Priory Christmas Newsletter

Message from Mrs Grimmer

Dear Priory Community Family,

I cannot believe just how many things the staff, parents and community have managed to pack into this term. This is definitely a very busy school with a huge range of opportunities for the children to express themselves in terms of their talents, joining the wide range clubs, attending visits, speaking to experts and just having fun with their learning.

We are definitely experiencing more visitors to the school since our very positive Ofsted report and without exception, all of our visitors have commented on what incredible children we have and the warm and friendly atmosphere of the school. Everyone associated with the school contributes to this so thank you.

As I am sure you are already aware, our school motto is 'Learn, Love, Serve.' Our children are passionate about helping others and looking outward to the challenges in the world. We are very pleased to have just been awarded the Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award and many children were involved in speaking to the assessor and sharing their views and ideas. We were so proud of them and feel that they are learning skills for life.

There are many opportunities in school for children to contribute including; Community Heroes, Crucial Crew, Young Interpreters, Priory Parliament, RE leaders, Eco Crew and many more. Please encourage your child to get involved.

As governors, teachers and leaders we continue to work hard with our own professional development in order to ensure we achieve the best for our children not just academically but socially and pastorally as well. There have been many visits this term to other schools to develop our provision at Priory and we have also been able to host visitors to our school.

Parent opinion is really important to us. Thank you to everyone who completes the online surveys. It really helps to see what we can do as a large organisation to help our community.

Mrs Hazell has sent out some information regarding the new regulations for attendance. Thank you to all our families for ensuring that children are in school and on time. We have had a new phone system installed in school where it was possible to leave a recorded message. This is no longer the case and parents and carers will need to ring in and speak directly to the school office

As the excitement of Christmas builds I do hope that our community will support the amazing number of school events. We like to see you and I know that your children absolutely love it too.

Our Christmas Fayre will be held in the Minster this year and we are hoping that it will be even bigger than last year, which was nothing less than awesome. All of our fabulous parent supporters have also been aspirational in moving the Christmas lunch to the Minster which will definitely make a memory for the children for a lifetime.

We are very, very sad to be saying goodbye to three very valued members of staff at the end of term. Mrs Rust who has made significant contributions to the creation and working of our POD provision and also Miss Ray who will

be moving on to another school to take up a senior leadership post, and to Mrs Patterson who is retiring after 20 years of service in the kitchen. We wish them all the very best for the future.

I am always so inspired and appreciative of the incredible support of our amazing Priory community and this just builds and builds each term. On behalf of the governors, staff and pupils of St Nicholas I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year.

Maria Grimmer

Head Teacher

News from Year 5

Year 5 had a great start to the second part of the Autumn Term. They have been writing Ancient Greek myths, studying how to recognise and use decimal numbers in maths, and exploring Ancient Egypt through the book 'Secrets of a Sun King'.

They have been very enthusiastic about our science topic of how humans change throughout their lives, and learning about countries in Europe, North and South America.

All of the children in the year group also entered a competition, run by Jary's, designing an 'angel mug' - there were some highly imaginative designs!

Thank you again to all of our parents and carers for their support.

News from Year 1

Year 1 has had a very busy autumn term. In Design and Technology lessons, we created some junk models, looking at different ways to connect and attach materials. We looked at cutting and chopping skills and used these to help create our own vegetable soup. Once we had prepared all of the vegetables, Mrs Ball, the school cook, cooked the soup for us and we all had the opportunity to taste our creation.

We have been on a science hunt around the school using torches to look for transparent, translucent and opaque materials.

We had a visit from Pudsey Bear which the children loved. Lots of hugs and high fives were shared in Year 1 that day.

As this newsletter goes to print, we are busy rehearsing our Nativity performance. We have over 200 parents and carers booked to come and see it and the children are very excited to be able to take part in the Nativity play for their grown-ups to watch.

-Effie and Esmai with Pudsey Bear

News from Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic half term leading up to Christmas. At the beginning of the half term they continued working with Lindsay in the forest school in the Dissenter's Garden and even cooked S'mores on a fire!

