not stop there! We have lots planned throughout the year to mark this historic occasion. We have a drone photo planned and we want to create a time capsule to permanently capture how remarkable our school is.





### This week at Priory

Our first full week back has been great. The transitions into New Year groups has gone smoothly, the children look happy and delighted to be back in school. I walked around the school on Wednesday and already the children have dived into the curriculum, I was struck by their level of engagement and participation in lessons all through the school. Their behaviour for learning was noticeable. The classrooms look tidy and resources are easily available for children to access if they need it.

We have seen lots of our Year 6 pupils do their 11+ this week and I wish them all the best in their tests. It is incredibly difficult getting a grammar school place, only 10% of children taking the tests get into grammar school. Last year we saw 24 of our pupils go to grammar which is something to be proud of. However, I also know how ready and well equipped our children are to move successfully into whatever secondary school they go to. All our children leave our school with the determination, courage and a curiosity for learning that will enable their success.

I am in the process of reviewing the last School Development Plan and School Evaluation form and would very much like to include the input of our parents in the review as well as our new priorities.

Thank you to those of you who have already completed the survey, if you haven't yet, please can I ask that you follow the link:

https://forms.office.com/e/W5H3izryKa

### Handbook

I do hope that everyone has had a chance to read through the handbook. It contains lots of information that is important to know.

On the whole everyone has come to school looking smart in the correct uniform, please do try to keep this up! I know it is hard, I have a child who seems to eat his uniform and roll in mud every day, so I know how challenging this can be.

Generally speaking we have a fairly relaxed uniform policy, what I do insist on are:

School uniform is worn every day PE uniform is only worn on a PE day, bring a change of clothes for a club please. Trainers are black and as plain as you can get them please. Hair is tied back if it is long. Earrings should be modest and not worn at all on a PE day. No other jewellery please.







### Parking

We are continuing to have staff present daily between Gates 1 and 2 at pick up and drop off times, however, we do not have enough staff to direct the traffic on Orchard Avenue. We do walk out to keep an eye on how things are going when we can.

Please can parents driving to and from school remember to be considerate of other road users, pedestrians and our neighbours. Do not block driveways and please do not park in front of the school gates! Cars should also not park on the single yellow line outside school which runs from the entrance to Orchard Avenue to just past the vehicle exit to the Visitor car park.

### Upcoming events

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September** – Events committee meeting. 9.00am in the training room. Priory friends are invited to the events committee meeting.

Thursday 21st September-Year 6 Parent Welcome Meeting 2.45pm

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Reception Stay & Play. 3.45pm – 4.30pm – will be arranged for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October

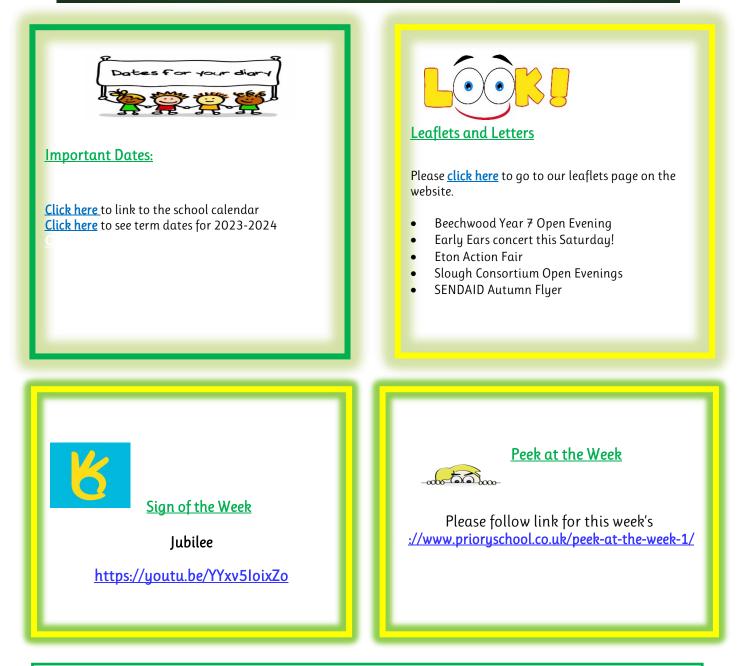
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September – School photographer

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September – Joint coffee morning. Priory Friends and Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – National TA day – we hope to spoil our TLAs with donuts in the staff room!



