

Principal's News

Dear Parents,

Living nearly thirty miles away from Priorslee, my daily journey is quite considerable and so I have lots of time to 'think and plan' whilst making a mental 'to do' list for the next day. With numerous visions popping up during any one journey, I have to be very clear as to the purpose behind any changes that do eventually occur. These have included the now established wrap-around care enabling an open school from 7.45am – 6.00pm, an increased pupil admission number to allow for single year classes, as well as the introduction of blazers and ties for Key Stage 2 children (loved by some and I am sure loathed by others!).

The most recent change will occur at the end of the term with the introduction of Christmas plays in the hall rather than the traditional services in the church. I am hoping that these will allow for enhanced audience involvement in the production as well as improved delivery in terms of vision and sound. Only time will tell if this proves a better alternative to the usual incurred charges for transporting a whole school to St. George's by coach and agitations expressed by parents due to not being able to safely park their cars. *Please see dates and times of productions on the web site.*

As I write this, visions ebb and flow for more up-to-date IT equipment, the addition of playground facilities and outdoor buildings, as well as the introduction of uniforms for administrative staff. Maybe a 'yes' to the first two but I am less confident about the reception of the third....

Sincere regards

Wendy Moore

Opening the Autumn Term

Priorslee awarded Artsmark Gold!



We are very proud to announce that we have successfully achieved Artsmark Gold award!

Artsmark is a nationally recognized accreditation demonstrating excellence in arts and cultural provision.



To achieve Artsmark gold, we had to undergo a rigorous application process, followed by a visit from an Artsmark validator who met with staff and pupils. We were assessed on many areas of our provision, including arts in the curriculum, extra-curricular arts activities, how we work with artists and arts organisations and finally, how well our arts provision impacts on staff development and the wider community.

Achieving Artsmark Gold demonstrates our commitment to learning through the arts and to nurturing the talents and celebrating the success of our students.



Reception and Base 9

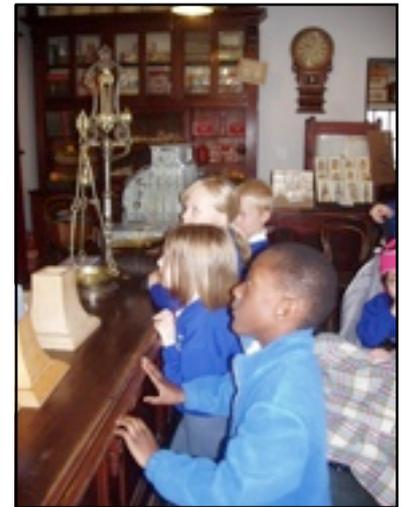


Reception have been learning lots of nursery rhymes this term and we've been enjoying lots of fabulous activities. Last week we enjoyed 'The Grand Old Duke of York', we made drums and had a parade around school. This week we have made paper bags and we are going to ice cakes and put our initial on a cake. We loved the 'Queen of Hearts' and the jam tarts we made. We also thoroughly enjoyed making 'Humpty Dumpties' and our 'toast soldier and egg breakfast'!



Base 1 visit to Blists Hill

Base 1 recently visited Blists Hill as part of our study of Victorian homes and how they compared with our own. We had a fantastic day and the children were able to make a lot of interesting comparisons.



They also took part in a brick making workshop and learnt how the Victorians laboured to make handmade bricks.



Gilly Hartley, our local School Organiser from the NSPCC, visited Priorslee and spoke to the children about the work of her charity. The NSPCC works with vulnerable children, young people and their families across the UK. They also run the helpline service for children - ChildLine. After an informative and motivational talk with all of our children, each class in school took part in a sponsored 'Buddy's Workout' - involving a circuit of activities. Gilly returned to Priorslee on the 14th October and early indications are well over £2000 raised for the NSPCC. Gilly will be back to say a huge thank you when the final total is calculated, but in the meantime, well done everyone - once again we have shown our generosity for good causes! Thank you to all sponsors!



Wellie Boot Club



Year 1 and 2 have been enjoying Wellie Boot club. We have planted daffodils and then today we made some scarecrows to scare off the birds! There are some very scary scarecrows and a lot of the children chose to do vampire scarecrows!!!



Base 3 & 4

This half term Year 3 have been studying the 'Industrial Revolution'. This has produced some fabulous work in Art where the children have used the work of Lowry for inspiration to sketch the Victorian school house at Blists Hill Museum. The children have also written some interesting recounts of their day. This is what they had to say...

'In the soap shop we saw a dentist chair. There was a bowl of teeth. The teeth were rotten and filthy. In Victorian times they sat you on a chair and just pulled your teeth out with no pain relief'. By Hannah Thorpe.



Gardening Club

The Gardening club have been working hard digging, weeding, tidying, planting hundreds of spring bulbs and generally enjoying being outside and getting muddy.



We are looking forward to a very colourful springtime around the school and seeing the fruits of all our hard work!

Keep your eyes peeled for the our bulbs poking their heads above the ground in March.

Breaking news!

The netball team were put through to play for the shield. Out of 20 teams we were in the final 9. We played 5 games in the final round and came overall 1st. Mrs Taylor is proud to announce that we are the overall winners of the 2014 shield. I would like to thank all of the players for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout. A big thank you to the parents for their huge support.



