



We **LEARN** with **PRIDE**

Priory Junior School, Priory Road, Gedling, Nottingham, NG4 3LE
Head Teacher: Mr. J. Cross

Newsletter – 17/1/25

All change and moving forwards!

Another amazing week here at Priory. A new lunch system, new P.E./sports providers, fun (and a bit muddy) time in the front garden and I FINALLY have a school hoody; finally part of the squad! Now that I'm officially part of the team, some more information that's important to know about what's going on in school.

Key Dates

Some key dates to look out for:

Monday Jan 20th – 1:30PM - PINS coffee afternoon (see more information about PINS below)

Monday 10th Feb – 9:30AM – Year 5/6 Celebration Assembly

Wednesday 12th Feb – 9:30AM – Year 3/4 Celebration Assembly

Friday 14th Feb – Break up for February Half-Term

Monday 24th Feb – Return to school

Weeks of 3rd and 10th March – Assessments in school

Monday 17th March – 1:30PM – PINS Coffee Afternoon

Tuesday 18th March – Spring Term Parents' Evening

Wednesday 19th March - Spring Term Parents' Evening

Thursday 20th March - Spring Term Parents' Evening

Monday 31st March – **9:30AM** Year 3/4 Celebration Assembly

Wednesday 2nd April – **9:30AM** Year 5/6 Celebration Assembly

Friday 4th April – 9:30 AM Rock Steady Concert

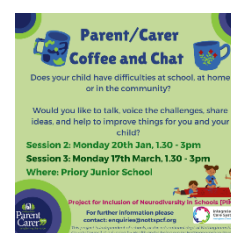
Friday 4th April – Break up for Easter

Some Amazing News!

The Arkley-Brown family is really excited to finally share the news that a new bundle of joy is on the way for them. They will become a family of three around the time of Easter - a great present from the Easter Bunny! On behalf of the staff, I want to say congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Arkley-Brown and hope that the next few weeks won't be too uncomfortable as the big day comes. Information about Mrs. Arkley-Brown's maternity cover will be sent out to parents soon.

PINS Coffee Afternoon

The PINS project aims to bring together health and education specialists and expert parents/carers to better identify and meet the needs of neurodiverse children. The coffee afternoon will be a chance for parent carers to share their voice about things which are successful and ideas to improve provision for children.



It is really important for parents to have their voices heard, so feel free to come along, and bring someone with you if you think that would be helpful. Continuing to improve and adapt or provision is the goal for the morning, so the more people we can get feedback from, the better!



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Adaptation of spaces

Last week I wrote about how we are adapting spaces in school to have the opportunity to provide some different and additional learning across school. The Sensory Room is now up and running and is a huge success! Here are some pictures now that the projector is working and everything is plugged in! It has been designed so that things can be added and changed depending on the needs of children and we will continue to add to this with support from experts coming in from Specialist Provisions and the Local Authority to support our SEN offer.



We are also in the process of adapting The Den into a new and different provision space. Miss Page and her team have been hard at work and The Den is now ready to be fully cleared and decorated with new flooring and painting. Soon it will be an amazing space to support learning even further in different and exciting ways. Don't worry, though. Miss Page will have a new room for ELSA which is due to be decorated over the next couple of weeks.



Fossils, biscuits and just general good fun stuff!

One of the best bits of the job is popping into classrooms to see the children learning. It's not often you walk into a classroom to hear someone shout at you, "We're looking at really old poo!" But that's what has been happening in Year 3 as they have been looking at fossils as part of their science topic. Year 4 have been baking this week and made some delicious biscuits. Children weighed, measured and designed their biscuits. I am told that they were really tasty... not that I got offered one!





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Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes have been adapted to make them a little less crowded, a little less noisy and provide more opportunities at lunchtimes. Children now have trays which they use to collect their dinner and then tidy up at the end once they have finished eating. This system also allows us to use the front garden and give us a bit more space to play with outside. The children are really loving the activities out in the front garden... even if our shoes are a little bit muddier!



Grade A Sports

It's been a couple of weeks now, but you might have seen James and Lloyd in and around the school. James and Lloyd will be supporting our P.E., lunchtime and after school provision moving forward. They work across primary and secondary settings to support the teaching and development of P.E. provision in schools. They have already got stuck in with some great activities at lunchtime and we are looking forward to working with them to provide even more sporting opportunities for our children.





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DAaRT

- DAaRT is a vital part of our RSHE program that supports children in Year 5 knowing and understanding more about staying safe and the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Children work in a safe space to talk through difficult topics and how the information that is shared can keep them safe.

Young People Taking the DAaRT Primary Programme are:

5.4 times more likely to seek help when needed

3.4 times more skilled around communication and listening

2 times more likely to make safe and responsible choices

2.4 times more knowledgeable about drugs, alcohol and substance misuse.

Here is some of the feedback from the sessions for Year 5 pupils:

“DAaRT is my favourite lesson. It helps me understand more about the risks of drugs.”

“I like DAaRT lessons because it teaches you how to stay safe.”

“I can ask things that I can’t ask at home.”

Water Bottles

Please can parents and carers check that children have water bottles in school. Water bottles should contain water and have proper seals to ensure that they do not leak or drip. Please can you also ensure that water bottles are a suitable size. Huge bottles such as Stanley bottles cause a storage issue, and do not have seals that make them leak-proof which is currently causing some problems. Bottles can be re-filled during the day, so water bottles do not need to be large and heavy.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Have a fantastic weekend,

Mr. Cross