



# PRIORY COMMON SCHOOL



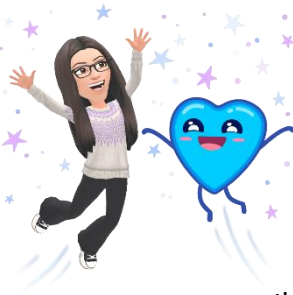
## SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER 2026

We take **Pride**, we **Care**, we are **Successful**

### Message from Head of School

Dear Priory Common School Community,

What a whirlwind this half term has been! As I reflect on the past few weeks, I'm genuinely amazed at just how much our school community has accomplished together. Time seems to have disappeared in the best possible way, filled with learning, celebration, and the kind of moments that remind us why we do what we do.



I want to take a moment to celebrate some of the wonderful achievements our pupils and staff have delivered. World Book Day was a fantastic occasion – seeing our young learners dressed as their favourite characters, sharing their love of stories, and engaging with books was truly special. It's these experiences that help us nurture a genuine passion for reading and imagination in our pupils.

I'm also incredibly proud to share that we've achieved 2nd place on the Milton Keynes Walk to School Challenge Leaderboard. What makes this even more remarkable is that we came within just 0.1% of making the Top Ten National Leadership Board, finishing 11th nationally. This is a massive achievement and a real testament to the commitment of our families and staff in promoting active, healthy lifestyles. Thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative – every step counts!

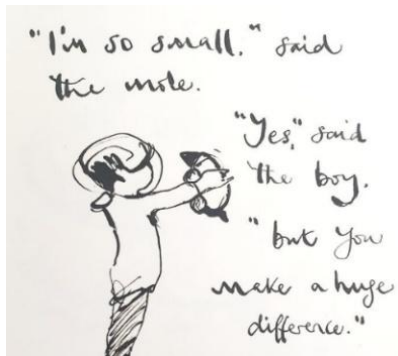
MILTON KEYNES LEADERBOARD	
1.	GREENLEYS JUNIOR SCHOOL
2.	PRIORY COMMON SCHOOL, BRADWELL
3.	OAKGROVE SCHOOL
4.	TWO MILE ASH SCHOOL
5.	GIFFARD PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
6.	BRADWELL VILLAGE SCHOOL
7.	WATLING PRIMARY SCHOOL
8.	THE WILLOWS SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE
9.	DRAYTON PARK SCHOOL

As we move forward, I want to acknowledge the dedication of Ms Atkins, who has been covering maternity leave in Hedgehogs Class this term. Ms Atkins has been wonderful, and I know you'll all join me in wishing her every success in her next post. We're delighted to welcome back Miss Geyton, who is returning from maternity leave and will be resuming her role as Hedgehogs class teacher and Assistant Head across the school. We look forward to having her back with us.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to Mrs Suckling who has joined us as School Business Support Manager and Mr Rouse, who you will have seen on the school gate, who has joined our Inclusive Learning Federation Site Team.

Before we break for the Easter holidays, I'd like to encourage all parents and carers to complete our Spring term Parent Questionnaire. Your voice truly matters to us. Whether you feel we're doing well or if there are areas you believe we could improve, this is your opportunity to share your thoughts and feedback. We value every response and use this information to help us continue to develop and strengthen what we offer our pupils.

As we approach the end of term, I wish you all a happy and safe holiday. It's been a pleasure to share this half term with our wonderful school community, and I very much look forward to welcoming you all back for an exciting Summer Term ahead.



Warmest regards,

Gill Cash

Head of School



## Curriculum and Teaching

### Rabbits Class The Oak



In Rabbits Class this half term learning has been based around the book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Through sensory activities, we have encouraged the children to participate in and to help promote their excitement and engagement for reading and writing.

During our Maths learning we have been working on different number skills, including recognising numbers and representing these in different ways, counting to and from a given number with the use of concrete materials such as blocks and counters. We have also learnt about measurement, position, and shapes. Activities have

helped the children recognise common shapes and begin to use language linked to size, such as big and small.

In our Science and Technology lessons our topics have been based on 'Brilliant Builders' and 'Growing Things'. We have learnt a range of skills, e.g. stacking, lifting and balancing to build and construct with the use of different materials. We have also created our own house with a mini grass garden that we will cut with scissors when the grass seeds grow in a few weeks.



## Hedgehogs Class Reception Year

### All Things Spring



### Literacy

In literacy we continued to learn more sounds during RWI. We learned to blend confidently and use our phonic knowledge to write CVC words and short phrases. We started to read and spell some high frequency words. We also started to use punctuation in our writing, capital letters, finger spaces, full stops.

### Maths

We started by identifying different representations of numbers up to 10. We learned how to find one more and one less than a number. We looked at how all numbers are made up of smaller numbers using lots of different equipment. We continued to subitise numbers, where we instantly recognised a small quantity without having to count how many there are. We began to explore simple 3D shapes looking at their sides and recognising them on everyday items. We also looked at addition and subtraction within 10.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we continued to look at healthy eating and the effects of exercise on our bodies. We looked at our dreams and goals. During PSHE we talked about challenging ourselves,

never giving up and setting goals for ourselves. We looked at how kind words and encouragement can help us and each other overcome obstacles.

## Squirrels Class Year 1

In Year 1, the children have been making a moving vehicle and can explain what must be changed so that the vehicle can work if the vehicle doesn't work. They are able to explain how their model works and how they could improve it further using technical vocabulary.

In Maths the children have been counting to and across 100, forwards and backwards, beginning with zero or 1, or from any given number. They have been able to identify and represent numbers using objects and pictorial representations including the number line, and use the language of equal to, more than, less than, fewer, most, least.



