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**Peace - Respect - Independence - Determination -  
Equality**



Priory Junior School  
Priory Road  
Gedling  
Nottingham  
NG4 3LE

Interim Executive Head Teacher:  
Mrs Lisa Harper  
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10<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear families,

Having been fortunate enough to work as the Head Teacher at Phoenix Infant and Nursery School since April 2012, it is a huge privilege to write to you to as the Interim Executive Head Teacher at Priory Junior School. I am absolutely delighted to be given this opportunity and this week it has been a real pleasure to start this journey. I have been overwhelmed by the positive welcome from the community.

I am excited to be working closely with you, our outstanding staff team and governors and most importantly our children to build on the school's many achievements to date. The recent OFSTED report from May 2023 highlighted was very positive [50222247](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/50222247) ([ofsted.gov.uk](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk)) and acknowledged that '**Priory Junior School is an inclusive and happy school. Leaders have high expectations of all pupils. The school's PRIDE (peace, respect, independence, determination and equality) values help pupils to meet these expectations. Pupils understand these values. They say they help them to behave and learn well. Pupils enjoy getting rewards for demonstrating these values. The school is calm and orderly. Pupils are polite and well mannered. Pupils say that teachers are fair and kind. They say that they enjoy their lessons because teachers make them interesting.**' I have certainly experienced that this week and the way children have returned or started at Priory has been exceptional! Our continued aim is to ensure that every child at Priory Junior School enjoys coming to school, is motivated and inspired by the highest quality provision which meets every child's individual, social, emotional and academic needs.

I am keen on further developing our whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships. I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience. As key educators in your children's lives, I feel that it is important that you have a voice and that as a school we are approachable and allocate time to listen to your worries or thoughts. As a result of this I have listened to a wide range of feedback from different

sources, and we are introducing some new routines and systems over the coming months to support this. This includes;

- Children in Year 3 and 4 coming onto the playground in the morning. This further supports the transition from Infant to Junior School and enables new families to get to know the staff.
- Parents evenings will take place in the classrooms for a more personal meeting and this also gives families the opportunities to see the classrooms.
- Key diary dates being shared with families (see below) There will be other dates added during the year, but we have endeavoured to get the key dates in.
- Methods of communication are being reviewed and streamlined over the term.

Many thanks for the positive feedback received so far - we really appreciate it. We are monitoring the drop off and pickups and will refine this over the coming weeks. When collecting your child from Year 3 and 4, you can really support by waiting on the red part of the playground rather than closer to the school so that the children can be handed over to you by the teachers safely.

**Questions? Queries? Positive news? Great feedback? Let us know!**

Catch Mrs Harper in the playground, put a message on Seesaw, or have a chat to a member of staff before or after school.

We will be publishing a weekly newsletter that I hope you will find useful, and we will continue to build on the success of Priory so far in the next exciting part of its journey. Next week we will publish a full staff list for your information and so that you can get to know our full team.

Looking forward to seeing you all next week,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lisa Harper

Interim Executive Head Teacher Priory Junior School



Dates for  
the Diary:

### Autumn

- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023- **School Individual Photographs**
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 - **All children to wear House T Shirts (Y3 will be provided before this date)**
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023- **Parents Evening- 3.40 - 6.15PM**
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023- **Parents Evening- Times 3.40 - 6.15PM**  
**(Parents evenings will be undertaken in your child's classroom)**
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023- **School Open day (details to follow) Last day of term**
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023- **INSET DAY (school closed)**
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023- **PM (time to be confirmed) Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carols**
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023- **AM (time to be confirmed) Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carols**
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023- **(time to be confirmed) Year 3 Nativity**
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023- **Christmas Dinner**
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023- **Last day of term**

### Spring

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024- **Safer Internet Day**
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024- **INSET DAY (School closed) and last day of term**
- W/C 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024- **Parents Evening (Times and days to be confirmed)**
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024- **Year 5 Swimming starts - details will be provided.**
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024- **Last day of term**
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024- **Bank Holiday- School closed**
- W/C 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024- **SATS week**
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024- **Last day of term**

### Summer

- W/C 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024- **Sports Day (Days and times to be confirmed)**
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024- **INSET DAY**
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024- **(time to be confirmed) Year 6 Production**
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024- **Year 6 Prom**
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - **(morning - time to be confirmed) Year 6 Leavers Assembly**
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024- **Last day of term- END OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24**