



PRIORY COMMON SCHOOL



SUMMER 2 NEWSLETTER 2026

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

Message from Head of School

Dear Priory Common School Community,

What a whirlwind of a school year this has been, filled with so many amazing accomplishments that I am truly proud to share with you all.

Our recent assessment week provided a wonderful opportunity for all our pupils to demonstrate their 'sticky knowledge' and showcase just how much they have learnt. It is always a privilege to see the progress our pupils have made and to reflect on how far they have come throughout the year. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work, the dedication of our staff, and the invaluable support you provide as families. Teamwork really does make the dream work, and this year has been a perfect example of that.



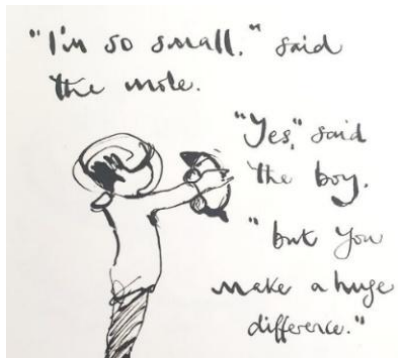
I am also delighted to reflect on our ASC Unit, The Oak, which has now been open for a year. It only seems like yesterday that the keys were handed over, yet the provision feels like it has always been an integral part of our school community. It is a real privilege to welcome these pupils into our family and to watch them flourish in this purpose-built environment.

As we look forward to the new academic year and welcome our new families into our school community, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the pupils and families who are leaving us. The pupils have shown that they truly care, take pride in all they do, and have been successful in so many ways. I wish you all the very best in your new school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff members who will be leaving us. We wish Miss Akhtar all the best for her upcoming wedding and all the wonderful things the future holds for her. We also wish Miss A good luck as she continues her academic path. A big thank you goes to Miss Tanner for all the support and dedication she has given to our Year 2 pupils.

Although it is sad to say goodbye, we are also excited to welcome two new members of staff joining us in September. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Ackerman, who will be teaching Year 1, and Miss Lynch, who will be teaching Year 2. We look forward to them becoming part of our school family.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement in our school community is truly valued. I hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer, and I very much look forward to another exciting year ahead.



Warmest regards,

Gill Cash

Head of School

Safeguarding

As we approach the summer break, I want to remind our school community that for some, this time away from school can feel challenging. If you or your family need support during the holidays, please don't hesitate to reach out to friends and family – connection is so important.

I'd also like to draw your attention to our [safeguarding page](#) on the school website, where you'll find details of various agencies that can provide support during this period. Whether it's advice, guidance, or someone to talk to, these resources are there for you.

We're here for you, and we want to ensure everyone in our community feels supported and cared for.

Curriculum and Teaching

Rabbits Class The Oak

This half term in Rabbits class we have been learning...

This term, the children have enjoyed a range of engaging, sensory learning experiences across the curriculum.



In English, we explored the story *Owl Babies* through sensory storytelling and colourful semantics. The children enjoyed joining in with repeated words and actions, using symbols and visuals to support their understanding and communication. We also developed fine motor skills through mark making, letter formation, finger painting, playdough, threading and other sensory activities to support early writing.



In Maths, the children explored number, shape and position through practical, hands-on learning. They practised recognising and counting numbers, explored the language of more and less and developed early addition and subtraction skills using concrete resources. We also enjoyed recognising shapes, building structures and creating simple patterns.

Our Science learning focused on wild animals and food chains. The children explored a variety of animals, their habitats and what they eat through sensory play, investigations and outdoor learning. We also observed changes in the natural world and enjoyed exploring nature.

In Topic, we learned about Transport, Shabbat and Chanukah through Attention Autism sessions, continuous provision and sensory exploration. The children enjoyed a range of practical activities to develop their understanding of the world around them.



During Expressive Arts and Design, the children explored different media and materials through painting, mark making, colour mixing and model making. They also enjoyed music sessions where they joined in with familiar songs, explored musical instruments and created simple rhythms.

