St Nicholas Priory C.E.V.A. Primary School

Autumn Term

Our Vision Statement

We aim to welcome and celebrate the diversity of all God's children and provide a safe, caring space in which they can achieve their best academically, spiritually and pastorally whilst learning to serve others.

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the Autumn newsletter. It has been so lovely to see what a very positive start the children have made in their new year groups and to welcome new families joining us in reception.

As I am sure many of you have already read our Ofsted report has now been published and once again, I would like to recognise not only the work of the children and staff but also the enormous support and contributions from our wider community, parents and partners who contribute to life at school in so many ways but particularly in terms of attendance. As you are aware we have to meet government targets and our school community is being really successful in ensuring children come to school every day.

Ofsted Good School

Our school is a very busy one. Last year our children were able to experience around 200 trips, visits, and visitors. Providing these enrichment activities is a really important part in our children being able to learn and enjoy being at school. This year we are adding to our provision through 'Nature Play 'which is developing our outdoor provision.

We want all our children to know that they are unique and special and can play a vital role in the community as they get older. Miss King will be organising a Career's week during this term. If you feel able to contribute in any way please get in touch with the school office.

There will be an enhanced offer of parent events including Multiply and SEND cafés. We are also hoping to run some workshops around supporting behaviour. As we would like as many parents and carers to attend events as possible, Mr Rust will be organising a questionnaire to see which time of day is most convenient. Please respond to these as they only take a few minutes and your feedback is valued.

Just as the children are learning, our teaching adults and governors are learners too and where possible take part in research such as Hannah Foladi's PhD research on *'The Use of Natural Environments for Adolescents and Teens to Undertake Physical Recreation Activity and Exercise'* and research into

reading through the Education Endowment Fund.

We want to constantly strive to ensure that your children are learning in the most effective way possible and so invite expert visitors in every term to work with the senior leadership team to review what the school is providing.

We strive to be a listening school and offer a wide range of different ways to engage with school staff to ensure that communication is clear and that parents and carers receive messages in a timely manner. These include the front office, at the gate first thing in the morning and at the end of the day and via class Dojo.

As a school we are always looking to engage with the community positively and respectfully and very much appreciate it when this is reciprocated. If you have any issues then please can we ask that the school is contacted first so that we are able to resolve any concerns in a polite and solution focused way.

We also have a duty not only to our children but to staff. Class DoJo is set so that there are certain quiet times where members of staff are not expected to answer messages due to considerations around work load and wellbeing. Many staff at St Nicholas Priory will on occasion, respond but this is not an expectation on staff.

There will be a wide range of events on offer again this term. Please note the dates as some of the closure days are different from those advertised by Norfolk.

Finally, I would like to express once again how grateful I am for all your support and look forward to working alongside you this term.

Maria Grimmer

Head Teacher

Avoid The Problems Of Lost Property

Lost property is a big problem for all schools – and one that takes up precious staff time. For parents, lost property doesn't just mean paying for replacements. It can also mean dealing with the emotional fallout of their children losing items that are important to them.

Many children are reluctant to reclaim items that they can't positively identify as their own. Given that most school kit is similar or identical, items that end up as lost property tend to remain unclaimed.

Writing names in your child's clothes is a simple way to side step ALL of the problems of lost property. Labelling school uniform also makes it easy for lost items to be returned to the right person.

Encourage Responsibility For Personal Belongings

Writing your child's name in their uniform is also a subtle way to teach children about taking responsibility for personal belongings. If a child knows their belongings are labelled, they are more likely to actually check that something belongs to them.

Uniform

Thank you to everyone for sending the children in our Priory uniform. The children are looking very smart. If you need any uniform guidance please look on the school website or ask your teacher for a copy of the guide.

Just a polite reminder our uniform is the yellow polo shirt, with everything else **black** (jumper, trousers, skirt, tights, tailored shorts cardigan etc.)

Hoodies and leggings are not allowed as part of our uniform.

For children wearing skirts, please check these are a modest knee length to prevent any embarrassment if: climbing on the playtime equipment, walking upstairs or sitting on the carpet for a lesson

News from Year 5

Year 5 have had a great start to the year. The children settled back into school life very quickly after their summer holidays, and are working very hard across all areas of the curriculum. They have been exploring different aspects of ancient Greece, and have really enjoyed finding out more about the gods and mythical creatures that the ancient Greeks believed in. They also enjoyed completing a variety of activities to celebrate European Languages Day. We would also like to say a big thank you to all of our parents for their support.

Fabia, Ella-Rose, Olivia and Osmundas celebrating European Languages Day

News from Year 1

All of the children have made a brilliant start to Year 1. We have been very impressed with how well they have settled so thank you for your support with this.

Our Meet the Team event was well attended and the children had a fantastic time showing their grown-ups around their new classroom. Lots of arts, crafts and pictures were made and the children all had smiling faces when they went home.

Esme creating her own lion, choosing her colours and design.

All of the children have now brought an Oxford Reading Tree or Songbirds reading book home. Please could you read this with your child, ideally three times and record this in their reading record and then return the book to school the following week.

We have lots of lovely events booked in for after half term and look forward to sharing information about these in due course.

News from Year 2

Year 2 have had an incredible start to the new year. The children have settled into their new classes and learning groups well and have impressed all teaching adults with their fantastic work.

We have been revisiting our number skills in maths concentrating on adding and subtracting as well as exploring shape. In writing we have been writing character descriptions! We have explored the Great Fire of London, sewing and food technology in our CUSP afternoons.