Back to School



#### SEN Resources

ACCESS THE SENSORY PROCESSING WORKSHOP ONLINE – BOOK A PLACE NO REFERRAL NEEDED <u>Occupational Therapy | Children Young People and Families Online Resource</u> <u>(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)</u>

ACCESS FREE RESOURCES AND HELP FOR SENSORY, FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS Health and Development | Children Young People and Families Online Resource (berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)







Our thoughts are with those affected by the floods in Libya and the earthquake in Morocco. At the time of writing, we understand the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) are monitoring the situations in both countries and assessing whether a national appeal is to be launched in the UK. If you would like to help you can donate to the following DEC member charity appeals.

#### Libya:

Action Against Hunger

British Red Cross

International Rescue Committee

Islamic Relief

#### Morocco:

Action Aid

British Red Cross

Islamic Relief

Oxfam



### **New Extended Care Provision**



Just a reminder that the new Extended Care provision is now in operation. The company is called In-to-Care, if you want further information please <u>Click Here</u>





### Blue Peter Book Club

Blue Peter announced some exciting news this week – that they are starting their own children's book club for children aged 7-11! They have made it nice and simple to join. All you have to do is read one of the books that they recommend each month! There is even a quiz to help you determine which book might suit you best. More information can be found by following this link:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club? fbclid=IwAR1GS8bdDZjebrfRnpuhdhSzH8CvcX4o\_5VfKe7Kes9CjXjxOn-Ij9AxIAw\_aem\_AbdtCV0s-CqflMzpgXVvBnX7PugcL8nMELA3yCfSwtafosLVgYLmX-03zp7f9T0GlCQ

And now for the exciting bit! Children that join Blue Peter's Book Club are able to apply for a brand new Blue Peter badge which has been designed by none other than Quentin Blake (who illustrated each of Roald Dahl's stories!). You can apply for the badge by following the link above and submitting a book review of one of Blue Peter's Book Club books. If you manage to earn yourself one, your class teacher and the Senior Leadership Team would love to see!





### **Come and Sing**

You are warmly invited to complete your week with a lovely sing at Priory Community Choir. This is for anyone within the Priory Community – staff, parents and accompanied children from Y3 upwards – and is held in the hall after school on a Friday (currently 3.45-4.30pm). All are welcome – no auditions, and you don't need to be able to read music; I will teach you what you need to know!

Our first gathering this term will be NEXT FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Please email Mrs Shaw if you would like to come along. We look forward to seeing you there!











#### **Orchard News**

On Friday last week, the children in Orchard celebrated Priory's Jubilee by exploring some activities children may have experienced when the school first opened. In maths the children played hop scotch and used chalk to write numbers, in literacy the children used feathers dipped in black paint to mark make and write their names.



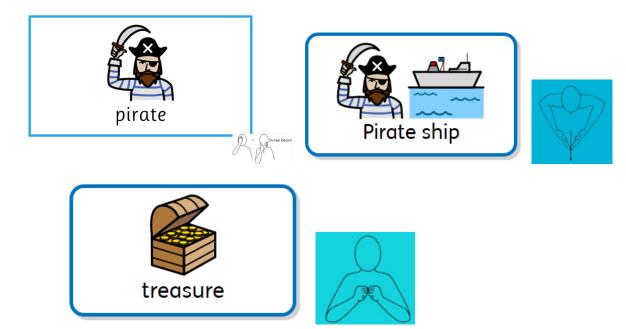


This week in Literacy the children were introduced to our Autumn term topic 'Pirates Adventure' and our new topic book The Night Pirates.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnVP6iBAvHg

We have been learning the key vocabulary and the Makaton signs within the book. Here are some visuals if you would like to practice at home!