Life skills remain at the heart of everything we do in Rabbits. Throughout the term, the children have continued to develop their communication, independence, social interaction, emotional regulation and self care skills through structured play, daily routines and practical learning experiences. We have also focused on developing independence by encouraging the children to put on and take off their shoes, wash and dry their hands, make choices and follow simple routines.

We are incredibly proud of all the progress the children have made this term.



Hedgehogs Class Reception Year

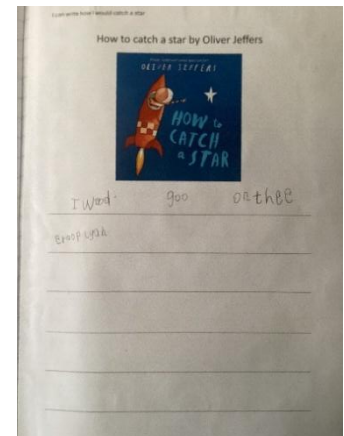
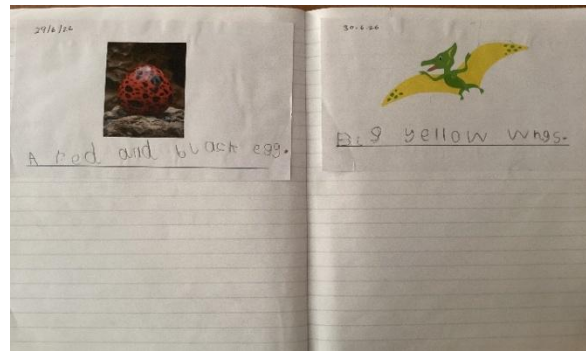
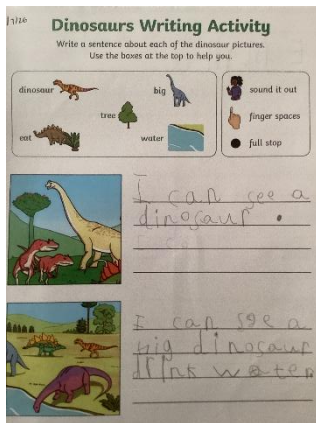
Hedgehogs class – Summer 2

What an exciting half term Hedgehogs have had! They have faced new learning opportunities with perseverance and positivity. They have also all worked very hard preparing for the transition to Year 1!

Literacy

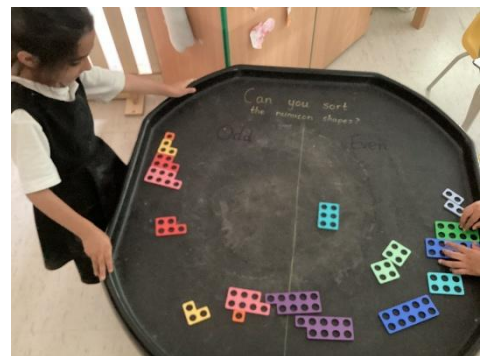
In Literacy this half term, the children have been developing their independence by challenging themselves to write simple sentences using their growing phonic knowledge. They have continued to

refine their handwriting through regular practice, focusing on correct letter formation and presentation. The children have also been working hard to spell common words accurately, using the 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' strategy to build their confidence and improve their spelling skills.



Maths

In Maths this half term, the children have been consolidating their understanding of addition and subtraction with numbers to 10, building confidence and accuracy through a range of practical and engaging activities. They have also revisited the concepts of odd and even numbers, using resources such as ten frames and Numicon to help identify and explain their thinking. As part of their preparation for Year 1, the children have been working hard to recall and apply their doubles facts up to double 5, developing their fluency and confidence with number.



Physical Development

This half term in Physical Development, the children have thoroughly enjoyed preparing for and taking part in our Sports Day activities. They worked hard to develop their balance and coordination during the egg and spoon race and showed great determination and resilience as they completed the dressing-up race. It was wonderful to see them encouraging one another and celebrating each other's achievements.

The children have also been busy strengthening their hand and finger muscles through a range of playdough and scissor activities. Using their hands alongside a variety of tools and cutters, they moulded, rolled and shaped the dough to create imaginative models, helping to develop the fine motor skills that are so important for writing and other everyday tasks.



