



Christmas 2010 Newsletter

Thank you for your continued support this year. 2010 has been another highly successful year and it has been a privilege to work with your children. I hope that you and your families enjoy a very well deserved Christmas holiday.

Autumn trips

Year 6 have had a busy term. Back in September, they went on an adventure holiday to Osmington Bay, a PGL site. Unusually, the children were so exhausted by the activities that a good night's sleep was enjoyed (by adults and children) on every evening.

More recently, they were out of school for just a day, visiting the beautiful Victorian Whitchurch silk mill. Not only did they observe the processes involved in weaving, but they also were able to try their hand at fabric printing.

Year 4 made their traditional visit to the Newbury rainforest and it was lovely to hear so many comments about the excellent behaviour of the class. This visit is always popular with the children and they learn an amazing amount of information about rainforest flora and fauna.

A particularly unusual but exciting trip was taken by Year 5 to the Little Angel theatre where the children were entertained by a puppet version of Roald Dahl's "Fantastic Mr. Fox". They were also treated to a fascinating backstage tour.

Year 2 had a very exciting day travelling up to Reading by train to visit the Museum's Bayeux Tapestry exhibition. All the children loved having their own ticket and a super day out was had by all.

Clubs

There has been a packed timetable of clubs, covering a multitude of interests. No Cook Cookery was a great hit and 2 groups had to be

formed to cater for the demand. It is surprising what you can make without the help of an oven and it was really pleasing to see the progress that the children made, particularly with their cutting skills!

Our early morning judo and street dance clubs, both new for this term, have been very well attended and certainly make the children alert and ready for the day ahead.

One of the new clubs planned for next term is a quiz club – further details to follow in the new year.

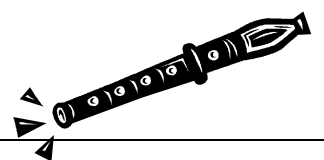
The new arrangements for music

The new arrangements (not involving Hampshire County Council peripatetic teachers) are working well. The new guitar, keyboard and violin lessons are all proving to be very popular and all the children are progressing well.

The junior children are continuing to enjoy the Listen 2 Me programme and this term they have been learning to play a selection of North African drums. The concert for parents was great fun – it involved not only the children performing but their parents as well in one almighty ensemble of different sounds and rhythms. We are very grateful to the Parents' Association who kindly fund this activity.

Recorders

Recorder group for Years 2 and 3 has also been extremely popular and we have had to divide the group into three. All the children have learned to play several notes (without too much



squeaking) and they have started to play simple tunes. We look forward to showing their skills as an ensemble in 2011.

The minibus

By now, many of your children will have had the chance to ride on the minibus. Already, after only a short time, it is proving to be an invaluable asset.

Academy

We currently have no further updates on this issue. We are working through the necessary paperwork and formalities and we are hoping to be still on course for our official 1st February opening. I feel that this is another cause for a celebration, similar to the Ofsted Giant Tea Party!

Sport

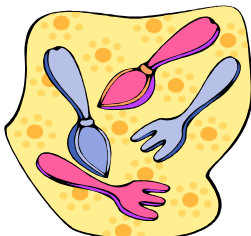
The children have participated well in the football and tag rugby matches earlier this term, bringing yet another trophy to our cabinet. We look forward to further sporting success and the return of after school rugby once the daylight begins to lengthen.

We were pleased to hear that William Chambers, Joe Stickland, Daniel Prickett and Oliver Penney won their recent Manydown tennis tournament against Cheam school. Congratulations, boys!

Congratulations to Jade Smith a former pupil, she has been selected to play cricket for Hampshire U13 girls.

Lunch time assistant

As we have been so far unable to appoint anyone to the cleaning vacancy, we have decided to adopt a slightly different plan and advertise



for a lunchtime assistant to fill Mrs. White's role (Mrs. White would then do the additional cleaning role). If you would be interested in helping out the lunch time team, we would make you very welcome indeed. Please pop into the office and we can give you further details.

The website

I hope that over the Christmas holidays you will have a few moments to browse our new school website at www.theprioryprimaryschool.org. We aim to keep it fully up to date and we hope that you will find it to be a useful facility. As well as timetables and menus, there is an archive of old letters so you can always be sure that information is at your finger tips. There are galleries of children's work and we hope that you will be able to get a real insight into the daily life of the school.

We intend to post all letters on the website and send a text message notification and we hope that this will help to further improve efficiency.

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the content of the site, we would be very pleased to hear them.

Start of the Spring Term 2011

Just when you have become used to writing 2010, another year is over! The Spring Term at The Priory will begin on Tuesday, 4th January.

On behalf of everyone at The Priory, may I wish you a very happy New Year!

Suzanne Kelly

