

# PRIORY COMMON SCHOOL

## AUTUMN 2 NEWSLETTER 2024

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

### Message from Head of School

Dear Priory Common School community,

As we draw the curtains on another bustling half term, I find myself reflecting on the myriad of experiences and achievements that have coloured our school life. It's been a whirlwind of activity, each day bringing new opportunities for growth and learning.

Our recent Parent and Carer Coffee Morning, supported by PACA for the PINS Project, was a resounding success. To those who attended, I extend my heartfelt thanks. I hope you found the session as enlightening and useful as we intended it to be. Additionally, our School Nurse drop-in sessions have provided valuable support to our community.

I'm deeply grateful to all who took the time to complete our School Questionnaire. Your feedback is invaluable, and it warms my heart to learn that you feel your children are happy, safe, and thriving at Priory Common School. We've noted that some families were uncertain about how we support their child's wider personal development. I'd like to direct your attention to our Personal Development Section in this Newsletter, where you'll find a comprehensive table showcasing the wealth of additional experiences and opportunities, we've offered our pupils in just the last two months. It's quite remarkable when you see it all laid out!

Looking back over these past couple of months, I'm struck by how much our staff and pupils have accomplished. It's truly awe-inspiring. I'd like to shine a spotlight on Mrs Gray, our Phonics and Early Reading Lead, who has been working tirelessly to enhance our Phonics and



reading provision. A big thank you to all who attended the Phonics Meeting - your engagement is crucial to our success. We've had the pleasure of welcoming visitors from Read, Write, Inc and our local English Hub, both of whom have expressed their admiration for the progress we're making. It's not just external validation that's encouraging - our internal school data clearly shows the positive impact of these efforts, with all our pupils performing admirably.

The magic of the season has certainly touched our school, with the mysterious Elves making their annual appearance. They've gifted us a wonderful tree for all to enjoy and have been keeping themselves (and us!) entertained with their daily adventures around the classrooms and school building.

As we embark on our two-week holiday, I urge you to take a moment to review the 10 top tips for safety over the festive season that can be found on our school website [here](#). Your children's wellbeing is paramount, even when they're not under our direct care.

In closing, I wish you all a safe and joyous Christmas break. This is a time for family, for creating memories, and for recharging our batteries. I hope you'll take this opportunity to spend quality time with your loved ones, to laugh, to play, and to simply be present with one another.

When we return, we'll be ready to embark on new adventures in learning, armed with fresh energy and enthusiasm. Until then, enjoy every moment of this special time.



With warmest regards,  
Gill Cash  
Head of School



## Improving the Quality of Education

As we move through this exciting term, I'm delighted to share some wonderful developments and achievements from our school. Our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, creative, and healthy pupils continues to shape our approach to education.

This half term we have further enhanced our [Wellbeing and Mental Health](#) Page on the School Website. This invaluable resource now offers an extensive insight into how we support our pupils' emotional well-being at school. Parents and carers will find a wealth of useful websites and resources to extend this support at home. We believe that by working together, we can ensure our children develop strong mental health foundations for life.

Our curriculum continues to evolve, with a particular focus on Design and Technology this half term. It's been a joy to see the creativity and enthusiasm of our pupils as they engage in hands-on learning experiences.



Our Reception children have been honing their fine motor skills, mastering cutting and joining techniques - essential skills that will serve them well in future creative endeavours.

Year 1 pupils have donned their chef hats, designing and making smoothies, while also exploring the world of moving stories using sliders. Their imagination and technical skills are truly blossoming.





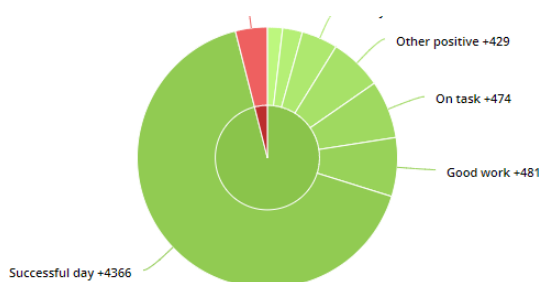


Year 2 has embarked on exciting projects, combining storytelling with engineering. They've been tasked with creating a chair for Baby Bear, putting their problem-solving skills to the test. They've also delved into the realm of mechanisms, crafting moving monsters that are sure to spark joy and wonder.

For those eager to learn more about these fantastic projects, I encourage you to explore our Design and Technology overview, [here](#), where you'll find a more detailed look at the learning journey our pupils are on.

