

Newsletter



Important Dates

School reopens: 17.04.2023

Bank Holidays:

Monday 01.05.2023

Monday 08.05.2023

May Half Term

Break up Friday 26th May

Return Monday 5th June

End of school year: 21.07.2023

Café 16

Please remember Café 16 is open to the public Monday and Tuesday, 10am until 2.30pm with lots of yummy new treats on offer.



Message from Emma

As always we have had a very busy term with lots of learning taking place. Learning is always fun at Priory Woods and this term has been no exception as I'm sure you will have seen from all of the photographs sent home via ClassDojo, or on our website and Facebook page.

There have been too many exciting lessons, events and trips to mention them all but highlights have included: World Book Day; Comic Relief; a Valentine Disco, Lower School Chinese New Year Day; dance workshops; Upper School Skills Builder Week; cinema visits and trips to cafes, parks and shops. Life at Priory Woods is never boring!

It is lovely to see how much progress everyone is making, especially our Reception children, they are so settled that it's like they've always been here. I know that lots of you have attended the various sessions organised by classes this year, I hope that you have enjoyed taking part in your child's learning and that it has given an insight into a day in the life of Priory Woods.

We have just hosted our first Meet and Greet session for families, this is a chance for you to let us know how we can support you and for you to offer support and friendship to each other. These sessions are going to be held monthly and we'd love to see you there for a cuppa and a chat.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter holiday, don't eat too much chocolate! We look forward to welcoming the pupils back for another busy summer term on Monday 17th April.

Best wishes
Emma

Safeguarding Information

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Emma Fox, Vicky McDermott 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

HAPPY EASTER





Lower School

What a busy term Lower School has had. Our topic in Spring one was 'Food and Drink' where we loved completing fun activities around 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and Silver Class had a wonderful trip to Pizza Hut. The children were a credit to Priory Woods and were very well behaved. The topic for Spring two is 'The Zoo'. We have enjoyed learning about all the different animals that live in the zoo and have really enjoyed reading the story 'Dear Zoo' and trips to Pets at Home.

We celebrated Chinese New Year with a 'tuff tray day', the children got to explore lots of different activities, food and music and had a fun morning for World Book Day based around 'Dear Zoo' where the children went on an animal hunt in soft play, enjoyed some animal based stories and activities in the sensory room and enjoyed being 'cheeky monkeys' in Rebound.

Lower School get together every Monday afternoon for 'Singing and Signing'. Our favourite songs include 'The Wheels on The Bus', 'Five little Monkeys' and 'Five currant buns'. We have also paired with upper school for some joint sessions.

Some of the children this term have participated in P.E. with Jordan where they have played football and boxing and others have enjoyed dancing with Charlotte. We have restarted the new oral health initiative.

We have started the Little Wandle phonics programme with some of our students in Lower School and it is going really well.

With summer fast approaching we have been organising our Play and Outdoor Learning (PALO) activities and resources. We have a new climbing wall, tepee and chalkboard in the playground and a brand new swing set on the bike track, which we love! We were also very grateful to receive a donation of outdoor equipment including some more Little Tikes cars and scooter boards from a local church which the children have loved playing with.

We thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic Lower School coffee morning. It was great to welcome so many parents into school and share PALO with them. Pink and Red also welcomed parents in for a sensory drama session.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter holiday with your families x







Upper School

G1

G1 have enjoyed exploring unusual delicacies from around the world as part of this terms 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' topic. They took their new knowledge and combined it with a lovely Kit Wright poem to create their own pieces called 'The Magic Chocolate box project'. Each student wrote a creative and unusual poem that they then turned into poems and a creative design project, creating imaginary chocolates and mysterious boxes. We really enjoyed inviting families and carers into class to admire their work and share a cup of tea!

Some students from G1 also paid a visit to the Teesworks Industry Academy site. They spent a morning learning all about how the industry of Teesside has changed and how it is developing now. They discovered what it meant for their future and how the new industry will provide opportunities we had never even thought of! We were extremely proud of everybody, their teamwork, excellent problem solving skills and wonderful manners really shone!



G2

This term G2 have been working in partnership with Tabby and Lewis from Middlesbrough Environment City in our Forest School Area. We have had a great time learning lots of new things including how to build a den, to make bird feeders, use tools to create wooden medals and learning all about the plants and shrubs in our area. We watched Tabby light a fire for us all to sit around to keep warm and to make some delicious hot chocolate of course.

We have had great fun in the sun and the rain!



G5

In G5, our topic has been 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' and we have enjoyed reading and acting out the story of The Tiger Who Came to Tea. The students recently performed the story in assembly; they were amazing and we are so proud of them all! In our cookery sessions, we have learned how to make cakes, biscuits and scones, just like the ones the tiger ate in the story. We welcomed our parents in for a Tea and Cake morning to show off our fantastic baking skills – we all had a great time!

We celebrated Chinese New Year, and have been learning about Easter and Ramadan. We have also enjoyed a Skills Builder Week where we became police officers investigating the crime of a chocolate thief.



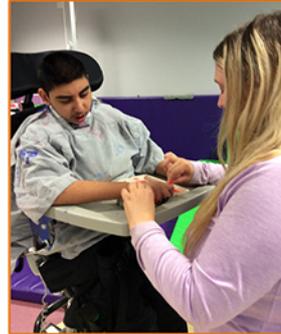
Upper School

G7

We have love exploring this terms topic 'Scrumdidlyumptious'. We created our own story about a food factory which had lots of different rooms. We loved playing with jelly, popping popcorn, smelling chewing gum and singing lots of songs about them.

We read 'The Dinosaur That Came to Tea' as our story for world book week and have worked very hard with all our physical activities.

