

**We LEARN with PRIDE**

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

Newsletter – 13.2.26

Key Dates – Spring Term

Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th Feb: Rand Farm Residential (Y4)

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day

Friday 20th March: Rock Steady Concert

Friday 27th March: Easter Egg Raffle

Monday 9th March: Assessment Week (Yrs 3-5)

Monday 16th March: Assessment Week (Yrs 3-5)

Tuesday 24th March – Thursday 26th March: Parents' Evening

Additional dates for Year 6 (Sorry Year 6!)

Year 6 Assessment Week: Week Beginning 23.03.2026

Year 6 Mock SATs week: Week Beginning 27.04.2026

We are a muddy school (and I know that can be frustrating as a parent, but it is worth it!)

We know that the rain has been relentless and that it is messy and muddy at the minute. I also appreciate all the time that you are putting in to washing and making sure that your children are in uniform. You are doing a brilliant job. Part of being at Priory, though, is our commitment to learning and playing outside and that means children will come home muddy and messy. As a parent myself, I recognise the additional work that brings, but outdoor play and learning has so many benefits for wellbeing and learning.

Forest School and outdoor learning gives pupils regular opportunities to learn with and in nature. Time outdoors helps children develop determination, independence and resilience as they explore, problem-solve and work together. Whether they are building shelters, creating artworks or taking part in team challenges, pupils are developing key life skills alongside curriculum learning—communication, collaboration, creativity and perseverance.

Alongside Forest School, we also use OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to enrich playtimes and lunchtime provision. OPAL supports children to play more freely, imaginatively and actively, using open-ended resources and their own ideas. This kind of outdoor play is hugely beneficial for wellbeing: it encourages movement, reduces stress, supports friendships and helps pupils return to the classroom calmer, more focused and ready to learn. Children who play and learn outdoors regularly often show improved attention, stronger social skills and greater motivation in their learning.



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Important reminder: To make sure every pupil can fully take part in outdoor learning and play in all weathers, please ensure your child has spare clothes in school as well as waterproof clothing (see attached outdoor learning reminder). These need to be in school every day.

School Clubs

Clubs will start on the 23rd Feb (first week back). Please sign up using the links below before 22nd Feb.

Year 3 and 4 <https://forms.office.com/e/0shMdfwqn8>

Year 5 and 6 <https://forms.office.com/e/3vrR7L2kPn>

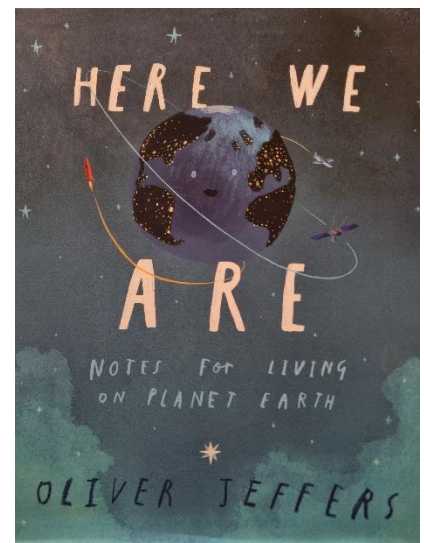
Trouble in Pantoland



Some pupils in Year 5 and 6 are performing in Trouble in Pantoland over half term. Here is the poster in case you fancy doing something over the half term break. If you haven't got a valentines gift for your partner yet, this will have you covered!

The Year of Reading

As it's the year of reading, I will be sharing some of my favourite texts or things that I am reading. This week, I'm sharing *Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth* by Oliver Jeffers. It's a beautifully simple book that helps children reflect on what it means to live on our shared planet—celebrating difference, encouraging curiosity, and reminding us to be kind to one another and to care for the world around us. It means a lot to me as it reminds me of my daughter and the journey that she has been on already... and the journey she still has to experience. At a recent conference I attended I was reminded that children “only get each day once.” This text reminded me that we have so much to offer each other in support to make each day as good as it can be. “You are never alone on Earth.” We are here for each other, and our support for each other matters.





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Have a brilliant half-term break. Stay safe and we will see you on Monday 23rd February.

Many thanks,

Mr. Cross