As always, I'm immensely proud of our pupils' achievements and the dedication of our staff in providing such rich, engaging learning experiences. Together, we're nurturing a love for learning that will last a lifetime.

## Behaviours and Attitudes



I'm delighted to share some wonderful news about our School's positive behaviour. Our pupils have truly excelled this half term, accumulating an impressive 2,954 positive behaviour points. This brings our total since September to a remarkable 6,333 points! It's heartening to see that 96% of behaviours across the school have been positive. A huge well done to all our staff and pupils for creating such a conducive learning environment, supporting good levels of progress and attainment.

While we celebrate these successes, I must also address our attendance figures. Unfortunately, our overall attendance has dipped slightly from 94.57% to 93%. Reception has seen a decrease from 96.42% to 93.9%, Year 1 from 89.83% to 89.5%, and Year 2 from 96.41% to 94.6%. I understand that many nasty bugs have been circulating, but I kindly ask for your support in improving these attendance levels. Every day at school counts towards your child's education and future success.

Let's work together to boost our attendance while maintaining our excellent behaviour. Your support is invaluable in ensuring our pupils receive the best possible education.

# Personal Development

## AUTUMN TERM 2024 – November & December

Whole School	Assemblies	Class Based
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Newsround – daily</li> <li>❖ Values - responsibility</li> <li>❖ Makaton signs – sit, louder, Hedgehogs, Squirrels, Badgers, stand</li> <li>❖ Celebrating difference</li> <li>❖ Faith day – Christianity</li> <li>❖ Listening calendar – Escape into a world of music</li> <li>❖ Odd Socks day – anti-bullying week</li> <li>❖ Lego club</li> <li>❖ Coding club</li> <li>❖ Football club</li> <li>❖ WOW challenge</li> <li>❖ Christmas posties</li> <li>❖ Christmas performance</li> <li>❖ Cosy PJ's day</li> <li>❖ Christmas party</li> <li>❖ Christmas dinner</li> <li>❖ Charity – Food Bank, Poppy Appeal</li> <li>❖ Visit from local MP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Weekly values assembly – responsibility</li> <li>❖ Weekly welcome assembly</li> <li>❖ Weekly singing assembly</li> <li>❖ Weekly listen to a story – author/ illustrator of the half term assembly – Julia Donaldson</li> <li>❖ Weekly celebration assembly</li> <li>❖ British Values</li> <li>❖ WOW assembly – the walk to school challenge</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Stage 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 05/11 Bonfire Night/Guy Fawkes (Firework safety)</li> <li>❖ 13/11 World kindness day</li> <li>❖ 20/11 Universal children's day</li> <li>❖ 28/11 Thanksgiving</li> <li>❖ 04/12 Wildlife conservation day</li> <li>❖ 10/12 Human Rights Day</li> <li>❖ Christmas activities – winter arts and crafts</li> </ul>



## Calendar Dates

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – School holiday (no school)
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Pupils return to school
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – 9am Reception class assembly for friends and family
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February – 9am Year 1 class assembly for friends and family
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February – last day of half term
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – INSET Day – school closed to pupils

## Message from our Executive Headteacher

What a lovely Term this has been! Well done everybody! I could not be prouder of you all.

There has been some amazing learning and excellent opportunities for our children to excel

in all walks of life. This is truly a testament to Preparation for Life!

“  
The best  
preparation for  
tomorrow is  
doing your  
best today.

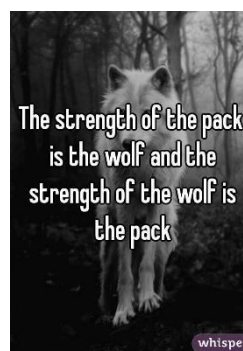
-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

♥ InspirationalQuotesGazette.com

The amount of time and effort given to ensuring this enriched education is something to be marvelled at and valued.

This is always enhanced when we work together and help each other.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.



Stay safe and I hope your holiday is filled with love, peace and kindness!

Ms Sashi Siva

Executive Headteacher

Inclusive Learning Federation



## Over to you - Parent / Carer voice

Please take a few moments to complete our 2 questionnaires.

One is in relation to the Christmas Performance. Many of you had such lovely comments to share with staff after the performances and we would like to take the opportunity to capture these and share them with our pupils.



Christmas Performance 2024



<https://forms.office.com/e/L2weZET8NT>

The other is to gather the views of both you and your child on our After School Enrichment Clubs.

After school enrichment clubs



<https://forms.office.com/e/BWJjLEP1SC>