All of the year 2's have worked hard on the Nativity, showing dedication to learning the songs and the words as narrators, leading to brilliant final performances. They even wrote their own invitations to take home to invite people to come along to see the show.

In the CUSP afternoons they have been learning about geography and human and physical features. The pupils went on a hunt to see these around Great Yarmouth. They also learned about art and created super artwork. This half term has seen a huge increase in reading at home and also an excellent response to bringing back completed homework packs!

Year 2 have had a great first term, well done everybody!

Here are our 5 top tips to help keep your child healthy this winter:

1. Hygiene.

Avoiding the germs is the best way to help your child keep well and teaching the importance of hygiene is essential.

Be mindful of cleaning toys and disposing of dirty tissues.

Wash hands regularly. It can help to buy a fun, child-friendly soap for your child to use before and after eating, and after going to the loo. Try and get them into a routine of washing their hands. And when you're out and about, carry an antibacterial hand gel or wipes with you.

2. Be prepared

Make sure you've got all of the essentials at home, such as infant paracetamol, tissues and a thermometer.

3. Keep their diet healthy

A healthy and nutritious diet with all of the food groups and plenty of fruit and vegetables is really important. Keep children hydrated by aiming for five cups of water per day.

The government recommends all children aged 6 months to 5 years are given vitamin supplements containing vitamins A, C and D

every day (NHS.UK). This will be especially important for those with fussy eaters but even for those children who do eat a well-balanced diet. This is because it is very difficult to get enough vitamin D from food alone. Check with a pharmacist or your doctor for more information.

4. Keep away from illness

It's difficult to avoid everyone coughing and sneezing, but it's best to pass on meeting up with anyone who is unwell.

If your child is unwell, speak with a pharmacist or your doctor. Please also check with the school to see if they need to be kept home.

5. Keep their sleep routine going

A good night's sleep will help keep your little one fighting fit. Adequate rest and sleep is essential for maintaining a healthy immune system.

Christian Ethos and Church School News

This festive season has been truly magical and we at St. Nicholas Priory have embraced Christmas and the festive season by carrying out many amazing events. These events have been able to happen through our strong links with The Great Yarmouth Minster who have embraced our grand ideas and held the KS2 Christmas service, the Christmas dinner, KS1 and KS2 Christingle workshop including a KS1 Christingle service and providing as host for the Christmas Fayre.

We have also seen the KS1 nativity that was a creative and exciting retelling of the birth of Jesus.

This has been our most adventurous Christmas with creative events for the children to enjoy and to allow them to understand the meaning of Christmas.

A huge thank you to all the Priory Parent Family group, Minster staff and Priory staff for making this all come together and to the parents and carers who have supported these events.

Tobacco and Vapes Bill – Will this affect you?

On Tuesday the second reading Tobacco and Vapes Bill passed. The new legislation is to ban smoking outside specific outdoor spaces such as children's playgrounds, schools and hospitals.

Prof Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer for England, who is thought to have argued for the widest possible outdoor smoking ban, said the UK finally becoming “smoke-free” would lead to fewer stillbirths and cases of asthma in children, as well as reductions in cancer, strokes, heart disease and dementia.

“Second-hand smoke causes harm, including to children, pregnant women and medically vulnerable people, so reducing this is important. If vulnerable people can smell smoke, they are inhaling it,” he said.

The new Tobacco and Vapes Bill will also introduce a new £200 fixed penalty notice in England and Wales, which will enable Trading Standards Officers to act ‘on the spot’.

Stop Smoking help

Local stop smoking services are free, friendly and can massively boost your chances of quitting for good.

These services staffed by expert advisers provide a range of proven methods to help you quit.

They'll give you accurate information and advice, as well as professional support, during the first few months you stop smoking.

They also make it easy and affordable for you to get stop smoking treatments, such as: nicotine replacement therapy, such as patches or gum.

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/quit-smoking/nhs-stop-smoking-services-help-you-quit/

News from Reception

Reception have had a very busy half term; all children have now started with us. Reception have made an exceptional start to Read, Write inc. Many children have learned over 20 sounds and are now beginning to segment words and blend.