Thanks and Happy Easter x



G8

In G8 class we have had loved exploring the changes in seasons. We have enjoyed making some wonderful spring flowers and explored sensory stimulus linked to the season. We have also been very busy making our Easter cards and exploring all things Easter in our attention autism focus sessions. We have all had a lovely half term and we wish everyone a Happy Easter!



G4

G4 have had a busy spring term. We enjoyed a fantastic skills builder week where we practised and developed many skills including speaking and listening and teamwork. We dressed up as police officer to investigate a chocolate theft. The highlight of the week was meeting a policeman and sitting in his van.



Student members from G3 and G4 meet together on a Monday afternoon for a communication group. They learn signs from various topics including days of the week and food. They are working so hard and their signing and confidence whilst communicating are certainly improving



G4 have also been learning about Easter and Ramadan. We have demonstrated care and respect whilst exploring artefacts.



Creative Arts

Upper school and P16 students have been treated to two live performances.

Ceitedh Mac, and Rabbit Foot Club.



Open Orchestra

The Open Orchestra performed for parents and friends at Middlesbrough Town Hall at the start of the year. During the February half term, they also performed in London's Music and Drama Education Expo 2023, which was held at The Business Design Centre. However, this was not before doing a bit of sightseeing. The group astonished the audiences and received standing ovations. What an achievement! The group were also the very first in the school to be presented with the Head Teachers Award.



Well done to everyone involved!



Our two Youth Leaders for the RSC SEND programme, had their second visit to Stratford Upon Avon. As well as working on the project, we took the opportunity for the students to visit Shakespeare's birthplace and spend time exploring the MAD Museum.

The pair also watched the RSC's current production of The Tempest.

They were, once again, great ambassadors for the school!

Post 16 students are working hard to create their very own Musical which will be performed next term. Look out for more information on our socials.



Team Globe have been enjoying studying Roald Dahl's The BFG



Team Sage took part in dance workshops and performed at the Centre of Excellence in Performing Arts Hartlepool as part of the Fuse Dance Festival.

G10 have been freezing in the Artic with Snow bear.



The Shakespearians are currently rehearsing for The Tempest. The group will perform next term in the Acklam Green Centre as part of this year's RSC Associate Schools programme.



Who is behind the door? It is Team Adelphi with Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



The Turner Group have been busy designing and creating art work to promote our new fundraising venture. We are raising money for a new school bus.

Post 16 students have visited Arc in Stockton to have a cinema experience and report back to the company. The group are also seeing a unique screening of The Adventures of Prince Achmed.

This is the oldest surviving animated film which was created in 1929. And the 2007 film Stardust.

Mother's Day Sale

The Post 16 Enterprise group worked hard to design, make and create Mother's Day gifts to sell. Thank you for your support, we hope you liked your gifts!



Priority Products

Students who set up the Priority Products company are working hard to become trained in the printing of T-shirts and mugs and are hoping to expand to other products soon. You can order printed goods by contacting, Enterprise@prioritywoodsschool.com



Pupil Participation

Some of our Post 16 pupils have been working with Kathy Peacock, who works for The Participation Team. They have been thinking of ways that we could make our local area safer. We have been discussing how we could ensure young people's opinions are always listened to. The students, along with lots of young people from other schools and colleges have been planning a big event on the 5th May, called My Voice Matters Youth Conference. At this event, some of our Post 16 students will be speaking in front of 100 people! We are really looking forward to this conference.



Careers Pathway Talk

Some of our Post 16 students attended Tees Works Skills Academy for a careers pathway talk. During this session, the students were told about the exciting developments at Tees Works, and the jobs this will create. They discussed lots of different jobs, focussing on entry level jobs. We used lots of Geography skills during this session, including map reading. It was also a great opportunity to socialise with other students from different local schools.



P1

This Spring, P1 have had a full class for the first time since September, due to illness and other events. It's been amazing to have every single student back in the room. We have celebrated Pancake Day, made scones for Mother's Day and Easter biscuits in cooking. We've enjoyed wearing red for Comic Relief and playing Irish music to learn more about St Patrick's Day. We experienced the snow and made a snowman on a snowy day. Nicole has been so alert and vocalising much more this half term and it's nice to see her happy and settled in class. We've also been keeping active through our daily therapies and have loved being superheroes as part of our sensory story. Our Post 16 friends from the other building have been supporting us in Boccia and we're making relationships with new friends. Joseph has celebrated his 18th Birthday and loved his disco and pool party to celebrate with his friends. We've also continued to enjoy reading in class and are keeping on top of our oral hygiene with daily tooth brushing.





Minibus Fundraising

Our creative group 'Turner' were tasked with creating a poster for the reception area that highlights our current position for raising necessary funds for our new school minibus. They have designed everything and we think they have done an amazing job. Lots of thought and imagination used - thank you so much.

Currently at Priory Woods School, we have four minibuses parked in our bays. Unfortunately, two of them are now getting old (2008 & 2010 plates) and when they are in the garage for repairs or for a 6 week health check it reduces the amount of minibuses we have available.

Our minibuses are used daily with our children for education, fun, and to develop independence skills & living by attending the following -:
Riverside Stadium, Kirkleatham, The Neptune, Arcadia, farms, parks, beaches, local attractions, Town Hall, residential trips, museums, art galleries and many more. We also have an amazing orchestra who are invited to play at many venues that use the minibus on a regular basis.

To accommodate further exciting and educational trips for all, we are in need of a new specialised minibus and we are in the process of trying to raise a target of £40,000 to achieve this

If you would like to donate or get involved with fund raising activities, please speak to Debbie Bliss in the office 01642 770540 or email bliss.d@priorywoodsschool.com

