

Priory Woods Newsletter

Brief News

Hygiene Poverty Appeal

The Y14's have been collecting hygiene products for the charity Hope 4 Hygiene, which is a local registered charity, grounded in community, run by volunteers to fight hygiene poverty. They do this by providing basic hygiene essentials to those in need. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the students, parents and staff who have donated products. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity.



The students did an amazing job of collecting and organising the items, well done Y14's

Signing Stars

Signing stars raising money for Zoe's place. Making customers smile in the Cleveland centre with their fantastic signing, the choir helped raise money for Zoe's place.



Message from Janis

Dear Families,

Here we are at the end of the autumn term and enjoying lots of festive activities. Time certainly flies!

I'm pleased to say that despite some COVID bumps on the way, we have had a settled term. It has been lovely to get back to something approaching normal and it has been lovely for pupils to be able to spend time with friends outside their own bubble.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair. It seemed odd to have to offer time slots but it seemed to work well. Thanks to all the students and staff who worked so hard to make it happen.

Thanks also to the families of children in Lower School who were able at last to come and see a Christmas performance, albeit through mask, socially distanced and in a chilly, well ventilated hall! I'm sure you enjoyed it as much as I did. I don't think anyone could say our children do not have that 'wow' factor! Thanks also to the staff for all their hard work to produce such a lovely performance.

We have had some fantastic student achievements this term, particularly in the musical field. We have had Naz perform to large audiences at the Town Hall and at an event in Gateshead, playing his own composition on the keyboard. We have also had Daniel from Silver class demonstrate his musical talent; not only did he pass his grade one piano exam, he passed it with distinction!

One of the nicest things about this time of year is seeing how well our new children have settled, whether they are our tiny reception children, or older students who join us at Y7. They don't feel like 'newbies' at all and are very much part of the Priory Woods family.

I hope you enjoy reading about all of the exciting things that we have been up to this term.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022.

Safeguarding Information

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Janis French, Hazel Souter, Emma Fox or Paula Smith. Our safeguarding Governor is David Mudd.

Out of school hours, please contact Middlesbrough as below:

During working hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 5pm

Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

Middlesbrough Multi-agency Hub

Tel: 01642 726004

Email: MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Out of hours:

Emergency Duty Team

Tel: 01642 524 552

In an emergency contact Cleveland Police on: 101

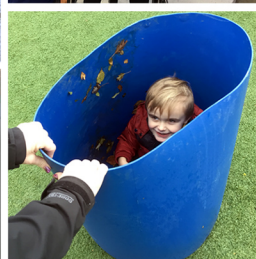


LOWER SCHOOL

Priory Woods School & Arts College
A Special Place to Learn

In between working extremely hard to prepare for the Christmas show, Pink and Red have had lots of fun playing in the snow, making ornaments and dressing up in our Christmas role play. We also sat beautifully to enjoy our Christingle service.

Merry Christmas everyone!



Green and Blue had a lovely Christingle afternoon. The children all loved the music and the beautiful lights. Happy Christmas from Blue and Green.





Silver and Gold have had a very busy half term. We did the Christmas show and were brilliant reindeers. Daniel impressed everyone by playing Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer on the piano! Thank you to all the parents who came to watch us.



We also went to visit some reindeers at a local garden centre where we met Santa.

CREATIVE ARTS

Daniel achieves Piano ABRSM award Grade 1 Distinction!

Daniel our wonderful pianist in lower school has just passed his grade 1 piano exam with a distinction - Fantastic work Daniel!

Nominated!

Naz, was nominated for a Young Achiever Award at the NE Young Pride Awards. He performed at the ceremony. Round of applause for Naz!



Local Culture

Upper school went to the Dorman Museum and became eco warriors as part of a take-over day. On a more recent visit, they also took part in Christmas art workshops.



Mind the Gap!

Post 16 students went to Bradford to visit 'Mind the Gap' Theatre Arts Academy for adults with learning disabilities and autism – a great day was had by all!



