

Here comes the heatwave!

Terms 5 & 6 2018

at Priory Infants

Summer term is always a busy time in school – we are working hard with all children to help them reach their end of year targets and getting them ready for the big step of moving up to their new class (or new school). We are also getting ready to welcome the “new entrants” who will start school at Priory in September.

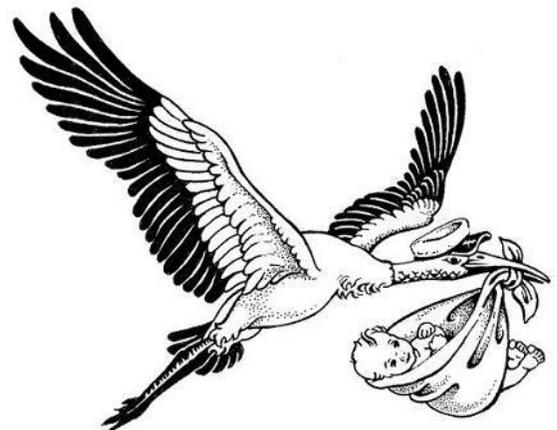
A fond farewell.....



Mrs Susan Hindmarsh, one of our Special Needs TAs is retiring at the end of July. Susan started here as a voluntary helper and has worked as a teaching assistant at Priory since 2004. We will all miss her energy and enthusiasm.... and her tidying up after us!!!

Congratulations to Sarah McCarthy, who taught in Purple Class, on the birth of her baby daughter. Ivy is nearly 3 weeks old now and both she and mum are doing very well!

We have also had some **exciting baby news** from Emily Bartlett, Green Class teacher, who will be taking maternity leave in September, and from Steve Holmes, Red Class teacher, who is looking forward to becoming a dad in October!



"New Improved" Golden Time on Friday afternoons



The School Council would like to say a big "thank you" to all the parents who responded to their plea for help on Friday afternoons. We now have a **team of new Golden Time helpers** to support the school staff running lots of new and exciting activities for all the children to choose during Golden Time. The activities on offer now are:



Art Room, Construction Room, Pretend Play Room, Ukelele Club, Musical Theatre Club, Gardening Club, Sewing Club, Board Games, Library Club, Computing, Sand, Water and Modelling Dough Room, DVD club, Ball skills, Scooters and Bikes, Parachute Games, Cooking Club.

The older children will be helping the younger children as they move around the school exploring all the exciting things to try out. We know that Golden Time is a great reward for the children who keep the Golden Rules all week and that it helps to develop children's curiosity, independence and social skills by giving them the opportunity to mix with children from different classes and year groups.

Our Golden Rules are:

- Be friendly and kind
- Listen to others and use a quiet voice
- Always tell the truth
- Have gentle hands and feet - don't hurt anyone or anything
- Be polite and helpful
- Look after equipment, the school building and the environment

Year 2 Pond Dipping day

Year 2 children had a whole day of pond dipping experiences yesterday in our lovely wildlife garden. There is a lot of frogspawn and many newts in the pond this year and the minibeast hotels we made several years ago have been very successful in helping insects to overwinter. Children were able to classify the insects and amphibians they found as well as exploring the different habitats for wildlife around our whole school site.



British Values – mutual respect and tolerance

To help the children understand this aspect of the British Values every class will have a workshop session with Stacey Clarke from the Samphire Project (charity based in Dover).

<http://www.samphireproject.org.uk/>



Stacey will use the story of Paddington Bear to help the children understand about migration, and what it is like for some children who have a home that they had to leave behind, to come to a new country and start again.

On Wednesday 2nd May our school Governors will be coming into school to experience “A Day in the Life of Priory Infants.” Governors will be able to see every aspect of the school day, from the work of our lovely cleaners and catering staff, how Mr Powell keeps our school premises safe and secure, to the teachers and TAs teaching in classes, the role of the office staff, how Marie our FLO supports families, after school clubs, what the School Council and Playtime helpers get up to etc etc. In the past Governors have said that by immersing themselves in the school like this they get to really learn so much more than just hearing about things at meetings.

Attendance News: Our current attendance is at **96.0%**. Our target for the whole year is **96.8%** so there is some way to go if we are going to achieve this! **We hope that all parents will support us in this by NOT taking holidays during term time.** It is especially important at this time of year that children are in school **every day** as the pace of learning really picks up in the summer term when we **prepare children for their next year group.**



In the summer there are far fewer bugs and viruses going round so we hope that we can give out 100% certificates to many more children for terms 5 and 6! At the end of the school year we'll be awarding special hoodie sweatshirts to the children who have **100% attendance for the entire year.**

Street Dance Day Wednesday 16th May:

All the classes will be using their super-learning powers to **“have a go”** at some fun moves. Amy Morris (Orange Class teacher and professional dance teacher) is going to inspire all the children to learn some new moves and put together their own street dance sequence. Hopefully it will capture their imagination and



they'll all enjoy learning something new. We may even end up with our own Priory Diversity dance group! *Amy will also be running a group for parents and children together after school so come in and bust some moves with your children after school!*

The Great Priory Sunflower Challenge! Each class has been given some sunflower seeds, compost and large flowerpots to try to grow the tallest sunflower! We will measure them on the last week of the summer term and give prizes. The sunflowers will be growing out on the playground by the fence so you can all keep an eye on their progress. If you are growing sunflowers at home please send us pictures and measurements....we might be able to have a “tallest home – grown” category prize as well!



Class photos: the photographer will be coming into school to take class photos on Wednesday 9th May. These will be available for sale to parents.



Science Week – w/b 21st May - the theme will be “Changes”. Children will be exploring seasonal changes – spring into summer. We will be taking care of some duck eggs and watching them hatch and grow, as well as working on some exciting investigations and experiments changing materials and liquids by heating, cooling, mixing and manipulating. More information nearer the time!