Harvest Assembly

Reverend Carter joined the children of Priorslee Academy in a celebratory Harvest Assembly. The children joined in with storytelling and families have been donated to Severn Hospice.



Artwork of the term



by

Phoebe Farrar-Gough, Base 7

School Roles

Head Boy & Head Girl for 2014/15

Meet our Head Boy and Head Girl, Izaak and Ruby. As ambassadors for the Academy, part of their role will involve meeting and greeting visitors and providing insight into daily life, supporting and leading forums such as the Parent Panel, as well as presenting to parents at events such as the Open Day.



School Council elected

The School Council is now up and running. Two Councillors have been chosen by each class from Year 2 through to Year 6 and have come to meetings full of ideas and enthusiasm to make a difference to the Academy. After some consideration and discussion, they have decided to first focus on a campaign to ensure consistently sensible behaviour in the toilets. Councillors have decided to organise an assembly and a poster competition to promote their campaign. These will begin next half term – details to follow.

Remember, the School Council is a fantastic way of giving the children a voice within the Academy and councillors will be delighted to hear any suggestions on how to improve pupils' experiences from the members of their bases.

Councillors are:

Base 1	Lucy Hambler	Alfie Clutton
Base 2	Jessica Wilding	Jacob Kaul
Base 3	Macey Polatajko	Matthew Wiggin
Base 4	Ashleigh Neale	Sam Smith
Base 5	Lucy Addison	Archie Brewer
Base 6	Jess Mooney	Leo Faulkner
Base 10	Libby Rowe	Hari Morjaria
Base11	Emie Watson-Nolan	George Clutton
Base12	Anna Welch	Sam Whitehouse
Base 13	Maia Heywood-Richards	Joe Sumner



Visitors to School

Bike Ability

The Year 3 and 4 children have been very lucky to have been provided with the opportunity to learn cycling skills with the Telford & Wrekin Bike Ability team. 62 children in all have learnt how to ride their bike safely.



We were visited on the 29th September by Scott Adams from the **Telford Exotic Zoo** who dropped in to speak to KS1 and KS2. He brought some furry friends with him...two 15 week-old meerkat babies. Before arriving, if you had asked most children what a meerkat was, they would have said 'a soft toy called Sergei or Aleksandr' or 'they sell car insurance'. After Scott's visit, the children had taken on-board so much information about these wonderful creatures who live in the Kalahari Desert in Namibia. The children are now thinking of names for the 2 visitors along with other schools in Telford. If the names from a class in Priorslee are chosen, that class will get a hands-on extra session with the meerkats who will pay an extra visit to school!

Sporting Events

Year 5/6 Football

It was extremely difficult selecting players to represent the year 5/6 football team this year with a number of children expressing an interest. I hope to get as many players involved as possible over the season.

The team that was selected got the season off to a flying start against a strong Newport Juniors side. The team were full of excitement and hungry for success prior to the kick off, which was clear to see in their performance.

Alex Summers-Bennett pulled off some fantastic saves in the first half and along with ruthless finishing, the home side came in at half time with a well-deserved 3-0 lead.

The second half saw more of the same hunger and determination to succeed and was also pleasing on the eye – the team kept the ball extremely well and created many chances. Priorslee ended up winning the game with a convincing 4-0 win.

A fabulous start to the season – a big well done to all involved.



Year 5/6 Football team

Year 3/4 Football

The Year 3/4 football team were handed a difficult fixture for their first game of the season against local rivals Redhill. The team were full of enthusiasm and eager to get out onto the pitch. Having discussed the importance of enjoying the occasion of representing the school and maintaining the formation, I was very impressed with the way the team played throughout the game. They encouraged each other, stuck to their positions and created a number of chances on goal.

Unfortunately for Priorslee, Redhill had a very good goalkeeper who was in top form. The visitors managed to score a well worked free kick, which saw them clinch a 1-0 victory.

Despite the result, Mr Cowdrill and I were very impressed with the way the team conducted themselves on the pitch. I have no doubt we will continue to improve.



Year 5/6 Netball

Well, after the summer break we resumed our Monday Netball Club with motivation and lots of enthusiasm. We now have a group of twenty yr5/6's playing every week and they all seem to be enjoying themselves.

We entered a team into the Telford & Wrekin H5 Netball league and have been playing between four and six matches on a Tuesday evening for the past three weeks. The team have improved greatly over this time and have been practising their 'shooting' skills as often as possible. Their commitment is a credit to them and has resulted in Priorslee finishing 3rd in the Tuesday League. It goes without saying that I am extremely proud of them as this time last year we were struggling to get any 'draws' let alone 'wins' when we were competing against other schools. Altogether, up to now Priorslee H5 Netball team have played 14 matches and only lost one - what an achievement! We have now been entered to play for the 'Shield'. This will involve playing the top teams from both the Tuesday and Wednesday leagues. This will be a challenge that I am sure the team will take in their stride and will endeavour to play the best they can. COME ON PPA - can we do it? YES we can!!



6 Science

This term in Year 6 Science we have been studying The Earth, Moon and beyond. Using things we have found at home creating a presentation to demonstrate how The Earth and the Moon orbit The Sun. We also showed the phases of The Moon using Oreos taking off the lid and then scraping away the cream to form the shape of each phase. In I.C.T. we have been finding out facts about our solar system and interest in and then putting it together in a Power Point presentation.