Disability Awareness in the Arts

Our upper school creative groups recently had a visit from local photographer and musician Kevin Howard. He answered some brilliant questions from our students and talked about his wide career in the arts, and the barriers that a disabled artist may face.



Making a Film

The Media group have been working with film maker, Benjamin Smith, on a project all about creativity. Well done to all involved.



Open Orchestra

Open Orchestra, which involves working with staff and students from Beverley School, goes from strength to strength and everyone enjoys our weekly sessions at the Town Hall.





We have had a fantastic first term in G1! We have been working on our topic 'Back to the Future' where we have been exploring the past, the present and the future. We started in the past by investigating old games and wrote instructions to show how they all worked. When we moved onto the present we started learning about worldwide news and the change our planet is currently experiencing. In response to this the students decided to make a time capsule to document the unusual time we are living in. This student-led project has involved us becoming researchers, interviewers, project leaders and photographers. We have collected many interesting objects and articles as well as writing letters to future students of Priory Woods School. We look forward to hearing about it being opened in 20 years time!

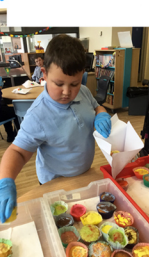
As we move forward into the future part of our discussions turned to climate change and what the world might be like. We were lucky enough to be visited by the local Environmental Education Officer, Sam, to learn about recycling and how to look after our planet. What a brilliant start to the school year, well done everyone in G1!



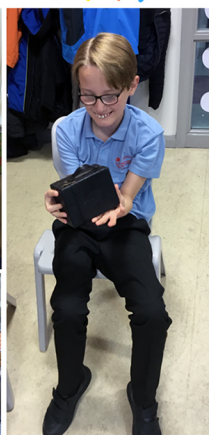
Wow, what a brilliant first term G2 have had! We have loved our Back to the Future topic this term! We have explored different decades learning about the changes in fashion, popular foods, music, dance moves and important news events from through the decades. On Tuesday mornings we visited many local museums and learned other interesting facts about our local history. In our cooking sessions, we learned how to make old fashioned style jammy biscuits - they were delicious. We have also thought about the future; we have written letters to ourselves to read in a years' time. We have thought about how robots could help us in the future and based some of our English on the John Lewis Christmas advert 'The Unexpected Guest' and discussed what Christmas could be like in the future. We have squeezed in so much learning and a lot of fun in our first term together, I'm sure all of the G2 students are ready for a well-deserved break before we start again in the spring term! Well done G2.



Earlier this half term G3 have been working towards an AQA Unit Award – Organising a Charity Fundraiser. Each of the students voted for their chosen charity and in the end they picked Children in Need as the charity they were going to fundraise for. They also decided that they were going to hold a cake sale using some of the cakes they had been making during their cookery sessions on Tuesday mornings. All of the students worked together to plan the event. They made decorations, write and sent out emails, letters and invitations to everyone in school to make sure everyone knew about the event and on the day they set up the library ready for their fundraiser. On the day all of the students were fantastic at serving everyone who came to buy their cakes and they managed to completely sell out, raising a fantastic £37.20 for Children in Need. Well done G3!



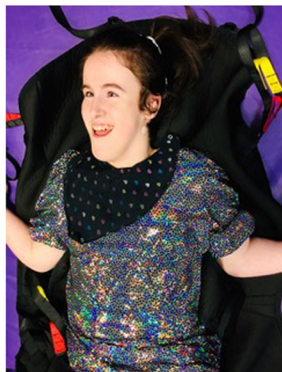
G4 have had an extremely busy autumn term. We have worked hard and have made good friends with one another. During our topic 'Back to the Future' we have explored artefacts from the past and have enjoyed working in our Victorian shop and Tea rooms. We have also had a great time exploring the local environment and have visited Tees Barrage and many parks. We have worked hard on an enterprise activity making chocolate wreaths for the Christmas fair.





This term has been very busy for us in G7. We have all worked so hard in our lessons. We have all stood so tall in our standing frames and loved playing boccia in teams. We had fun at Halloween and Children In Need and managed to fit in some music and dry land swimming.

