

PRIORY COMMON SCHOOL

AUTUMN 1 NEWSLETTER 2024

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

Message from Head of School

Dear Priory Common School community,

As we settle into the rhythm of a new academic year, I'm delighted to share some highlights from our bustling school life. It's been wonderful to welcome our new Reception pupils and their families, as well as new faces in Key Stage 1. Your children have made an excellent start, quickly adapting to school routines, and embracing the learning journey ahead.

I'm pleased to report that our first Parent/Carer Consultations of the year were well attended. These meetings are invaluable in fostering strong home-school partnerships, and I thank you for your engagement and support.

Recently, we had our Annual Evaluation from the School Improvement Partney from the Local Authority. I'm thrilled to share that the outcome was very positive. Our School Improvement Partner was particularly impressed by the warm welcome from our staff and the delightful, confident nature of our pupils. This feedback is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community.

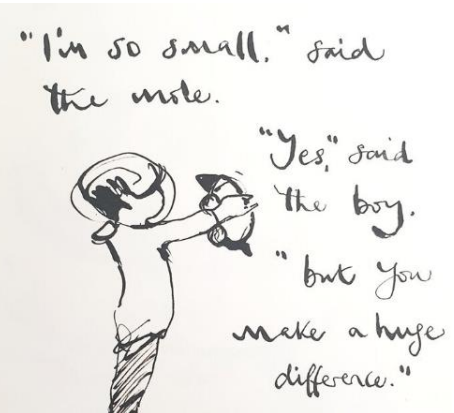
Looking beyond our gates, I'm proud to announce that the new units for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition have opened in our sister schools, Bradwell Village and Romans Field. We're excited that plans are progressing for a similar unit at Priory Common, set to open in September 2025.

Your generosity continues to shine through our charity work. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to our Food Bank collection - your donations will make a real difference to those in need. We're also grateful for your support for the Poppy Appeal; your contributions honour those who have served and sacrificed.

As we move into the term, I am looking forward to continuing to work together, celebrating our achievements, and supporting one another. Please do complete our questionnaire at the end of this newsletter. Your ongoing commitment to our school community is what makes Priory Common such a special place to learn and grow.



With warmest regards,
Gill Cash
Head of School



Improving the Quality of Education

I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates about our school's ongoing commitment to excellence in education. We've been working tirelessly to enhance our curriculum, with a particular focus on Geography this half term. Our pupils have been engaging in fascinating geographical studies, and their enthusiasm is truly inspiring.

I'm delighted to announce that we've further developed our Geography subject page on the school website. This resource offers valuable insights into our approach and the children's learning journey. You can explore it [here](#).

Recently, our School Improvement Partner visited and was impressed by our pupils' engagement with Geography. She noted, "Pupils' work and Pupil Voice demonstrate that pupils enjoy and engage well in Geography. Work in their books demonstrate that pupils take pride in their work." This recognition of our children's efforts and enthusiasm is a testament to their hard work and our dedicated staff.

Geography

Home » Key Information » Curriculum » Geography



Geography policy



Geography overview



Geography progression map



Geography gallery



Learning beyond the classroom

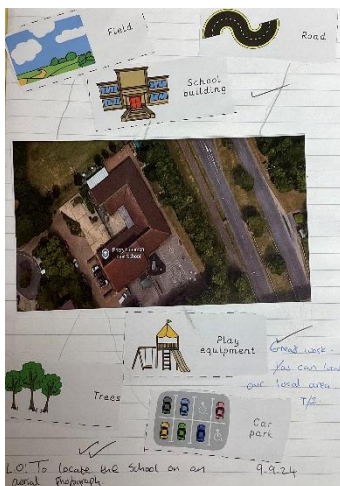
"Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future."

What could be more important than that?"

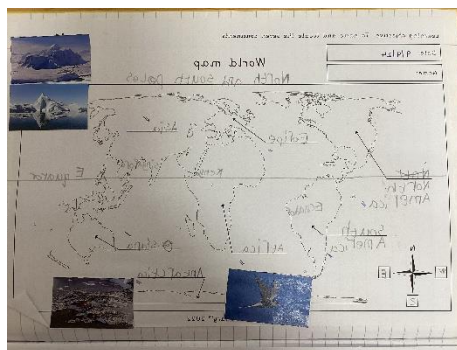
Michael Palin - an actor knighted in 2019 for services to travel, culture and geography

With Geography you can be any of these or more:

park ranger, environmental scientist, climatologist, land use planner, aid worker, pollution advisor, tourism planner, teacher, soil scientist.



