

Newsletter



Newsletter 20

5th July, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe we are approaching the end of another school year! We are all looking forward to holding KS1 and 2 Sports Day on the new field – the grass is amazing. It has been lovely to be able to use the new sensory garden and the children have all appreciated having so much outdoor space again. We have a packed few weeks ahead of us; we hope to see you next week at the Open Evening.



Classes for next year

We have now finalised the staffing for September. As you will be aware, Mrs Maddie Wood will be going on maternity leave at the end of term, and Mr Stephen Massey and Mrs Sharon Smith will be returning to us. The table below shows which staff will be working with your children, and which classroom they will be in. The children will be able to spend time with their new teachers before the end of term, and there will be an opportunity for you to meet the teachers and visit your child/children's new classroom at the open evening on Tuesday 9th July.

We have given careful consideration to the year groups where there are over 30 children. We will not be mixing up the Year 5 or Year 1 children this year, so they will remain with their current classmates. Due to the number of children on the waiting list, we will be splitting the current Year 2 children into two classes. The children wrote the names of three children they like working and playing with. All of them have one or more of these children in their class. Further details, including which teacher the children will have, will be sent home with our Y2 classes today. We anticipate that each class will have between 20 and 22 children in September. Where there are two classes in a year group, the children will be working with both teachers, and different groupings of children throughout the week.

Year group	Teachers	Teaching Assistants	Room
Nursery	Mrs Foster	Mrs Page & Mrs Smith	Nursery
Reception	Mrs Ogle	Mrs Mansell & Mrs Reboul	Reception
Year 1	Miss Churchill	Mrs Williams, Mrs Black & Ms Smith	1C – Miss Churchill's room
Year 2G (was 1W)	Miss Granger	Mrs Eaton & Mrs Barber	2G
Year 2P (was 1C)	Mrs Pyle	Mrs Bick and Mrs Page	2P
Year 3P	Mr Pyle	Mrs Henderson	Year 3 Green door
Year 3C	Miss Clark	Mrs White, Miss McKenzie and Mrs Brett-Lavelle	Year 3 Pink Door
Year 4	Mr Massey	Mrs Tillson	Year 4 Turquoise door
Year 5	Mrs Gloyn & Mrs Mason	Mrs Crunden	Year 5 Pink Door
Year 6D (was 5G)	Miss Doran	Mrs Brown	Year 6 Blue Door
Year 6B (was 5D)	Mr Browne	Mrs Day	Year 6 Turquoise Door

Lunchtime Staff:	Mrs Gull, Mrs Page, Mrs Brett-Lavelle, Mrs Reboul, Mrs Tillson, Mrs Christie, Mrs Oxley, Mrs Pond, Miss McKenzie, Ms Ridpath & Ms Van der Welle.	Admin & Premises Staff	Mrs Martin, Mrs Bundy, Mrs Day and Mr Martin
		PPA Teachers	Mrs Broad, Mrs Mason, Mrs Eaton, and Mrs Pollard



Athletics

Our team has had a very successful year and we were delighted with their performance at the Stevenage Sporting Futures Athletics Meet at Ridlins, competing against 18 other schools. Overall, the team finished in 4th place. We had a number of children finishing in 4th and 5th places, and a number of medallist, including bronze medals for Poppy M – Sprint, and Bobby EK - Long jump, silver medals for Sephora - 600m, and gold medals for the Year 4 and 5 relay teams, Oscar S - Javelin and James R - 600m. Thank you very much to Miss Doran – Team Coach, for all of her hard work and enthusiasm training the children.



Year 5 visit to Priory School

This week, a group of children from Year 5 visited The Priory School's Food Tech department as part of the activities linked to STEM week. We were really well looked after; on arrival, work stations with everything needed were set up for each child and the staff were very welcoming. The children had an amazing time and really enjoyed the visit. We were delighted to receive an email commending the children's behaviour and involvement – and more good news, as a result, the teachers from Priory have said that they would be delighted to be involved in a similar project next year!