Understanding the World

This half term in Understanding the World, the children have enjoyed exploring the fascinating topic of Space through our *Fantasy and Fairytale*s theme. Inspired by the story *How to Catch a Star*, they discussed different ways we might travel to space and let their imaginations soar. Our role-play area became a space station, where the children dressed up as astronauts and created their own exciting space adventures, developing their understanding through imaginative play.



The recent hot weather has also provided the perfect opportunity to revisit our learning about the seasons and different types of weather. The children talked about how the warm temperatures affect our daily lives and explored ways to stay safe and cool, putting their understanding into practice as they enjoyed cooling off throughout the day.

Expressive Arts and Design



This half term, the children have had a wonderful time exploring Expressive Arts and Design through imaginative play and creative activities. They have thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and taking on a wide range of different characters, confidently using their voices, facial expressions and gestures to bring their roles to life. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and confidence flourish as they acted out different scenarios alongside their friends.



The children have also demonstrated excellent perseverance and determination during our dinosaur excavation activity. Using small tools and brushes, they carefully worked to 'free' dinosaurs trapped inside their eggs, showing great concentration, patience and developing their fine motor skills as they dug them out. We have been so impressed with their enthusiasm and resilience throughout these activities.

Squirrels Class Year 1



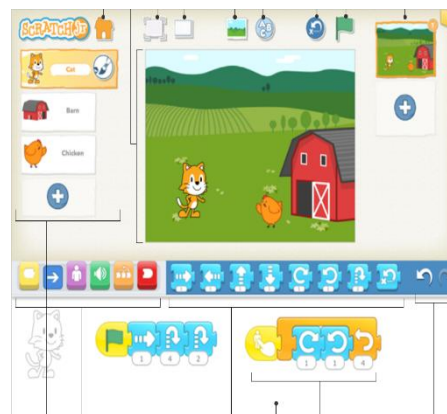
In Science this year, the children in Squirrels class thoroughly enjoyed planting their own cress seeds and learning how plants grow. They carefully followed each step of the planting process and have loved watching their cress seeds grow over time. The children have monitored their plants closely, observing the changes each day and discussing what they noticed. Through this hands-on experience, they have learned that plants need water, sunlight and the right conditions to grow and stay healthy. They have also developed their observation skills by comparing the growth of their plants and recording what they have seen, making this a fun and memorable learning experience.

In Year One, the children have thoroughly enjoyed making their own hand puppets during our DT lessons and have shown fantastic enthusiasm, creativity and determination throughout the project. They learned about the different steps involved in designing and making a hand puppet, including how to safely join pieces of fabric together using staples and safety pins to create a simple puppet shape. The children worked incredibly hard to explore and practise different ways of joining fabrics, developing their confidence and understanding of basic textile techniques. Once their puppets were assembled, they loved bringing their ideas to life by transforming them into their favourite characters. They used a wonderful range of materials, including fabric, felt, wool, buttons, googly eyes and coloured paper, to decorate their puppets in imaginative and unique ways. It was wonderful to see the children's creativity shine as they carefully selected colours, textures and decorations to make each puppet special. They showed great perseverance, pride and attention to detail throughout the project, and were delighted to share their finished creations with their classmates.



In Maths, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about money in their maths lessons and have made excellent progress in recognising and identifying different British coins and notes. They have developed their understanding of the value of each coin and note and have become increasingly confident in counting money using a variety of practical activities. Through hands-on learning, the children have explored different combinations of coins to make the same amount, helping them to deepen their understanding of number and value. They have worked hard to solve a range of money word problems, using their reasoning skills to decide which coins to use, calculate totals and find the correct answers. One of the highlights of this topic has been the opportunity to use fake money during role-play activities, where the classroom was transformed into shops and cafés. These real-life scenarios allowed the children to practise buying and selling items, paying with the correct amount of money and, where appropriate, working out simple change. The role-play activities helped to bring their learning to life, encouraging confidence, teamwork and communication while reinforcing important mathematical concepts. It has been wonderful to see the children become more confident with money and understand how it is used in everyday life.

In Computing lessons Squirrels have thoroughly enjoyed learning about programming using ScratchJr. They have learned how to move a sprite by selecting and sequencing different commands, helping them to understand the basics of programming. They also enjoyed creating their own colourful backgrounds and characters, using their creativity to design exciting projects. As their confidence grew, the children developed their understanding of how to input commands in the correct order to make their sprites move, speak and interact, demonstrating excellent problem-solving skills and enthusiasm throughout their learning.



Badgers Class Year 2

In Badgers Class, we've packed so much into our final term, making wonderful memories, celebrating our achievements and having lots of fun together. We worked very hard during our end of year assessments and are so proud of ourselves for doing our very best. We survived a heatwave! We stayed cool with plenty of water, shade and exciting water play—including the sprinkler and hose.



We enjoyed following and celebrating the FIFA World Cup 2026. We loved learning about different countries, cheering for our favourite teams, and sharing the excitement of a global sporting event.



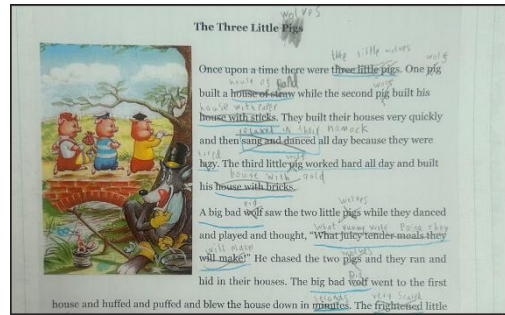
Maths

We've become time experts! We made our own analogue clocks and used them to help us practice telling the time. It was a fun way to learn and build our confidence. What time is it?



English

We explored twisted traditional tales. We focused on The Three Little Pigs and enjoyed changing parts of the story to create our own exciting and funny versions. We used our imagination to twist the characters, events and even change the ending.



Science

We've really enjoyed learning about life cycles this term. We explored how animals grow from babies into adults and compared the life cycles of different living things. We discovered that every living thing has an incredible journey. What is the life cycle of a human?

Foundation Subjects

In Computing, we've been using ScratchJr on the iPads to learn how to program. We created backgrounds and our own characters, giving them instructions to move and interact. We really enjoyed bringing our ideas to life!



In Design and Technology, we have been learning how to sew using a running stitch. We carefully stitched our own fabric pouches and showed great concentration and patience throughout the process.



In History, we've been learning about the monarch and what it means to be a king or queen. We had lots of fun designing and making our own crowns as part of our learning.

In PE, we prepared for Sport's Day. We showed determination and sportsmanship for our exciting events. Well done to everyone involved, especially the green team on your victory!



Attendance and Behaviour

Behaviour

I am delighted to share how proud we are of our pupils' behaviour this term. Since introducing our new behaviour monitoring programme, our pupils have earned an impressive 5,828 positive clickers. This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication of both our pupils and staff in maintaining the clear routines that underpin everything we do at Priory Common School.

When our pupils follow these consistent routines, they create an environment where learning flourishes and success becomes possible. Every positive click represents a moment where a pupil has made a good choice, and collectively, these moments build a culture of excellence. We are genuinely excited about the positive impact this is having across our school community.

Attendance

Our current attendance sits at 92.7%, which is slightly below our target of 94.5%. Every child's yearly attendance record has been included with their annual report, and I'd encourage you to take time to review the days missed. This reflection can help us identify whether some absences might have been avoided.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all families who have been working alongside us to improve their child's attendance. Your commitment makes a real difference. A special well done to those pupils and families who have achieved our target – you're setting a wonderful example for our school community.

Personal Development and Well-being

National Picnic Week

To celebrate National Picnic Week, on Friday 19th June all of the children enjoyed a special picnic lunch together. They collected their picnic lunch bags and headed outside to the playground, where they sat on blankets with their friends and shared a meal in the sunshine. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to enjoy the outdoors, spend time socialising with their peers and celebrate this fun national event together.



Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day took place in the sunshine on Friday 3rd July and was a fantastic success, enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents alike. All of the children participated enthusiastically, giving their very best in every race and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship throughout the event. It was wonderful to see everyone encouraging and cheering on their classmates, creating a positive and supportive atmosphere from start to finish.

A huge congratulations goes to Green Frogs, who were crowned this year's Sports Day champions and proudly collected the house trophy. Well done to everyone who took part – you should all be incredibly proud of your determination, resilience and team spirit!



SUMMER TERM 2026 May - July

Whole School	Assemblies	Class Based
❖ Newsround – daily ❖ Values - forgiveness ❖ Makaton signs – family members and people who help us ❖ Changing me ❖ Faith day – Islam ❖ Listening calendar – Escape into a world of music ❖ WOW challenge ❖ Music Club – singing and signing ❖ Design and Technology Club – sewing and weaving ❖ Sports Day ❖ Whole school picnic	❖ Weekly values assembly – tolerance ❖ Weekly welcome assembly ❖ Weekly singing assembly ❖ Weekly listen to a story – author/ illustrator of the half term assembly – Oliver Jeffers ❖ Weekly celebration assembly ❖ British Values ❖ Year 2 Leavers	Key Stage 1 ❖ World Environment Day ❖ Father's Day ❖ Windrush Day ❖ International Women in Engineering day ❖ International joke Day ❖ Shark Awareness Day ❖ Nelson Mandela Day

Calendar Dates

- Friday 17th July – last day of school year
- **Monday 20th July**– INSET day school closed to pupils
- **Tuesday 21st July – Monday 31st August – Summer holidays (school closed to pupils)**
- **Tuesday 1st September** INSET day school closed to pupils
- Wednesday 2nd September – children return to school for new academic year

Message from our Executive Headteacher

As we come to the end of another busy and successful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the many achievements across Priory Common School. This year has been filled with learning, celebration, challenge and growth, and it has been wonderful to see our pupils living out our values: taking pride, showing care and being successful in so many different ways.

Across the year, the children have shown great enthusiasm for their learning, whether through exciting classroom projects, creative experiences, sporting events, assemblies, celebrations or opportunities to explore the wider world. Their curiosity, confidence and resilience have continued to grow, and it has been a pleasure to see them develop as learners and as members of our school community.

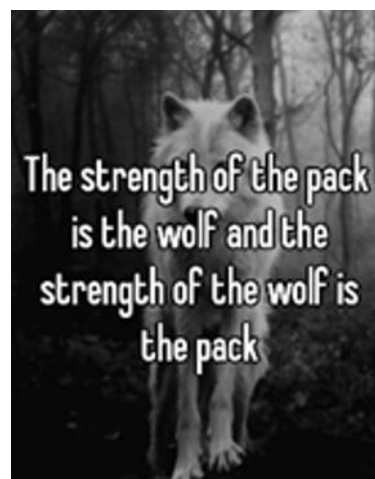
A particular highlight this year has been seeing the continued development of our inclusive provision, including the first full year of The Oak. The commitment shown by staff, pupils and families has ensured that our inclusive ethos remains at the heart of everything we do. Every child is known, valued and supported to achieve their very best.

I would also like to thank our dedicated staff team for their hard work, care and professionalism throughout the year. Their commitment makes such a difference to the daily experiences of our pupils. Thank you too to our families, governors and wider community for your ongoing support and partnership. Working together enables our children to flourish.

As we look ahead to the new academic year, I am excited about the opportunities still to come across the Inclusive Learning Federation. For now, I wish all our pupils, families and staff a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another year of learning, achievement and success.

Ms Sashi Siva (Executive Headteacher)

Inclusive Learning Federation



Priory Common School

Term Dates 2026 - 2027

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Back to school		Finish on
Wednesday 2nd September 2026		Friday 23rd October 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026		Friday 18th December 2026

SPRING TERM 2027

Back to school		Finish on
Tuesday 5th January 2027		Thursday 11th February 2027
Monday 22nd February 2027		Thursday 25th March 2027

SUMMER TERM 2027

Back to school		Finish on
Monday 12th April 2027		Friday 28th May 2027
Monday 7th June 2027		Wednesday 21st July 2027

INSET DAYS

(Staff training days when the school will be closed to pupils)
2026- 2027

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Friday 12th February 2027

Friday 30th April 2027

Monday 28th June 2027

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