The children have been learning all about numbers in maths for example how to recognise and order them. We have been delighted with the children's behaviour this term and they have had an excellent term.

News from Year 6

This half term has been another busy one for year 6. Into Uni continued with 6N completing their week and having their graduation ceremony. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to understand what it would be like to be a university student.

In addition to this, a select number of pupils were invited to join author Dominique Valente for a workshop at the amazing Bookbugs and Dragon Tales bookshop in Norwich. The children loved coming up with ideas for a new storyline while exploring the books in the shop.

Remembrance Day also was a very important day in year 6 and this year the children were able to understand the meaning due to our history topic. As a year group, we joined members of the community at St George's park for the blessing of the crosses where some of our pupils also placed their own crosses into the ground. 6K were invited to the launch of the Poppy Appeal where they saw some very interesting vehicles!

Year 6 at the Blessing of the Crosses

Alongside this, year 6 attended Crucial Crew which was a brilliant morning featuring our emergency services. It helps to ensure that our children know what to do if they are ever in a dangerous or emergency situation.

News from Year 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of term, Year 4 has been buzzing with activity, creativity, and learning! Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to and what's still to come.

Highlights of our term so far…

This term we have been learning about rivers and we enjoyed field trips to the River Yare and the Time and Tide Museum, where the children explored Norfolk's rich maritime heritage, uncovering stories of the past and connecting them to the present.

Year 4 field trip to the River Yare

As part of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival's River of Hope initiative, Year 4 was visited by local artist Ali Atkins who introduced a creative project which blends art and environmental awareness. We can't wait to share their work with you later in the new year.

The sounds of Brazil filled the air as Year 4 learned samba drumming techniques during an energetic workshop at the Drill House. The rhythms were contagious, and the smiles were everywhere!

We had a visit from Sir Isaac Newton sixth form college, where students explored fascinating numerical patterns with an 'under the sea' theme! The children looked at various ways of partitioning numbers and had great fun doing so.

In the Classroom our young scientists have been conducting hands-on experiments, sparking curiosity and deepening their understanding of scientific concepts.

Scarlet and Patrick experimenting with melting points.

In reading, Year 4 has been inspired by the incredible stories in Young, Gifted and Black, celebrating trailblazing individuals from around the world and in writing they have been learning how to write their own adventure stories.

As the festive season is here, members of Year 4 are shining in rehearsals with Song School, Drama Group, Dance club and the Snug Christmas performance. We can't wait to see them in action!

What's still to come…

An exciting day out awaits at the Marina Centre, where students will enjoy activities in and out of the water. The magic of Oz will captivate Year 4 as they participate in a

performance and a special dance workshop inspired by this timeless classic.

We're so proud of Year 4's achievements and enthusiasm this term.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

The Year 4 Teaching Team

Priory in the News

St Nicholas Priory had a favourable mention in the Great Yarmouth Mercury this week in a Viewpoint article by the Rev Richard Washington, Team Vicar at the Minster.

Rev Washington wrote:

"We need to try to curtail this tendency to look with eyes of scarcity and look with eyes of abundance. We need to see the many positive and richly abundant resources, people, ideas and opportunities this town has.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in our young people!

A couple of weeks ago, I was lucky enough to be invited by to tour the wonderful Priory School in our town centre. I was really struck by the eyes of abundance with which the staff and the pupils view themselves as a community of learning.

They don't deny the challenges they have, but they see every challenge as an opportunity. Most importantly. Every child is treated as a sacred individual whose beautiful; promise can and will be nurtured to flourish and serve.

The Priory school is an abundant well of positive energy which we can all draw on. It refuses to look with eyes of scarcity, and sees everything with eyes of abundance. As a town we should do the same. If we do, we will not fail".