Year 2 have been the first group of children in the school to enjoy the Dissenter's Garden through Forest School Lessons each Friday afternoon. This will continue until half term.

Well done year 2 for a fantastic start to the year!

Church School News

To start the school year, we have been revisiting our six school values, understanding our school biblical quote and exploring what spirituality means.

This half term we invite all children to explore our half termly value 'aspiration' across our school day and in collective worship.

In October we will be having our UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award silver accreditation where will we have our school recognised for promoting the UN Convention of Rights of a Child in our daily school life, throughout the curriculum and in the workshop, we do with the community and the wider world.

unicef
UNITED KINGDOM
RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

We continue to work with the Great Yarmouth Minster and will be welcoming KS2 parents to celebrate our Harvest Festival Singing Service with us on Tuesday 15th October at 2pm.

News from Year 4

We're thrilled to report that Year 4 has had an incredible start to the new school year. The class has settled in wonderfully, and we are already seeing some amazing work and effort from everyone.

Lillie and Mya-Mai enjoying European day of Languages activities

This year, we are working hard on mastering our times tables. Learning these is essential for building strong mathematical skills, and we encourage practising at home to reinforce this. A fun way to do this is by using Times Tables Rock Stars, an exciting online tool that helps improve speed and accuracy. Try to log in a few times a week for extra practice!

Times table Rock Stars is a free fun way to learn times tables - ask your teacher about this

Regular reading is one of the best ways to improve vocabulary and comprehension skills. Please try to read for at least 10-15 minutes each day. This could be a book from school, your own favourite. Don't forget to record your reading in your reading log.

Each week, we'll be sending home a list of spellings to practise. These will tie in with the spelling patterns we're learning in class, so practising them will help your child grow in confidence with their writing. A little bit of spelling practice each day can make a big difference.

This term in PE, we are exploring two exciting activities: yoga and tennis. Yoga helps with flexibility, balance, and focus, while tennis is a great way to improve hand-eye coordination and fitness. Both have been great fun so far!

We recently celebrated European Day of Languages with lots of activities exploring different languages and cultures across Europe. The class had a fantastic time learning new words and phrases.

Here's to a brilliant term of learning, fun, and growth! Let's keep up the great work!

News from Year 3

This half term the children in Year 3 have been learning about poems in Writing. They have been looking at the skills of assonance, alliteration and similes to help them write brilliant poems. We have been learning to add and subtract 2 3-digit numbers together using the column method in Maths.

Our afternoon learning has focused on the artist Van Gogh in Art. We practised the art skills tonking, sgraffito and impasto.

We have also been looking at the Stone Age in History. Did you know people used to have to hunt their own food and we had animals called Woolly Mammoths that are now extinct? They used to use stones for their tools.

In Year 3 we celebrated European Languages day by creating suncatchers of different European countries.

We celebrated European languages day by looking at famous landmarks. We have been using interesting instruments in music called boom whackers which has been so much fun.

Halle, Priya, Koby and Mia playing 'boom wackers'

News from Reception

Our children in reception have had a very successful transitional period and have adjusted well to school life. The children are now coming in independently and are becoming increasingly confident.

The children have enjoyed exploring our inside and outside classroom and we have seen some lovely play by all the children and some lovely friendships being formed.

We have started our baseline assessments which the children are working really hard on. We have also started our RWI lessons and we have been learning the first ten sounds. Along with this we have started our home reading with the children taking their first bookbag and reading book home with them.

News from Year 6

Year 6 have made an excellent start to the new year, and have settled into their new classes well. So far this term all children in Year 6 have written a Remembrance message on the back of a poppy. These poppies will be sent off to be part of a memorial display at the National Arboretum.

Lydia, Skye and Asmin with a goat at Africa Alive

This year, the Into University focus week is based around Zoology. During the focus week, year 6 spent three days at the Into University centre learning about different animals, how to care for them and different animal related careers, before visiting Africa

Alive to see this in practice. At the end of the week the children took part in a graduation ceremony at the UEA.

Term Dates

Autumn term

SCHOOL OPEN - Wednesday 4th September – Friday 25th October 2024

SCHOOL CLOSED - **Half-term holiday**: Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2024

SCHOOL OPEN - Monday 4th November - Friday 20th December 2024

SCHOOL CLOSED - **Christmas holiday**: Monday 23rd December 2024 - Monday 6th January 2025

Spring term

SCHOOL OPEN - Tuesday 7th January - Friday 14th February 2025

SCHOOL CLOSED - **Half-term holiday:** Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2025

SCHOOL OPEN - Monday 24th February - Friday 4th April 2025

SCHOOL CLOSED - **Easter holiday:** Monday 7th - Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Summer term

SCHOOL OPEN - Wednesday 23rd April - Friday 23rd May 2025 (Monday 5th May is a Bank Holiday)

SCHOOL CLOSED - **Half-term holiday:** Monday 26th - Friday 30th May 2025

SCHOOL OPEN - Monday 2nd June - Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Staff training days

SCHOOL CLOSED - Tuesday 3rd September

SCHOOL CLOSED - Friday 6th December

SCHOOL CLOSED - Monday 6th January

SCHOOL CLOSED - Tuesday 22nd April

SCHOOL CLOSED – Wednesday 23rd July

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 15th October - Harvest Festival - at the Minster starting at 2pm

Tuesday 17th December - Christmas Service - at the Minster starting at 2pm

Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Fayre - 3.30pm - 6pm at the Minster

Thursday 12th December - National Christmas Jumper Day -

Wednesday 18th December - Priory Christmas Dinner - more details to follow

Tuesday 1st April - Easter Service - at the Minster starting at 2pm