Year 1 aerial map of the school



Year 2 Map of the world

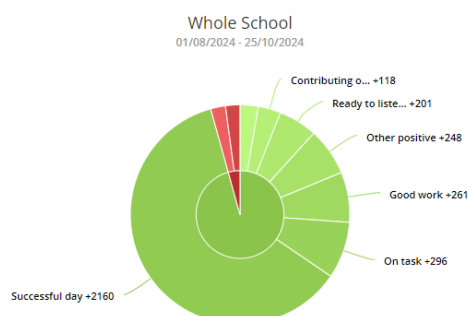
Name: _____ Quiz - KS1

Unit title: Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?

Q1	The Equator is...
A	...a compass on a map.
B	...an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth. ✓
C	...a cold place.
Q2	How many continents are there?
A	Four.
B	Six. ✓
C	Seven.
Q3	The South Pole is located in...
A	Asia.
B	Antarctica. ✓
C	Europe.
Q4	Where is the North Pole located?
A	In the Arctic Ocean. ✓
B	South America.
C	Africa.

Year 2 end of unit quiz

Behaviours and Attitudes



Our pupils have been absolutely brilliant; accumulating an impressive 3,379 positive behaviour points! This equates to 96% positive behaviours across the school – a truly excellent accomplishment that we should all be proud of.

I'd also like to highlight our attendance figures. As a whole school, we've achieved 94.57% attendance, with Reception at 96.42%, Year 1 at 89.83%, and Year 2 at 96.41%. While these numbers are encouraging, we're always striving to improve. Regular attendance is crucial for our pupils' academic learning, social skills, wellbeing, and preparation for wider life. Our target is 95% attendance for all pupils. I am sure you will help us to achieve this!

To help you make informed decisions about your child's health and attendance, we've provided a link to the NHS poster ["Should I keep my child off school?"](#). Together, we can ensure our pupils get the most out of their time at Priory Common.



Personal Development

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 2024 – September & October

Whole School	Assemblies	Class Based
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Newsround – daily ❖ Values - friendship ❖ Makaton signs – sit, louder, Hedgehogs, Squirrels, Badgers ❖ Being me in my world ❖ Faith day – Sikhism ❖ Listening calendar – Escape into a world of music ❖ Music enrichment club ❖ Balance bike club ❖ Art enrichment club ❖ Charity – Food Bank, Poppy Appeal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Weekly values assembly – friendship ❖ Weekly welcome assembly ❖ Weekly singing assembly ❖ Weekly listen to a story – author/ illustrator of the half term assembly – Rose Impey ❖ Weekly celebration assembly ❖ British Values 	<p>Key Stage 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ (9/9) Emergency services day ❖ (18/9) National fitness day ❖ (23/9) International Day of Sign language ❖ (3/10) National Poetry Day ❖ (7/10) World Habitat Day ❖ (17/10) World Values Day

Calendar Dates

- Monday 4th November – INSET Day
- Tuesday 5th November – Children return to school
- Thursday 14th November – School photographer – individual photos
- Monday 25th November 3.45-5.45 – Open evening for new starters September 2025
- Wednesday 27th November 9.30-12 – Open morning for new starters September 2025
- Wednesday 11th December – Children's Christmas dinner
- Tuesday 17th December 10am – Christmas performance
- Wednesday 18th December 2pm – Christmas performance
- Thursday 19th December- Christmas jumper and party day
- Friday 20th December – Cosy PJ's themed day
- Friday 20th December – Last day of term
- Monday 23rd – Friday 3rd January – School holiday (no school)

Message from our Executive Headteacher

A big THANK YOU to everyone—what a great start to the term!

The Inclusive Learning Federation is proud of our 3 schools, Priory Common School, Bradwell Village School and Romans Field School but now we are delighted to sing the praises of RF2 (Romans Field School's Secondary Provision for children with Autism Spectrum Conditions) and Bluebells (Bradwell Village School's Primary Provision for children with Autism Spectrum Conditions). We continue to strive to meet the needs of our most vulnerable in Milton Keynes.



The opportunities our children have to learn in and outside the classroom remains phenomenal with staff working hard to create and implement these opportunities. These opportunities are not only to learn knowledge and skills but to prepare our children for life!

A thank you to the pupils, parents and Governors who have gone above and beyond to help us and encourage us to meet the needs of all the children - this support is invaluable, and we appreciate this positive engagement, it means more than I can express!

I wish you a happy and restful half-term!

Ms Sashi Siva (Executive Headteacher)

Inclusive Learning Federation

Over to you

Please let us know how you feel we are doing by completing our Autumn Term questionnaire. You can access this by scanning the QR code or clicking on the link below.

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

PCS Parent / Carer Questionnaire
Autumn (October) 2024



Have a safe and fun half-term and thank you all again!