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This week in Maths the children have continued to use our pirate theme by using treasure, golden coins and gems, to strengthening their one to one correspondence skills as well as number sequencing skills. Using ten frames and number lines for support.





### Priory Schools Platinum Jubilee- Khaleel Chima



Back in 2003, my class were tasked to represent the world's history, for the celebration of School's Golden Jubilee. Exploring how society had developed within the 50 years during that time. Unfortunately, that was one of the last piece of work we did for the school as time had come to embark on a new chapter in life.

I started Priory during year 1 in 1998. Instantly, I liked the school. Patrick Laver was my classmate. I planted the millennium rose bush a year later which appeared in the newspapers. I spent the mornings in the special education needs (SEN) class, and afternoons I was in the mainstream class until year 3 where I moved into a mainstream class fulltime. While in year 4, Mrs Evans the Headteacher at that period left and Mrs Laver took over.



Throughout the years, my love for Priory grew. I was a teachers' pet and kept making new friends. Our year six production was 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang', where I played a balloon seller. The final farewell was a trip to Barton Hall, in Devon.



So, this year marks 20 years since my year group and I left Priory. A few days after chatting with one another on a Facebook group chat, I came across an invitation for staff and pupils throughout time to attend the school's Platinum Jubilee. Immediately, I confirmed my attendance straight away.

Darren Wood



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🎉 🎉 Priory is turning 70! 🎉 🎉

This Year Priory will be celebrating its Platinum Jubilee and we would like to invite ex pupils and staff to share any memories and photos of your time at Priory School.

We will also be holding a tour of the school on Friday 8th September between 2.00pm - 3.00pm for former pupils and staff.

To confirm attendance for the school tour and to share any memories please email: jubilee@prioryschool.com

We would like to thank Hayley Foster who designed our Priory Jubilee Invitations!

I was welcomed by Mrs Saran, the PA to the **Headteacher**. I entered a room filled with photos from the last 70 years. Soon after, I had a blast from the past. Some teachers from my childhood came, including Miss Dance and Mrs McNally. We had spare time to catch up.

I met Mrs Foster. Headteacher of Priory today. She was very friendly and led everyone into the main hall where the chamber choir performed, and a talented young boy placed the piano. Once finished the afternoon tea, all went outside to watch Mrs Foster plant a small tree in front of the school. The same area where I planted mine, over two decades ago.









The legendary Mrs Laver, along with her son Patrick joined us and had a tour mainly led by two very polite and intelligent school pupils. I saw a few more familiar faces such as Mrs Reith, the Year 6 Leader who use to be my science teacher, Miss Karpowicz the Pupil Services Administrator, and two Teaching & Learning Assistants. Mrs Oliver and my brother's old friend Mr Thompson. However, the biggest surprise was seeing another one of my classmates Mr Perry, who is a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. Separately, Mrs Foster showed me the updated lift, which I used back in the day.

Overall, I had a fantastic visit, from mingling with people that I knew during my school days, to meeting a new team. There were many wheelchair users in the past, unfortunately, there are none currently within the school. Nevertheless, Priory has excellent facilities, which can cater for all needs. It was easy to move around in my chair and the lift seemed easy to use. The disabled toilets were superb with fully mobile hoists.

With well-mannered pupils and outstanding staff, Priory School is still on top. Inspiring many future generations to come.









#### **Priory Friends on Facebook**

www.facebook.com/prioryfriends



We would desperately like to encourage new members. We are looking to the future. If we don't start getting parents involved to create the ongoing success that we have had over the years in raising money for the school, then sadly it's not looking good. Fresh people bring fresh ideas, which would be great!

