

Newsletter



Goodbye

We are sadly saying goodbye to several staff members this week:

Polly, Louise, Kieran and Lauren are off to new ventures, Hannah and Katie G are both expecting new babies and are planning to return to school next summer term, we can't wait to meet your new arrivals. Cath Young is retiring to spend time with her new grandchildren. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you, we will miss you and wish you well.

Safeguarding Information

If you have any concerns around the safety of anyone in school, please speak to Emma Fox or Vicky McDermott.

Out of school hours you can contact:

Cleveland Police: 101



Early Help Team

support and advice for families

To ask for Early Help support, you can:

call 01642 726004

email:

MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Website:

<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/children-families-and--safeguarding/early-help/what-is-early-help>

Citizens Advice Bureau

Jayne Yellow from the Citizens Advice Bureau currently attends Priory Woods School each Thursday to offer advice and support to our families (by appointment only). Citizens Advice offer support on many issues including; welfare benefits, debt, fuel and housing. During the school summer break Jayne will still be available to our families, however, NOT in school. She can be reached by leaving your contact details at schools@mcab.org.uk and Jayne will contact you to arrange an appointment at one of their offices or over the telephone.



Message from Emma

I feel like I always start by saying I can't believe how quickly the year has gone but it's always true!

As usual this term has been jam packed with learning, both in and out of school; wider opportunities, such as residentials and work experience placements and, perhaps most importantly, fun. I'm sure that you have read about a lot of these via our Facebook page, the school website or Class Dojo.

It is always difficult to pick any highlights, as so many wonderful things take place every day, but I must admit to feeling emotional when the huge piece of art work was unveiled during the Post 16 creative showcase. Every child in the school made their mark on the canvas to create the stunning, impressionist inspired, painting. We are currently in negotiation to have it displayed at an exciting location, you might see it if you're jetting off on your holidays! It will eventually make its way back to school though, to be put proudly on display.

The summer newsletter is always bittersweet, as although it's a chance to celebrate everything that has taken place over the year it is also where we say goodbye. Our Year 14 leavers had an amazing prom and they all looked so smart in their finery! You will all be missed but I know that you're all ready for your next adventures.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading your children's reports, I really do read each and every word of every report, it is certainly time consuming but I love reading about all of the pupils' achievements, I hope that you're all very proud parents.

Staff have worked incredibly hard this year to develop our curriculum to ensure that we continue to provide our pupils with an outstanding offer that meets all of our pupils' needs. Parents will be invited to information sessions to find out more about this in September. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the staff team for their hard work, dedication and everything they do to ensure that every day Priory Woods truly is 'A special place to learn'.

I hope that you all have a wonderful summer break and we'll welcome the pupils back on Wednesday 4th September.

PD Days for 2023/24:

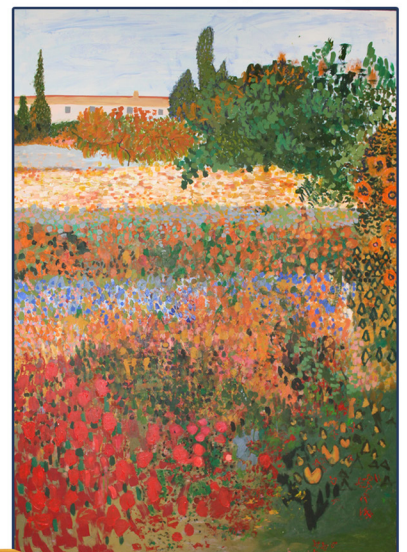
Monday 2nd September

Tuesday 3rd September

Friday 25th October

Monday 21st July

Plus one more to be confirmed



Lower School



Orange Class

Orange Class have had a busy sports themed half term. Our highlights have been, surfing and playing football in our hydro therapy session and horse riding and boxing in our sensory dance lesson. We've made the most of the few sunny days we've had with a water play session and parachute games with our friends from Gold Class. We loved taking part the whole school fun run, our class chose to represent Morocco, we dressed in bright colours and used our senses to explore Moroccan culture.



Yellow Class

Yellow Class have had a wonderful summer term. We have enjoyed our topic 'Am I the Fastest?' and reading 'The Gingerbread Man' story. We have loved playing outside, especially in the Lower School playground in preparation for next year. We had lots of fun celebrating the Olympics and taking part in the Lower School water and sports days.

We have been attending Senses Wellbeing Centre weekly and have had the most amazing time.

Have a wonderful summer Yellow Class, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all in September.



