

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



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Happy New Year to you all!

Welcome back to a new term and a New Year. We are glad to have the children back at school and we have a very busy term ahead. The children are pleased to be back with their friends and are already working hard. This term I will publish a fortnightly newsletter (the newsletters for Priory and Phoenix will therefore be published on alternative weeks) It is vital that these are read as they will give importation information about your child's education, what's happening in school as well as diary dates

*'Education is for improving the lives of others and
for leaving your community and world better than you found it.'*

- Marian Wright Edelman

This term we will continue to focus on school development and ensuring that standards continue to improve, and we are proud of the developments so far. We are pleased with the positive comments from our families during our journey and we will seek more formal feedback during parents' evenings in February.

We are constantly reviewing what is in place and as part of this we have been exploring the impact of the weekly reading raffle in the Autumn Term.

Reading diaries and school data demonstrate that the reading raffle is no longer having the desired impact on pupil's motivation for reading and their enjoyment of reading and we will no longer continue with the raffle from the start of this term. Furthermore, several studies show that incentives linked to reading activity do not significantly affect motivation to read on a long-term basis. It is clear that books and reading should be valued for the pleasure they give rather than for the extrinsic reward. It is clear that **"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it's that simple."** Bali Rai (Author)

With this in mind we will be working hard in school to encourage good reading habits and a love of reading. We are purchasing new books to ensure we have books that the children will want to read and share at home. We are also improving the transition from Phoenix to Priory by ensuring that the same priority is given to early reading skills as it was at the Infant school – ensuring that those children who did not meet the standard in the phonics screening in Year 2 are given the support they need through phonics booster sessions utilising the Little Wandle approach to teaching to ensure they meet the standard by the end of Year 3.



Top tips for reading at home:

All reading is good – don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Make reading a relaxing experience! Continue to write in your child's diary any reading they do so we can build a picture of their reading at home too.

Get comfortable! – Snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child, either in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa, or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.

Make sure your child isn't tired, hungry or desperate to watch their favourite TV programme when you read to them.

Sit with them for a short time every day - 10-15 minutes each day is better than an hour once a week.

Ask questions – To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'

Read whenever you get the chance – Bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.

Read again and again. Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.

Bedtime stories – Regularly read with your child or children at bedtime. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.

Over the term we will continue to share with you the approaches we are taking in school and the changes we are making to ensure reading standards improve. We hope this will be useful.

DAaRT (Drug, Alcohol and Resilience Training) - Year 5

During the Spring Term, Year Fives will be completing the DAaRT course every Friday. The course will be taught by a trained DAaRT Officer who is employed by Life Skills Education Charity. The programme is a 10-week course with a graduation at the end which teaches children how to make the safe and healthy decisions which they will need as they develop into adulthood and beyond.

The class will be involved in discussion and activities and will watch video clips during which they will meet the DAaRT Crew. These young people often get themselves into risky situations and the class will help them to make informed decisions and to keep safe and healthy.

During the course the children will use a workbook, which they can bring home and share with you. This will include them discussing responsibility, pressure and peer pressure, confident communication, bullying and cyberbullying, risks and consequences, stress, and support networks.

We will also be discussing helpful and harmful drugs, and alcohol and the effects that these have on the body. The programme includes discussion on knife safety and will also explore the differences between various groups in society. This programme has been running in the East Midlands and beyond for over 25 years, has more than 400,000 graduates and has been proven to make a difference in young people's lives.

Please visit www.lifeskills-education.co.uk where you will also find a link to the most recent research about the course. If you want further information the Year 5 parents have been invited to a parent carer session on the morning of Friday 12th January.



Dates for
the Diary:

Spring

- Friday 12th January - am DAaRT Parent/carer information session
- Tuesday 6th February 2024- **Safer Internet Day**
- Friday 9th February 2024- **INSET DAY (School closed) and last day of term**
- W/C 26th February 2024- **Parents Evening (Times and days to be confirmed)**
- Wednesday 28th February 2024- **Year 5 Swimming starts - details will be provided.**
- Thursday 28th March 2024- **Last day of term**

Summer

- **Monday 15th April return for Summer Term**
- **Monday 6th May 2024- Bank Holiday- School closed**
- **W/C 13th May 2024- SATS week**
- **Friday 24th May 2024- Last day of term**
- **Monday 3rd June - first day back to school**

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