

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

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

Newsletter – 24.4.26

Key Dates:

W/B 27th April: Mock SATs Week for Y6

W/B 11th May: SATs Week for Y6

Thursday 21st May: Y3 Planting Day (Attendance Award)

Tuesday 9th June: 4TW National Justice Museum Trip (Attendance Award)

Tuesday 23rd June: Sports' Day

Wednesday 24th June: Friday 26th June: Y6 Bushcraft Residential

Wednesday 1st July: Y3 Creswell Craggs Trip

Wednesday 1st – Thursday 2nd July: Carlton Academy Transition Day (Y6)

Thursday 2nd – Friday 3rd July: Carlton-le-Willows Transition Day (Y6)

Thursday 2nd July – Whole School Transition Day (Meet your new teacher – with Phoenix Infants) TBC

Friday 3rd July: INSET DAY – WHOLE SCHOOL

Tuesday 14th July: Y6 Production

Friday 17th July: Reports out to parents

Monday 20th July: Y6 Prom

Welcome back to a brand new term. What a fantastic week it has been at Priory, with Year 5 enjoying a brilliant trip to Conkers, our children representing the school so well at Schools Cricket Day and, once again, some amazing OPAL successes showing just how much creativity, teamwork and joy can come from great play. Here is this week's newsletter.

Year 5 Conkers Visit:

Year 5 had a fantastic trip to Conkers, where they were able to deepen the outdoor learning experiences that are such an important part of life at Priory. The photos below show some wonderful moments from the day, including shelter building and roasting marshmallows on the fire, and these activities linked beautifully to the practical, hands-on skills that children continue to develop through our own forest school provision. It was lovely to see the children working together so well, showing resilience, teamwork and a real sense of adventure as they learned outdoors

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**School Cricket Day**

Schools Cricket Day was a brilliant opportunity for our children to get involved in a sport that is being celebrated right across the country, with more than 200,000 children from over 1,350 schools taking part ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. It was lovely to see our children joining in with such enthusiasm, teamwork and energy, and the photographs shared below capture just some of the fun, determination and enjoyment from the day. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented Priory and embraced everything that the event was about. Thank you to Miss Farnsworth for building it into our OPAL lunchtime provision.

**OPAL Play**

We are excited to share some new additions to our OPAL play provision this term, including a brand-new slackline and a shopping trolley, which have already sparked lots of imaginative and active play. These resources are designed to encourage balance, coordination, and creative role play across KS2. As part of our OPAL approach, children have been actively involved in discussing how to use these items safely. During



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assembly, they worked together to consider the risks and benefits, helping them to make informed choices in their play. These agreed safety guidelines are now clearly displayed on the OPAL display board for all children to see and follow.

Now the weather is improving, children also now have the option to eat their sandwiches outside, enjoying a picnic with their friends, or to remain inside if they prefer. We are working hard to offer a similar option for school dinners; however, this is more complex due to the challenges of managing hot food safely. This is something the children have raised with us, and we are continuing to explore how we can make this possible.



Bella is Brill!

It was lovely to receive the following message into school:

Hello! Bella spent pretty much all of her school holidays in her happy place, dancing with her friends. They competed at Shepshed festival in the up to age 14 section for the first time and we're placed 2nd for their ballet, Bella was definitely one of the smallest on the stage! She then spent a lot of time preparing for her dance show this weekend where she somehow had the energy to perform 8 dances. How she managed to find the energy to swim today I'm not sure! Here's some pictures of her with her medal and in some of her costumes



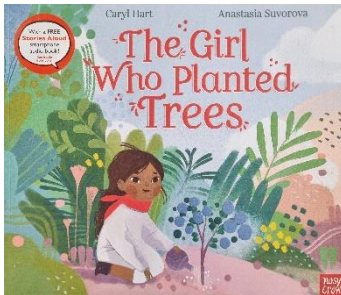


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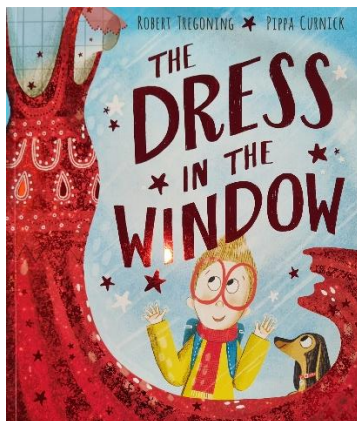
If you have anything from outside school that you'd like to celebrate, please let me know and send in some pictures and a description of what's happening!

What We're Reading in Assembly

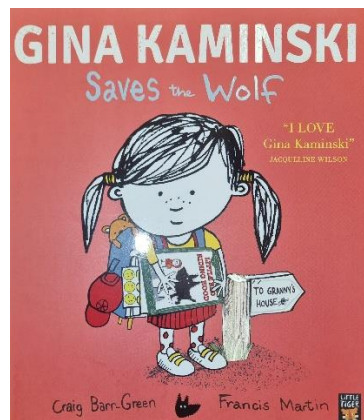


The Girl Who Planted Trees is a picture book about a young girl who lives in a dry village beneath a bare mountain. After learning that the mountain was once covered in forest, she begins planting trees herself. Even when heat, storms, and setbacks destroy her hard work, she refuses to give up, and her determination eventually inspires the whole village to help restore the mountain. The story is about perseverance, environmental care, and how one small person can spark big change.

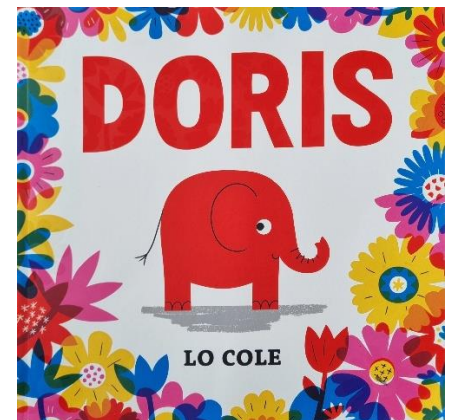
In this year, the year of reading, we are working really hard to ensure our assembly texts match to our PRIDE values. This one is perfect for determination. It also teaches us about respect for the planet and our environment and how hard work can really pay off. We are also promoting texts that celebrate different cultures and faith. As we work to develop our Equality Plan for next year, embedding stories of difference is a priority for us, and here are some of the other texts that we have shared recently.



A celebration of gender identity



A celebration of neurodivergence



A celebration of difference

Wellbeing

Wellbeing continues to be a really important focus for us at Priory, so in each newsletter I will try and share a resource to support pupils' mental health and wellbeing and sign post resources that will be helpful. We know that children and young people can have good days and difficult days, and one of the most powerful things we can do is keep communication open, listen carefully and remind them that they are not alone. For any families who would like extra support, YoungMinds offers helpful advice for parents and carers, guidance on talking to children about mental health, information on where to get urgent help, and free, confidential Parents Helpline available across the UK for parents and main carers of children and young people aged 25 or under. <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>



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As always, thank you for your continued support. The work that happens at home, alongside everything that takes place in school, makes such a difference to the children's confidence, progress and wellbeing; we are incredibly grateful for the positive partnership we share with our families. I am continuously proud to both work and live in this fantastic community.

Thank you and have a fabulous weekend.

Mr. Cross