Merry Christmas everyone!



G8 and G9 have been working hard and really enjoying their sensory drama and relaxation sessions this term.

We wish everyone a happy holiday!



G5 - Greenfingers Gardening Group

The fab pupils in G5 have been getting lots of fresh air this term to learn all about gardening. They have been digging, weeding and getting very muddy! We can't wait to start planting next term and growing our own fruit and vegetables! Yum!

Upper School have had a lovely time in Forest School area. They have been keeping warm by the fire, drinking hot chocolates and roasting marshmallows. They also enjoyed singing along to some Christmas classics and having a little boogie.



Christmas PE

Many of the upper school students took part in a special Christmas PE session. The students were split into four teams: Team Santa, Team Frosty, Team Rudolph and Team Elf on the Shelf. The staff had organised a range of fun Christmas themed PE games and quizzes. All teams demonstrated: team work, resilience, strength, stamina and problem-solving skills but most importantly they had lots of fun. Well done to all students who took part and a big congratulations to the joint winners; Team Frosty and Team Elf on the Shelf.



Christingle Returns

Upper School and Post 16 were very happy to return to St Marys Church for our annual Christingle service this year and we were offered a very warm welcome by the Parish team.

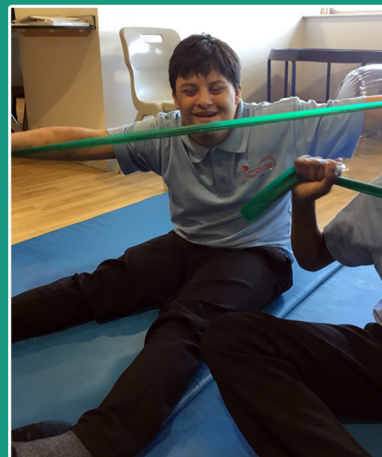
Our Christmas service included readings by all classes, prayers created in groups, a solo performance by David Woolgrove and our very own Signing Choir.

The service is always a magical one when we light the Christingle candles and sing Silent Night, but after such a long wait, this one felt extra magical!



G10

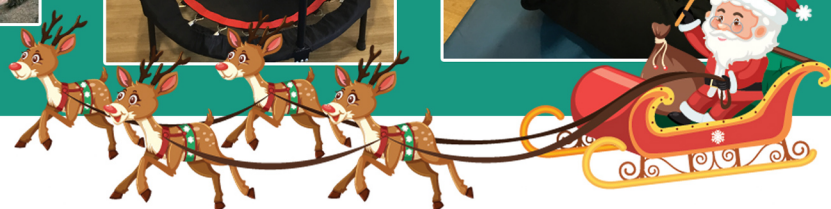
We have had a fun half term, doing our tree tops session, riding bikes on the bike track, swimming, dancing, going on visits in the community and getting creative with music and art activities. We have been cooking and learning independent living skills too.



Theatre Visit

On Thursday the 18th of November, Post 16 students went to Saltburn Community Theatre to watch the Horrible Histories film, The Rotten Romans. It was amazing and there were lots of funny bits. We even learnt how the Romans brought nettles, cabbages and cats to Britain!

We all had lots of fun.



Christmas Fair

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Post 16 and we are loving it! This half term has seen our enterprise groups working very hard to plan and run a Christmas fair. They made some excellent products to sell. Thank you to everyone who supported this by either sending in donations or visiting. We raised a massive **£951!**



Café 16

Café 16 is full of festivities too, the students have certainly made sure our customers get into the Christmas spirit. We have made and served two Christmas dinners, entertainment was even provided with songs being sung and signed. Santa and his elves paid many visits to the younger customers too.



Sensory Learners

Post 16, in the main building, have had a busy half term keeping active with hydro, rebound and outdoor play in the park. We have been exploring our senses in Sensology and keeping our bodies active with Tree Tops, Jabadao and sensory stories. For the Christmas Fair we made salt dough decorations and Christmas Wreaths, which all sold well.

