

Happy New Year from everyone at The Priory School! After the recent snow and ice, we are all looking forward now to the first signs of spring.

As we start 2011, many Priory families will be reminded of our forthcoming events on our new school calendar. The calendar has become a very popular fund raiser for the Parents' Association in recent years and once again, it was a sell out success. Each month shows school events and holiday dates as well as a fantastic photograph of the children dressed to reflect a seasonal theme. The stars of January are the four and five year olds in Mrs. Austen's Reception class who are dressed as snowflakes – one look at them is certain to cheer us all up!

Music continues to play a big part in the life of the school. Recently, Year 3 demonstrated their drumming skills to their parents by playing a selection of African drums. As well as the children showing off their new found talents, parents were provided with instruments and invited to take part in a mini drumming workshop. All the parents took part with great enthusiasm and this resulted in a couple of pieces being performed jointly with their children – great fun was had by all! The drumming sessions are part of the Hampshire County Council Listen 2 Me programme and offer the children an opportunity to be able to experience whole class music lessons. This term it is the turn of Year 4 to try their hands at an instrument, this time the keyboard and we look forward to hearing their concert at the end of term!



Year 2 and 3 continue to be enthusiastic recorder players. Squeaks are increasingly becoming a thing of the past as the children become confident at placing their fingers and as their ability to play a variety of notes improves, we are enjoying hearing them mastering simple tunes such as "Merrily We roll along". Children in Year3 will also be learning how to play the electric guitar this term and next - this is a very popular activity that enables children to learn a new skill and to further their ability to read, perform and most importantly enjoy music.

Our choir continues to be a very well attended after school activity. We have a very lively group and last term the children enjoyed choreographing their own dance steps to the old Carpenters favourite, Please Mr. Postman. Many of the children also attend the Strictly School Dancing club and it is lovely to see them cha cha cha-ing around the room.

Many of the children in school choose to have individual music lessons and we are very pleased to be able to offer violin, keyboard, brass and acoustic guitar tuition from specialists. We hope they will continue to play for many years to come.

Perhaps if you have been browsing the internet over Christmas, you may have already had the chance to take a look at our website which has been completely redesigned. It has lots of information for adults but also for children as well. We feel that it gives a very accurate flavour of what goes on at school and you would be very

welcome to visit the site at www.theprioryprimaryschool.org. I hope you enjoy what you find!

Suzanne Kelly