Arts Week 2018 “Africa” Mon 4th – Friday 8th June

We will be devoting the whole week to the arts and creative activities, all inspired by the art, craft, music, stories and dance of African countries. There will be an African drumming workshop for each class to kick start the project on Monday 4th.



Year 2 will visit the Turner Contemporary in Margate for an art workshop based on African animals and Year R and Year 1 will go to Quex Park to explore their wonderful African artefacts.

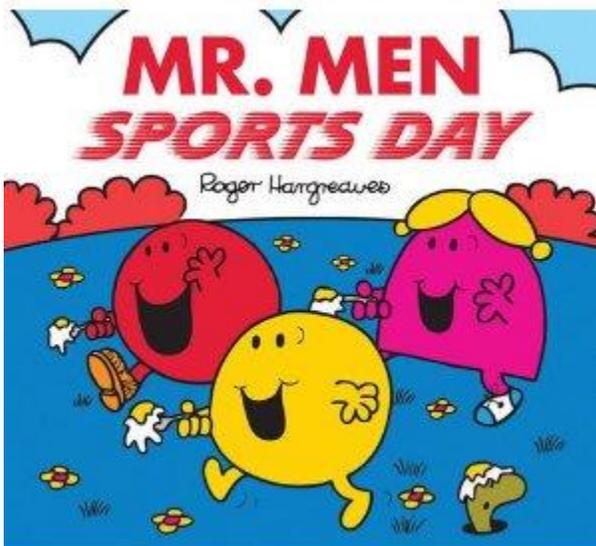
We have also joined up with Amy Fleuriot who runs “Artisans and Adventurers,” a shop and gallery space in Margate showcasing African artefacts. Amy will come into school to show the children some of the arts and craftwork she sells and is letting us use her gallery space for a special open viewing of all our artworksmore details soon!

TRANSITION DAY: All Year R and Year 1 children will spend the day in their new class, meeting their new teachers and teaching assistants on Thursday 5th July. On this day the Year 2 children will visit their new schools.

Marie (FLO) will be running transition workshops for children and parents as well as working with children in school to help them feel happy and confident about their exciting next step! More information to follow nearer the time.

Sport and Fitness Week (9th – 13th July).

We are being visited by the Kidz Fit Team who will run fun fit activities for each class as well as lots of fun PE and games activities all week. We hope to hold a whole school sports morning at Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School (weather permitting!) and are just waiting for them to confirm a few possible dateswatch out for more news in PINs nearer the time.



Open Afternoon: Put **Wednesday 11th July** in your diary! The school will hold an Open Afternoon from 2pm so that you can see your child's class work, talk to the teachers about the end of year reports and then go up to your child's new classroom and meet their new teacher and teaching assistants. In the computer suite there'll be access to all the school's powerpoint slideshows and films of this year's events for you to browse through as well as all the displays of our art work from Art Week to look at.

Year 2 Sleepover We are planning the annual Sleepover treat for the Year 2 children. This is a fantastic event and has become a bit of a Priory tradition. The date will be **Friday 13th(!!) July** and more details will be sent to parents in plenty of time - once I know I have enough staff who will grab their sleeping bags (and earplugs!) and volunteer to stay the night!

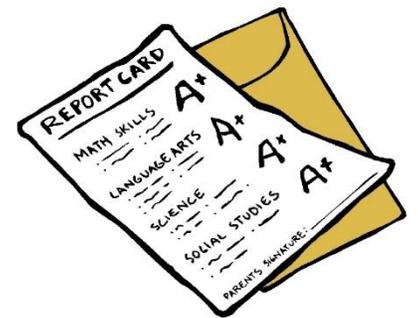


*We have reminded all the Year 2 children that the sleepover is a **treat to be earned**, not an automatic right. We hope they will all rise to the challenge and be invited to stay-over.*



Leavers' Show On Friday 20th July at 9:15am all Year 2 parents are invited to attend our Leavers' Show. All the children in Year 2 will take part in the show and there are sure to be tears... (of laughter as well as the other kind!)

End of Year Assessments In June the teachers assess every child's progress and achievements ready to complete the end of year reports for parents and in order to hand on accurate information to your child's next teacher / school.



In Year R the teachers will assess children's progress against the Early Years Profile in each of the 6 areas of learning and make a judgement about whether each child is **at the expected** level for their age or **working at greater depth** (above the expected level) or **working towards** the expected level.

In Year 1 & 2 the teachers will be assessing children using the National Curriculum programmes of study and will report whether each child is **at the expected** level for their age or **working at greater depth** or **working towards** the expected level. **In Year 2** the teachers will use the SATS assessments to help them make their judgements.

Children in Year 1 are also assessed for their phonic knowledge by using the Phonics Screening Check which shows how well they are able to use phonics to decode words in their reading. Parents will be informed of their child's score in their end of year report.

Curriculum work in each class: By now you will have received the curriculum newsletter for your child's class which gets sent out at the start of each term. I hope that you find this information about what your children will be learning useful. Please **DO** ask your child's teacher for a copy if you haven't received one. Also - don't forget to look on the class windows at more detailed curriculum information and news updates. Remember - if you'd like more information about anything we do in school - **PLEASE ASK** and we will do our best to help!

Please do remember that we are always happy to meet with you to talk through any queries, problems or suggestions for how we could improve our work with parents and carers and also to hear what you like about Priory and think we do well! If you don't get to speak to us on the playground in the mornings you can always phone or pop into the office to make an appointment.

Mrs Tracey Jones and Mrs Viv Botting

Headteacher (Mon- Thurs)

Deputy Head (Headteacher on Fridays)