Summer Do!

Thank you very much to everyone who made the Summer Do such a success. Our PTFA worked tirelessly to get everything set up and running smoothly, and we are grateful to all of the parents and staff who helped out. Thanks too, to David and Fabienne Brett-Lavelle did an amazing job cooking all the food, to Darren Murley for running the Treasure Hunt, to the wonderful children who took part in the Musical production and dance performance, to the staff who led these activities, to everyone who made a salad, to everyone who came along and to Charlie – our Chair – for all his hard work in leading this event!



STEM Week

We had a fantastic week focussing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, with the children enjoying a wide variety of activities. We particularly enjoyed the House of Maths day and the activities run by our Scientist Parents and teachers from The Priory School. Thank you very much to Mrs Foster and Mrs Broad for organising the week and providing a wide range of games and competitions, alongside the extra exciting lessons taught.



Changes to Attendance laws

Further to the details regarding changes to the attendance laws detailed in the last newsletter, I have now added a section to the [school website](#) on attendance, for reference. To request authorisation for absences, there is a [form available on the school website](#) or a paper copy via the school office. With this newsletter, I have attached additional information from Herts County Council which provides further details.



Open Evening reminder

We hope you can come along to our open evening on Tuesday 9th July to visit your child's current and future teachers and classrooms. Mrs Mason will be based in Mrs Gloyn's classroom, who will be joining us a little later, due to an event at her daughter's school. At 5.30pm, Year 6 will be modelling their hats in a catwalk show – an event not to be missed – in the new building.



Year 2 sale

Year 2 are still in need of clothes which can be sold as part of their 'Plenty for Twenty' sale. Donations can be brought to the School Office or Year 2 Classroom by Wednesday 10th July.



Dancing at Poynders Meadow

I will be taking the Maypole and Country dancing teams to perform at Poynders Meadow on Tuesday 16th July. We will be walking there and back, returning in time for lunch, and do not need permission slips returned for your child to be able to go.



Ice Cream Van Visit

As Year 2 children will be making Ice Cream vans as part of their Seaside project, we have a real ice cream van visiting on Friday 19th July. Ice creams will be available at a cost of £2. Children can bring in cash or parents can pay on the school gateway. If finance is an issue, but you would like your child to have an ice cream, please let us know – this will be treated completely confidentially.



Café church 7th July

Café Church takes place at the Peace Memorial Hall on Sunday, at 10.00 a.m. The session runs for about 1 hour 30 minutes. I will meet the children there. All families are most welcome to come along!



Countdown to the Summer Holidays
End of term events

Monday 8 th	Tuesday 9 th	Wednesday 10 th	Thursday 11 th	Friday 12 ^h	Sunday 7 th
	4.30 – 6.30 p.m. Open evening (5:30pm – Y6 hats catwalk)		<i>Year 6 visiting New Schools</i> Moving up morning for other Year groups	3.20 p.m. Year 2 Twenty buys Plenty sale	10.00am Café Church
Monday 15 th	Tuesday 16 th	Wednesday 17 th	Thursday 18 th	Friday 19 th	Saturday 20 th
	10.45 – 12.15: Maypole and Country Dancers to Poynders Meadow.			Sports Day 9.15 am Nursery & Reception From 11.30 a.m. Ice Cream van visiting.	Village Day 12.30 p.m. - Parade assembles in ‘The Opening’ 3.45 p.m. Maypole, and country dancers to meet Mrs Pollard by maypole
Monday 22 nd	Tuesday 23 rd				
Sports Day 9.15 am Years 1 & 2 1.15 p.m. Years 3-6	10.00am Leavers’ Service at St Giles – Year 6 families welcome 1.15pm Farewell to Year 6 on bottom playground 1.45pm - Term ends				

Please remember that I am always happy to discuss any issues with you. Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER