



PRIORY COMMON SCHOOL



AUTUMN 2 NEWSLETTER 2025

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

Message from Head of School

Dear Priory Common School Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I wanted to share some exciting updates and celebrations from our school.

First, a heartfelt thank you to all who completed our recent survey. I am delighted to report that 100% of respondents agreed that their child feels happy and safe at our school. This wonderful feedback was consistently reflected on staff and pupil surveys, which fills me with immense pride.

Our pupils continue to impress me with their enthusiasm for learning sign language. This half term, they have been exploring feelings and Christmas-related words and phrases. I encourage you to ask them to demonstrate what they have learned – I am sure they will be eager to show you!

We are thrilled to announce the full launch of our new school logo. It beautifully represents every aspect of our school, from our membership in the Inclusive Learning Federation to our beloved animal-named classes. The logo is now available on clothing from Maisies, and we think it looks fantastic.

I would like to take a moment to celebrate some of our valued team members. Last week, pupils gave Mr Walters, our Federation Site Manager, a warm send-off as he retires. He was presented with beautiful cards that I am sure he will treasure as memories of his time with us. At the end of this week, we will be bidding a fond farewell to Mrs Roberts, our School Business Manager, as she moves on to a new job. We wish them both the best in their future endeavours. Additionally, we would like to thank Mrs Seguin, who has been teaching Badgers this term and look forward to welcoming Miss Tanner.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting developments. Following feedback from parents about our website usage, we are refreshing our online presence. We will be launching a new, more user-friendly website in the New Year that we hope will be more accessible to everyone. As



part of our commitment to inclusion and belonging, our Federation will be supporting pupils in creating avatars that represent themselves. We are excited for the whole school community to get involved, so watch this space for more details!

With warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday,
Gill Cash
Head of School



Curriculum and Teaching

Rabbits Class The Oak

We've had a wonderful half term in Rabbits Class, full of exploration, creativity and lots of meaningful, fun learning experiences.

This half term, the children have enjoyed listening to and joining in with a variety of stories and nursery rhymes. We have encouraged participation through actions, repeated lines and visuals to help build excitement and engagement in reading and communication.

Our focus book was *The Rainbow Fish*, which supported the children in developing language, turn-taking and understanding of sharing and friendship. We have also been practicing fine-motor skills and letter formation, helping the children develop confidence in mark-making and handwriting.



In Maths, we have been exploring early number skills, recognising shapes and using positional language. Children have taken part in a range of practical activities including:

- Number and shape recognition activities
- Preposition activities using real objects and movement

In Art and Design, we have been encouraging creativity through sensory and exploratory art. The children have:

- Painted using their hands and feet
- Explored different textures and materials
- Practiced scissor skills, which supports fine-motor development and coordination



Hedgehogs Class Reception Year

A Season to Celebrate.

Literacy

We have continued to learn the Set 1 sounds in RWI and are beginning to blend them to read simple words. We explored how to use story language to describe what was happening in wordless books. We have been working on forming each letter of the alphabet correctly when we have been writing.

Mathematics

We started identifying different representations of numbers up to 5. We have been learning 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 have started to subitise numbers, where we instantly recognise a small quantity without having to count how many there are. We have explored simple 2D shapes looking at their sides and recognising them on everyday items.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We explored celebrating our differences and identified what we are good at. We talked about using kind words and learning how to give and receive compliments. We looked at our families and our homes and how these compared to others around the world.

We are looking forward to our Christmas holidays and learning more in January.

Squirrels Class Year 1

In Year 1, the children have been busy developing their practical skills and understanding through exciting, hands-on learning. In DT, they followed a simple recipe to create their own smoothies, identifying which ingredients needed chopping and which were best juiced. They used their senses to describe and compare the smoothies they made, thinking carefully about taste, texture and smell. The children also considered how their ingredient choices might affect other people, discussing healthy options and making links to foods they have tried before when designing their own product.



In Maths, the children have been using rekenreks regularly to support and deepen their number knowledge, helping them to explore numbers with confidence and understanding.

Badgers Class Year 2

This second half term in Badgers class we have been doing lots of learning and enjoying all the excitement of the lead-up to the festive season.

English

In English lessons, we have spent a lot of time on comprehension, learning how to read and interpret a text. We have also improved our dictation skills, remembering sentences and writing them correctly, which also improves our spelling skills. There has been a big focus on improving our handwriting and getting ready to join our letters.

Mathematics

In Maths, we have learnt about addition and subtraction, using our place value to help us. We have also spent time learning about 2D and 3D shapes, including lines of symmetry. Our current topic that we have just started is money.

Science

During Science lessons, we learnt all about humans. We learnt about keeping healthy, the effects of exercise and about looking after our teeth.

Foundation Subjects

In History we studied schools in the past, such as in the 1970s and as far back as the 1900s. At the end, we had to decide whether we would have preferred to go to school in the past or in present times. We also enjoyed PE; learning to dance like a superhero! DT was all about designing and making a Ferris wheel. In RE, we found out all about how candles are important to different faiths in their worship.



Attendance and Behaviour

Behaviour

**Well done Squirrels Class
with an amazing 100% positive
behaviours this half term.**



All our pupils across the whole school continue to be brilliant; they have accumulated an impressive 8,050 positive behaviour points over the Autumn Term! This maintains our 97% positive behaviours across the school – a truly excellent accomplishment that we should all be proud of.

Attendance



**Well done Squirrels Class
with the highest attendance at 94.5%
this term.**

Attendance is crucial to our pupils' success. Our whole school attendance currently stands at 92.7%, which is below the national average of 95.3%. While this might seem like just a number, it represents something far more significant - every day of learning matters.



I am pleased to celebrate with Squirrels Class, who achieved an impressive 94.5% attendance rate. Well done to those pupils and their families!

I want to address a few important points directly. First, please avoid taking pupils out of school during term time for holidays. Consistency is key in education. Even missing just one day can have a substantial impact on learning. For instance, missing a single day in Reception could mean not learning a critical phonics sound - and these foundational skills are essential.

If your child is slightly unwell, please refer to the NHS guidance on ['Should I keep my child off school?'](#). Many minor ailments do not require absence, and maintaining regular attendance supports continuous learning.



Our pupils' educational journey is a partnership between school and home, and everyday counts. Together, we can ensure our pupils get the most out of their time at Priory Common.

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. Our understanding of Cultural Capital is derived from the following wording in the National Curriculum:

'It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.'

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.

AUTUMN TERM 2025 – November & December

Whole School	Assemblies	Class Based
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Newsround – daily ❖ Values - Caring ❖ Makaton signs – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How are you? ○ Happy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weekly values assembly – caring ❖ Weekly welcome assembly ❖ Weekly singing assembly 	<p>Key Stage 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ (1/11) All Saints' Day ❖ (11/11) Remembrance Day

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sad ○ Worried ○ Angry ○ happy new year ○ Christmas ○ Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Celebrating difference ❖ Faith day – Christianity ❖ Listening calendar – Escape into a world of music ❖ Charity – Poppy Appeal ❖ WOW challenge ❖ Christmas party ❖ Christmas dinner ❖ MP Christmas card competition ❖ Cosy PJ's day ❖ Christmas performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weekly listen to a story – author/ illustrator of the half term assembly – Michael Rosen ❖ Weekly celebration assembly ❖ British Values ❖ Remembrance Day ❖ WOW assembly – the walk to school challenge ❖ Children in Need – Joe Wicks work out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ (13-17/11) Anti-bullying Week ❖ (21/11) World Hello Day ❖ (30/11) St Andrew's Day ❖ (7-15/12) Hanukkah ❖ Christmas activities – winter arts and crafts ❖ DT Club – Lego ❖ PE Club – Football ❖ Computing Club - Coding
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Calendar Dates

- Friday 19th December – Last day of Autumn Term
- Monday 23rd December – Friday 2nd January – School holiday (school closed to pupils)
- Monday 5th January – First day of Spring Term, pupils return to school
- Friday 13th February – last day of half term
- Monday 16th – Friday 20th February – School holiday (school closed to pupils)

Message from our Executive Headteacher

I hope this Newsletter finds you well as we approach the festive season. I wanted to take a moment to share some wonderful reflections on our schools' achievements this term and express my heartfelt gratitude for everyone's incredible efforts.

I am delighted to highlight some significant milestones we've accomplished together:

We have successfully opened our Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Units, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to inclusive education and supporting every pupil's unique learning journey. This expansion represents our dedication to providing personalised learning environments for all our pupils.

Throughout this term, we have created numerous personal development opportunities that have enabled our pupils to grow, learn, and challenge themselves beyond traditional academic boundaries. These experiences have been instrumental in supporting holistic pupil development.

I am immensely proud to report the good progress our pupils have made across various academic and personal domains. Their resilience, curiosity, and hard work continue to inspire our entire school community.

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to our extraordinary staff and governors. Their commitment, passion, and tireless dedication have been the cornerstone of our schools' success. Their professional expertise and genuine care make an immeasurable difference in our pupils' lives.

As we approach the Christmas season, I wish you all a restful and joyful break. Your continued support and collaboration make our Federation an exceptional learning community.

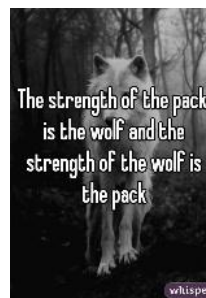
Warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas,



Ms Sashi Siva

Executive Headteacher

Inclusive Learning Federation



Have a safe and fun winter break and we wish you all a very Happy New Year.