Blue Class

We have enjoyed a jam-packed Summer term in Blue Class. Summer 1 was spent learning about different foods for our "Chop, Mash and Slice" topic. The children made fruit kebabs and displayed their self-help and independence skills with their chopping, spreading and mashing skills. The children loved getting messy and exploring different foods; jelly, potatoes, peas and lots more!

Summer 2 we have been listening to our sensory story "The Gingerbread Man." The children have explored ginger dough with their hands and rolled it out to make gingerbread people. We have also taken part in painting with ginger spices and finding the characters from the story. We enjoyed a picnic outside to celebrate National Picnic Week and made our own sandwiches to take with us to eat. In Summer 2 the children in Blue Class have continued to display excellent independence, communication and social skills throughout our trips out. More recently we have been learning about different countries in the Olympics. We chose to learn more about Italy . . . we have explored different coloured spaghetti and made our own pizzas- yummy! We have also taken part in lots of different races; egg and spoon, relay and hurdles.



Green Class

Green Class have had a lovely summer term, despite the weather! We have really enjoyed our topic, 'Am I the Fastest?', where we have had fun role-playing the characters in 'The Gingerbread Man' story, as well as making salt dough ginger bread men and gingerbread cookies.

We also had a lot of fun participating in various sports activities during sports week, such as Water Day, Sports Day, and the whole school Fun Run was a real highlight for everyone.

Green Class hope you all have a brilliant summer break and we look forward to seeing you all back in September xxx



Pink & Red Classes

In Early Years we have had a lovely summer term, despite the rain, we have managed to have some exciting events during the sunnier days. We have enjoyed learning through our topic 'Am I the Fastest?' which linked in with our lower school Sports Day. The children enjoyed going across the obstacle course and seeing who could throw the welly and bean bags the furthest. We have also enjoyed exploring our sports theme in hydro, drama and in art, where we have created Olympic flags, cones and mini sports characters of ourselves. We have loved listening to the sensory story of 'The Ginger Bread Man' and joined in the fun run with the rest of the school, competing as Team Sweden. Water Day with everyone from lower school was lots of fun, and we all got very wet!

Pink and Red hope you all have a lovely safe summer and we look forward to seeing you all back in September xxx



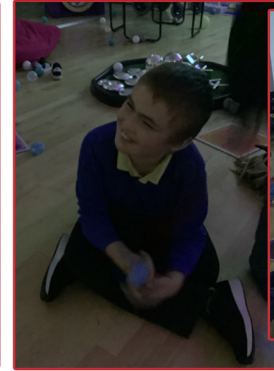
Lower School

Silver & Gold Classes

What a great summer term Silver and Gold Class have had! We have been very busy with lots of exciting activities linked to our topic 'Am I the Fastest?'. We had a lot of fun participating in various sports activities during sports week, and the whole school fun run was a real highlight for everyone. Our sports themed Hydrotherapy session was also a firm favourite!

Throughout the term, we have been lucky enough to go on various outings to shops, parks, and cafes. Most recently, we all enjoyed our end of year trip to Senses in Skelton, where we explored lots of sensory resources; it was a wonderful, relaxing experience after all our hard work this year!

Thank you for a great term, everyone – we hope you all have a brilliant summer break!



Lower School Leavers

On Thursday 4th July, we held an assembly to celebrate all of our wonderful Lower School Leavers. It was lovely to see so many parents and family members joining in as we sang and danced. We will miss all of our leavers very much, but know that they will continue to flourish and make lots of new memories throughout their time in Upper School. You are all amazing; keep shining like the superstars you are!



Upper School

G1

This term G1 have been busy learning about the Olympics. As well as learning about the modern Olympics, they have also researched Ancient Olympic history and learnt about its origins. They found it fascinating that it was designed to honour Zeus.

We used our trips to learn more about athletes and their sports. We have visited a sports shop to price up the various sports equipment and we also had a tour of the Sports Village. We saw the various training areas including the track and talked to personal trainers about their job and the athletes they have worked with, we even found out about local Olympians!

G1 students have explored sports commentary and the power of the spoken language to bring in emotions, they wrote their own commentary for a dramatic Olympic events and used some amazing language to recount the events. Students also used their ICT skills to plan and create their own animations based on Olympic events. They did a fantastic job, we had everything from Lego man races to green screen javelin events.

To celebrate the end of the end year and all of the students hard work, we went on a full day trip to Whitby. Students climbed the 199 steps and sailed on a pirate ship!

G2

Wow! What an amazing year G2 have had, everyone has worked so hard, we've learnt lots and made lots of special memories.

