

This week has seen the weather take a definite autumnal turn and whilst the windy weather has started to knock some of the leaves off the trees, the children at the Priory have continued with their learning with the same usual sense of enthusiasm. A highlight of the week has been Y6 welcoming Dr Waterhouse who has enabled the pupils to explore how different species have evolved and adapted over time and what evidence that has been left behind, for example fossils. I know how much the children enjoyed their opportunity to create their own fossils. This experience is a good example of how we are aiming to hook the children into their curriculum learning and how real life opportunities (such as palaeontology) can influence our learning - and even be an inspiration for our pupils in terms of their future careers. Each year group will have their own curriculum linked activities to hook and inspire their learning. In this way (and many others) we engage with our school's vision - to inspire our pupils with a love of learning.

Student Leaders

This week I would like to introduce you to the Y6 prefects - these children will act as role models and ambassadors of the school, supporting the rules and values of the school. Currently (due to our COVID guidance) they cannot lead and support other pupils to follow the rules directly and instead must help from afar.

Our Y6 Prefects include: Fred A, Freddie H, Imogen S, Menna L, Molly G & Ted S.

Each week, I will introduce you to more of our student leaders, including pupils from other year groups.

Coffee Meetings

A weekly feature of my first term at the Priory (last year) was the weekly coffee meetings that parents opted to attend. We discussed a range of subjects - most importantly the future direction of the school. It was an opportunity to get together, ask questions and share ideas. Obviously with our COVID guidance in place we are unable to have onsite meetings, however from after half term I will send a Zoom link to the parents of each year group, where you can join me remotely (hopefully still with a cup of tea / coffee in hand) and continue the process of meeting on a more regular basis.

The coffee meetings will start with YR on Friday 6th November at 10am - 10.40am, followed by Y1 the week after at the same time and so on through the school.

I hope to see you there.

Car Seats / Boosters

Thank you to all our parents for continuing to ensure they think of their children's safety when travelling to and from school by car. I have noticed a number of families not utilising a car / booster seat for their children.

A reminder of the law: only children over 12, or over 135cms (whichever comes first) do not need a car / booster seat.

As all of our pupils are under 12 - please check your child's height - if they are under 135cms then you will need to provide them with a car / booster seat.

Please see the guidance at the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Dyslexia Training Fund

A huge thank you to Mrs Henry and the parents and children of Y6 for raising over £2000 in funds to support the needs of our school's dyslexic learners. Bethany Henry who led the appeal wanted to raise awareness and support the needs of dyslexic learners and carried out a sponsored swim last year with the help of her classmates. The money collected was originally raised to pay for training for our teachers and learning support assistants, however due to the lockdown and the resultant COVID guidance this training was not possible. In lieu of the training the Y6 parents have agreed to purchase a fantastic educational resource - Clicker 8. This product can support both the teaching of writing in the classroom (on a wider scale) as well as the specific needs of pupils who might find the writing / reading process challenging. The package which comes with training on the best use of its many features costs £3000 and Mrs Henry is hoping to raise some additional funds to make up the difference. Please take the time to read her separate letter (attached to this email) which documents the wonderful work of Bethany and her classmates as well as how you can donate to the fund. It should be noted that the school will cover the cost of any shortfall in order to access this wonderful product - but your donations will be gratefully received.

Welcome Meetings

Thank you for the positive feedback from the teachers Welcome Meetings accessible since last week. A reminder to access the link sent via email and survey link sent via text yesterday.



Pupil Achievements—Please email the office if you would like to share any of your child's

PTA

Halloween Pumpkins

Please get your thinking caps on for our free kids Halloween Pumpkin decorating competition! Anything goes for decorations – carving, painting and general accessorising. There will be prizes in the form of Halloween sugary treats for the best pumpkins in the following categories:

- Scary
- Funny
- Animal
- Most popular (to be judged by online vote)

There will be a separate category for adults to enter, for a small donation, with a scarily good bottle of wine (or non alcoholic equivalent – if preferred) as a prize.

Halloween Virtual Balloon Race

After the success of the back to school balloon race we thought it would be great to enter the Halloween race which sets sail at 9am on the 31st October from Dracula's castle in Transylvania. In addition to the Race Organisers prizes, there will be more (Halloween) sweets on offer for the top three Priory places. Buy your £3 virtual balloon here using the QR code or link below. <https://ecoracing.co/user/page/856>



200 Club

Congratulations to Charlotte Clint for winning the 200 club draw for September! It's not too late to enter, please contact prioryPTAtreasurer@gmail.com for more information. The draws will happen monthly LIVE in the school assemblies with the help of Mr Stewart and his specially selected student helper.