Term Dates

Autumn term

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 - Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September

SCHOOL CLOSED - Friday 6th December

SCHOOL CLOSED - Monday 6th January

SCHOOL CLOSED - Tuesday 22nd April.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Fayre - 3.00pm – 5.30pm at the Minster – all year groups

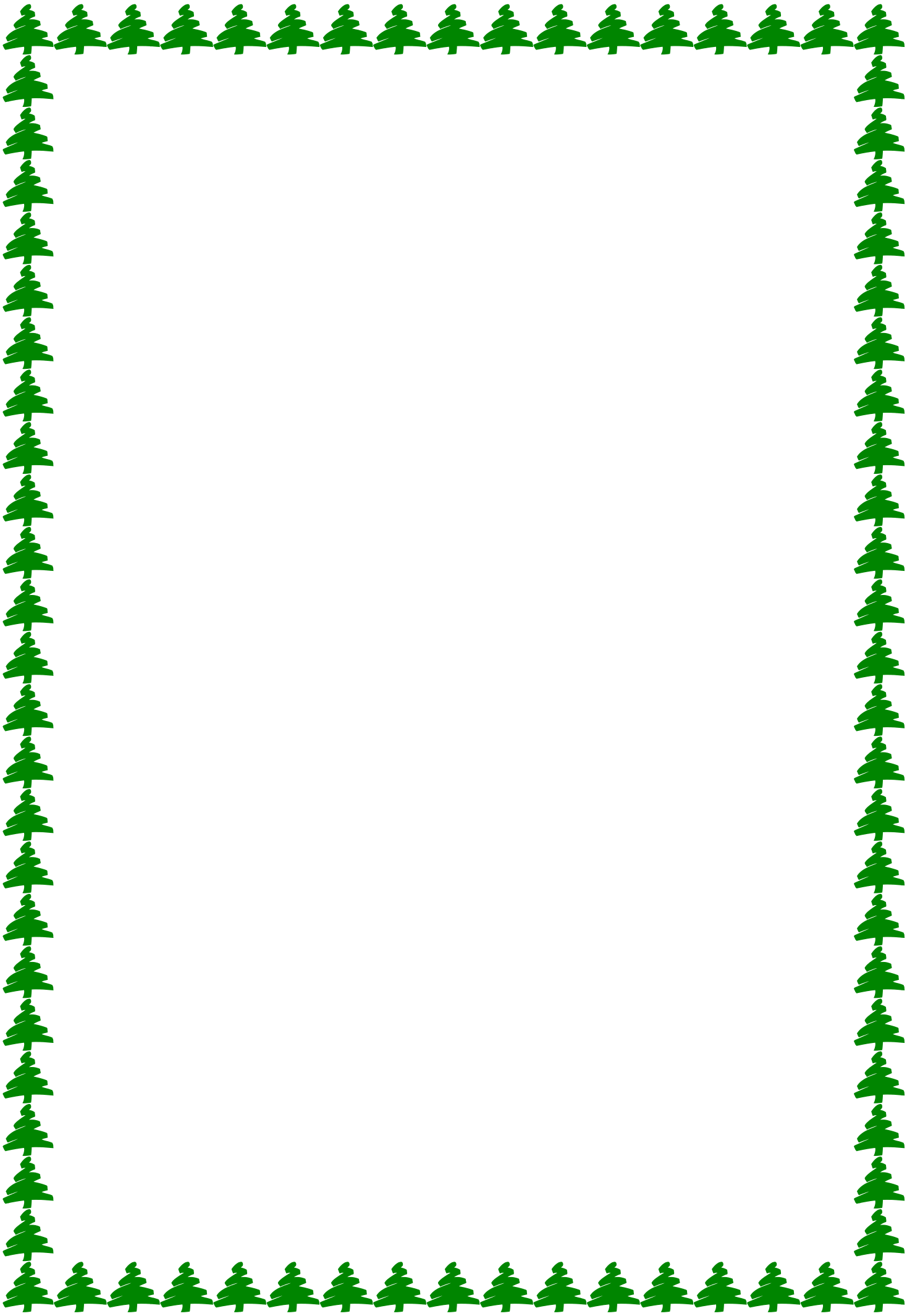
Thursday 12th December - National Christmas Jumper Day – all year groups

Monday 16th December – Christmas Disco

Y1 - Y2 - 1.15pm - 2.15pm

Y3 - Y6 - 2.30pm- 4pm

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

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

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