PEACE – RESPECT – INDEPENDENCE – DETERMINATION - EQUALITY

We LEARN with **PRIDE**

Priory Junior School, Priory Road, Gedling, Nottingham, NG4 3LE
Head Teacher: Mr. J. Cross
office@priory-jun.notts.sch.uk

Newsletter – 13.11.26

Key Dates:

Monday 16th November: Assessment Week 1

Monday 23rd November: Assessment Week 2

Wednesday 25th November: Romans Trip – Year 4

Tuesday 1st December: Thursday 3rd December: Parents' Evening

Thursday 10th December: Parents' Coffee Morning

Friday 11th December: Christmas dinner

Tuesday 15th December: Y3 Nativity

Thursday 17th December: Christmas Party Day – Non-uniform

Friday 12th February: INSET (School Closed)

Monday 12th April: INSET (School Closed)

Firstly, I owe you all an apology for the lack of a newsletter before half term. I promise I hadn't forgotten about it! I was actually away from school on paternity leave following the arrival of our second child, a little girl called Elsie. We are all doing really well and have been enjoying a very special first few weeks together — although I had perhaps forgotten quite how little sleep is involved! Thank you as well to everyone who has passed on their kind wishes and congratulations — they have been very much appreciated.

It has been lovely to be back at Priory this week and to catch up with the children, staff, and everything that has been going on. As you would expect, the school certainly hasn't slowed down while I've been away, and there is plenty to share and celebrate in this week's newsletter.

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Wheelchair Basketball





We had a fantastic Wheelchair Basketball Day in school before half term, giving our pupils the chance to try something a little different and experience the skill, teamwork and determination involved in the sport. The sessions were delivered by Express Coaching, whose inclusive sports programme is designed to promote physical activity, disability awareness and inclusion in schools.

The children threw themselves into the experience and quickly discovered that manoeuvring a sports wheelchair while passing, turning and trying to score is not as easy as it looks! It was a brilliant opportunity to build confidence, develop new skills and, most importantly, think about sport and inclusion from a different perspective. There were plenty of smiles, lots of determination and some very competitive basketball along the way!

Space Centre Trip







Our pupils had a fantastic time visiting the National Space Centre in Leicester, with plenty of opportunities to explore, ask questions and get completely immersed in all things space! From towering rockets and real space artefacts to the interactive galleries exploring our Solar System and beyond, there was certainly plenty to capture their imaginations.

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It was lovely to see the children so enthusiastic and curious throughout the day, sharing what they already knew while discovering plenty of new facts along the way. Trips like this are such an important part of learning — sometimes seeing, touching and experiencing something for yourself makes it stick in a way that a classroom lesson simply can't. A brilliant day and, hopefully, one that has inspired a few future scientists, engineers and astronauts!

Pride Shop Yr6 Training

Year 6 pupils recently took part in their Pride Bank and Shop training. As part of the session, they learned how to calculate and manage money transactions and gained an understanding of how funds are allocated to individual children's bank accounts. They also signed a declaration of work, helping them to develop responsibility and readiness for their roles within the Pride Bank and Shop.







Fantastic Dance Achievement

A huge well done to one of our pupils who recently took part in the East of England Championship Dance Competition. The standard of dancing was incredibly high, so reaching **three finals** was a fantastic achievement and something to be very proud of.

More importantly, she had the most amazing time and really embraced the whole experience. Taking part in a competition of this level was a brilliant opportunity to build her confidence, challenge herself and enjoy doing something she loves. What a wonderful achievement — very well done!



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Anti-Bullying Week



This week is Anti-Bullying Week, and this year's theme is "Break the Silence." Throughout the week, we will be reminding children that nobody should ever feel they have to keep bullying to themselves. We want our pupils to feel confident to speak up if something does not feel right, whether it is happening to them or to somebody else, and to know that the adults around them will listen, support and act. This fits perfectly with our PRIDE values — particularly respect, equality and having the confidence to do the right thing.

We know that conversations at home are just as important. Our United Against Bullying page contains information for families about the approach we use in school, alongside our anti-bullying policy, parent guides, children's resources and this year's Anti-Bullying Week parent and carer leaflet. Please take a look and use the resources to help continue those important conversations at home: Priory Junior School – United Against Bullying.

OPAL





Our OPAL playtimes continue to go from strength to strength, with the children making fantastic use of the different opportunities available to them. From wheels and small cars to dressing up, small world play, den

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building and the slack line, there is always plenty going on! It has been lovely to see the creativity, teamwork and imagination that comes from giving children the freedom to explore, build, create and play together.

A quick reminder that OPAL means children are outside in all sorts of weather and may well get a little muddy along the way! Please make sure children come to school in appropriate uniform and footwear for the weather, with a suitable coat when needed. We want the children to be able to enjoy everything OPAL has to offer without worrying too much about a splash of mud or a bit of rain — that is often where some of the best play happens!

Moveathon

And finally, back in September Priory completed their Moveathon raising money for The Children & Young People's Cancer Association (CCLG). Thank you to everyone for taking part, raising awareness, fundraising, and a big thank you if you came along to watch the event! The children had a wonderful time! £1422.12 was raised, plus an additional £328.28 for the gold ribbon pins, a **total of £1750.40.** This will make such a difference in helping finding kinder treatments for children with cancer.

Mr Cross

Headteacher