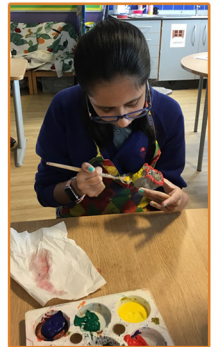
This year in G2, all the pupils have become so much more independent, in cookery this half term they have been working by themselves to make some sweet treats! The pupils followed a recipe and made some cupcakes and cookies with no adult help- they were delicious! They have also made a class favourite, a chicken parmo!

This term our topic has been 'Am I The Fastest?' and we have done lots of exciting activities about this. We have made some clay 'pinch pots' like the Ancient Greek's and visited Middlesbrough Sports Village and talked about what sports we do in the Modern day Olympics and the Ancient Olympics- we even got to try some out on Sports Day!

For our Summer Trip went bowling and to Saltholme, we all had lots of fun and enjoyed trying somewhere new! We hope you have a fantastic summer!

G3

G3 have had a busy but fantastic summer term. Each class chose a country as part of the football Euros and G3 chose Jamaica. We transformed our classroom into a tropical paradise, explored props, tasted mocktails and listened to music. We enjoyed singing and signing the song, 'Don't worry 'bout a thing'. G3 participated in Enterprise Challenge Week where we had a fantastic time building a Wind Turbine. G3 worked so hard throughout the week and achieved a communication award and an outstanding pupil award. We were so proud of one another. Throughout the year G3 have participated in Enterprise activities to sell at the Christmas and Easter Fayre. With the money raised G3 enjoyed a school trip to Shildon Railway Museum, where we enjoyed looking at locomotives and playing with our friends in the park.





Upper School

G4

This Summer term, G4 have enjoyed learning about Greece as part of our 'Am I The Fastest?' topic. They have made their own Greek flags, pottery and enjoyed making Greek biscuits in cooking. They all worked really hard during sports week and represented our class country of Greece fantastically during the fin run. Thank you for an amazing year G4, you have been a brilliant class to teach!



G5

G5 have had a very sporty half term, and we have loved having a gym as our role play area. We enjoyed sharing in some healthy competition during Sports Day, and our Neptune swimming group have made lots of progress. The weather has been very up and down, but we have been learning outside as much as we can. Some of us have especially loved building a den on the field.

Happy summer from G5!



G6

This term, G6 have enjoyed the topic 'Am I The Fastest?' celebrating the Olympics, we have enjoyed playing a range of sporting games linked to different countries, while making a range of France themed crafts. The class enjoyed engaging in a range of sporting activities in sports week and really enjoyed running the school Fun Run. We have had a lovely term and an even better year, it has been a great year and a fun class to end my time at Priory Woods School, I hope everyone has a lovely summer holidays. Best of wishes as always Kieran.



G7

This term G7 have been super busy! We have explored some exciting sporting activities in our own unique way, such as; surfing, cheerleading, trampolining, swimming and beach buggies at Redcar Beach.

We created our own story based around the book, 'I Really Want To Win'. All of our students were winners at their own fantastic sports!

Have a great summer holiday everyone – Over and out.
Louise x



Upper School

G8

This summer term in G8 we have been enjoying our topic 'Am I The Fastest?' celebrating the Olympics, we have enjoyed playing new sporting games, making and creating different countries flags and dancing to different countries music. We have loved our sports week too engaging in obstacle courses, relay races and fun runs! We have been extremely lucky to enjoy our full day visit at the Tim Lamb Centre in Newcastle this half term as part of our end of year trip, we loved exploring the sensory rooms, ball pools, outdoor and indoor play and had a wonderful day in the sunshine!



G9

This summer term in G9 we have been celebrating the Olympics, with lots of flags, art work and even making Greek omelettes in cooking! We have been sporty too, with some fun on the indoor and outdoor trampolines, splashing in the hydro pool and taking part in the school fun run. We have enjoyed water play outside on sunny days, and country dancing in the hall. We also had an end of term visit to Senses wellbeing centre which was enjoyed by all!



G10

We have had a wonderful summer term in G10. We have enjoyed our Monday afternoon visits to Senses Wellbeing Centre in Skelton. The students have enjoyed exploring all of the sensory experiences that is there for them. We have also enjoyed our topic this half term learning about the Olympics, decorating flags and participating in sports week. All of the students enjoyed the sports week events particularly sports day and the fun run! I can't believe it is the end of the school year already, what a year we have had in G10! Well done everybody, you have been amazing! I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday.