## Badgers Class Year 2

Badgers Class has had a busy and exciting half term, with lots of new learning across the curriculum! We had fun celebrating World Book Day and our love of reading by making paper plate book characters.



### Maths

We have been learning a range of strategies to support our understanding of multiplication and division. Ask us to show you our 2, 5 and 10 times tables!

We also completed our unit on length and height, where we practiced measuring in centimeters and meters. We enjoyed lots of hands-on lessons using rulers and meter sticks to build our skills.

## English

We have been learning how to write clear and effective instructions. We explored the key features, including a title, a list of equipment or ingredients, sequence words, and bossy (imperative) verbs. Why not practice at home? Can you write instructions for how to brush your teeth or wash your hands?



## Science

We have really enjoyed learning about animals and their habitats, exploring how different creatures live and survive in their environments. We went on a minibeast hunt to explore microhabitats around our playground.

## Design Technology

In Design Technology, we designed and made chairs for bears! We explored how the shape and thickness of different materials affect strength and tested our ideas to see which designs were the most stable and successful.



# Attendance and Behaviour

## Behaviour

**Well done Squirrels Class  
with an amazing 100% positive  
behaviours this half term.  
With Badgers Class following close behind with  
97%.**



All our pupils across the whole school continue to be brilliant; they have accumulated an impressive 15,835 positive behaviour points over the school year! This maintains our 97% positive behaviours across the school – a truly excellent accomplishment that we should all be proud of.

## Attendance

I'm delighted to share some positive news with you this half term. Our whole school attendance is **95.3%**, which represents a real improvement and is testament to the hard work

and commitment of our families and staff working together. This improvement has also positively impacted on our academic year attendance figure, which now stands at **92.8%**.

Whilst this is encouraging progress, I want to be transparent with you that we remain short of our school target of **94.5%**. This target is important because consistent attendance directly supports your child's learning and progress. Every day in school matters, and we continue to encourage you to work alongside us in making your child's attendance a genuine priority. Regular attendance helps pupils settle into routines, build friendships, and most importantly, access the quality teaching and learning experiences we provide here at Priory Common School.

I would like to extend a special well done and heartfelt thank you to the families who have been proactively working with us to improve their child's attendance. Your partnership and commitment to this goal have not gone unnoticed – every improvement counts, and we genuinely appreciate your support.

As we move into the summer season, I need to draw your attention to an important notice regarding holiday arrangements. I would ask that you **do not book holidays or family days out during term time**. Any absences taken during term time will be recorded as unauthorised, and in line with Department for Education policy, this may result in a fine being issued. We understand that school holidays can be expensive, and planning around term dates helps us all manage this better. Our term dates are published well in advance to support your planning, and we would encourage you to use these designated holiday periods for any family trips or time away.

We remain committed to working in partnership with you to ensure that every pupil at Priory Common School has the best possible start to their educational journey. Attendance is a crucial part of this, and we thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work together towards our attendance target.

## Personal Development and Well-being

It is our aim at Priory Common School to equip pupils with the knowledge and Cultural Capital they need to succeed in life.

This is done through both our hidden and explicit curriculums for: Personal Development, Social Development, Physical Development, Spiritual Development, Moral Development, Cultural Development and British Values.

### SPRING TERM 2026 – January

Whole School	Assemblies	Class Based
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Newsround – daily</li><li>❖ Values - Tolerance</li><li>❖ Makaton signs – days of the week</li><li>❖ Healthy Me</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Weekly values assembly – honesty</li><li>❖ Weekly welcome assembly</li><li>❖ Weekly singing assembly</li></ul>	<b>Key Stage 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Games Club – teamwork and solving challenges</li><li>❖ Maths Club – number games</li></ul>

❖ Faith day – Buddhism	❖ Weekly listen to a story – author/ illustrator of the half term assembly – Korky Paul	❖ St David’s Day
❖ Listening calendar – Escape into a world of music	❖ Weekly celebration assembly	❖ Ramadan
❖ WOW challenge	❖ British Values	❖ Mother’s Day
❖ World Book Day		❖ St Patricks Day
		❖ Good Friday

## Calendar Dates

- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – last day of half term
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April – school holiday (school closed to pupils)
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – pupils return to school
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – last day of half term

## Message from our Executive Headteacher

What a wonderful term it has been! I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights that have made this period so special for our school community.

World Book Day was a celebration that truly brought our school to life. Seeing our pupils dressed as their favourite characters, sharing stories, and discovering new books was a joy to witness. It reminded us of all of the magic that reading brings and the importance of nurturing a love of books from an early age. The enthusiasm and creativity on display were simply brilliant.

Throughout this term, our curriculum has continued to offer our pupils rich opportunities to learn and grow. Whether through exploration, play, or direct teaching, we have watched our children develop new skills, confidence, and a genuine curiosity about the world around them. Every day brings new discoveries, and it's a privilege to support their learning journey.

As we reflect on this term, I must express my heartfelt gratitude to the staff members who are leaving us. Your dedication, warmth, and commitment to our pupils have made a real difference. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you all the very best for the future.

I'm equally delighted to welcome our new staff members joining us. We look forward to working alongside you and to the fresh energy and ideas you will bring to our Federation.

Most importantly, I want to celebrate our pupils. They continue to amaze us with their kindness, enthusiasm, and resilience. We are so proud of each and every one of them.



None of this would be possible without the tremendous support we receive from our families and everyone who contributes to our school community. Your partnership, encouragement, and involvement mean everything to us. Thank you for believing in what we do and for being such an integral part of the Inclusive Learning Federation.

Sashi Siva

Executive Headteacher