My Voice Matters

This year, some of our Post 16 students have worked with Middlesbrough Council on a project called Pupil Participation. Part of this project was to help organise the My Voice Matters Conference at Middlesbrough Town Hall. Some of our students spoke to hundreds of other students and staff to introduce the day, and to talk about our school. We then attended lots of different workshops throughout the day, including internet safety, health and well-being, music and art. Our amazing Open Orchestra also performed for everyone at the conference. We were then lucky enough to meet Britain's Got Talent magician Cillian O'Connor. He showed us some of his magic tricks and asked Tyler to be involved in his tricks. Tyler did a fantastic job and we were amazed with Cillian's tricks. We are incredibly proud of our students for being involved in this project and extremely grateful to Middlesbrough Council for this wonderful opportunity.



We Passed!

Well done to our students who have taken their Functional Entry Level exams and passed!

We are so proud of you all.

Hobbycraft Work Experience

Some of our students took part in work experience at Hobbycraft. They took part in activities including using the till, using the scanners, finding items in the shop and learning all about the warehouse. They all really enjoyed this experience and learnt lots about the world of work.



The Beamsley Residential

An amazing week was had by all who attended our Post 16 Beamsley residential. A week full of new experiences, fun and laughter. The sun was shining and the students were too!



Post 16

Prom 2024!

What a wonderful day/evening Post 16 had celebrating their Prom. The leavers planned and organised the event themselves and it was a huge success.

Enterprise

As another year of enterprise draws to close, we would like to say that we have been blown away with the success Priory Products has seen this year. We have completed over 350 orders, generating over £6,000 in sales. The money raised allows the students to gain a wages, and it also paid for the Prom. The students finished the year by completing an order for 82 T-shirts, as well as delivering the first order of our new collaboration with Larchfield community shop.



Enterprise Challenge Week

This year, students in Post 16 and Upper School participated in Enterprise Challenge Week for the third year running. Students were set a challenge to design and make a wind turbine from recyclable materials. The week comprised of various challenges each day for the students to take part in. All activities were aimed at building on the students' employability and enterprise skills to prepare them for adulthood. Some students visited Redcar to see and learn about the wind turbines. This inspired them to create a wonderful model of Redcar beach, including their own wind turbines and a lighthouse! All materials were recycled or collected by the students.

On the last day, students attended a celebration event at the ARC, where the wind turbines were tested for their efficacy and speed. The students thoroughly enjoyed participating in this event and look forward to next year's event!



P1

We have visited the beach for a day trip and have loved winding down for the end of term. Beamsley was a hit: visiting Blackpool, Skipton, Bolton Abbey and Billy Bob's Ice-cream Palour. The prom was AMAZING! We loved dressing up in our smartest clothes and dancing the night away. Our leaving students have loved their transitions to The Orchard and TASC, in preparation for leaving. Enjoy the summer!





Creative Arts

Open Orchestra

This term, the Orchestra students have been working hard to complete the Digital Score Project in association with Music and Nottingham University. Students composed a piece of music with 4 movements using ideas taken from digital score. It was then performed along with other works at the end of year performance at Middlesbrough Town Hall which was attended by around 200 people. As well as a repeat workshop by Touring Musician Brendan Murphy who taught the group a song by Tears for Fears. The Orchestra are also performed at the 'My Voice Matters' conference on 5th July.



Team Shakespeare

Team Shakespeare had their final workshop with Ollie from the RSC. They beautifully performed the famous balcony scene from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at Archibald School as part of the RSC's Associate Schools Programme. This promenade performance showcased the student's talents in drama and dance. It was a great success for all involved.



Dance Exams

BATD dance examinations were held this term, seeing Team Apollo passing with commended and highly commended results.

Congratulations Everyone!



Bamboozle Theatre Company

Bamboozle Theatre Company came into school and performed. PMLD learners met Patience, Buddy and Zach who are waiting for rain in the dusty, dry heat of the American Dust Bowl. It featured live music with tactile vibrations, captivating visual effects, puppetry, and a sprinkling of magic.



New Friendships

Students from Outwood Ormesby have been forging new friendships with students in Upper School. They have been showing us their signing skills and have joined in some of our drama lessons.

The Exhibition

The Post 16 students amazed their family and friends with this year's Big Event. The Exhibition was an immersive experience for all. The students had been working throughout the year to produce an art exhibition inspired by Vincent Van Gogh. Whilst the audience were captivated by the artwork, they were thoroughly entertained by some witty drama, catchy music and vibrant dance pieces. The exhibition ended with the big reveal. This was an eight foot canvas which every student in the school had contributed to. This amazing piece of artwork will be displayed in Teesside International Airport throughout the summer.



Dance Festival

Pupils from Upper School and Post 16 danced their way to the Final of U.Dance dance festival and performed at Newcastle's Dance City. The group were superb!

Well done Everyone!

