

Prory Woods Newsletter

Brief News

Upcoming Dates

Mon 6th January - Back to School

Safeguarding Information

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact: Vicky McDermott, Emma Fox or Paula Smith. Our safeguarding Governor is David Mudd.

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>



MESSAGE FROM EMMA

Dear Families,

What another busy and exciting term it has been at Prory Woods! As we wrap up the year, I'm filled with so much pride reflecting on all the amazing things our school community has accomplished together.

The year began with a warm welcome to our new Reception and Year 7 students, who have settled in so quickly and embraced their new routines with enthusiasm! It's hard to believe it's only been one term — they've truly become part of our school family already — I know that I always say this but it's true.

As we approach the holiday season, our school has been bursting with Christmas cheer, and as usual there's glitter everywhere! A big thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Fair, we raised a record-breaking amount and it was lovely to see so many of you there. Our Post 16 students have been busy getting your Prory Products Christmas orders out, they've done an amazing job bringing festive joy to all.

Upper School attended a beautiful Christingle service at St. Cuthbert's Church, Ormesby. Children read the lessons and sang lots of traditional hymns beautifully. When the candles were lit and the lights were turned down it was a true moment of 'awe and wonder' for everyone.

As usual, the Lower School Christmas performance was absolutely amazing! The children shone brightly on stage, and it was clear to see how proud you all were of their incredible performances.

This term has been nothing short of jam-packed with fun and learning and I hope that you enjoy reading about everything your children have been taking part in on their learning journey this term.

All of this is only possible because of the dedication of our incredible staff. I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of them for their unwavering commitment to creating the best possible education and experiences for your children. As you may know we had a full graded Ofsted inspection last week, this went well and the report should be available towards the end of January. This is always a stressful experience, but the inspectors saw how Prory Woods truly is 'A special place to learn'.

Sadly, this term we are saying goodbye to Aimee Robinson. She is moving on to an exciting new opportunity, but she will be very much missed by everyone at school. Aimee is an inspirational teacher and I'm sure that if she has taught your child over the years you'd want to join me in saying thanks for everything that she has done for Prory Woods. We are also saying goodbye to Kirsty Bentley from our office team. Good luck in your new job Kirsty, we will miss you.

As we head into the holiday season, I want to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas! I hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday filled with laughter, love, and special moments with your loved ones. May the New Year bring you health, happiness, and peace.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6th January, ready to embark on another exciting and busy year ahead!

With warm wishes and festive cheer,
Emma Fox



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

Lower School's Christmas performance this year was based around The Night Before Christmas. We are sure you will agree everybody was an absolute superstar as always. Even Santa Claus made a star appearance at the end.

Lower School also enjoyed a beautiful sensory Christingle service with lots of twinkly lights, dressing up and singing carols.

SANTA!

We were very grateful to The Teesside Family Foundation for donating selection boxes for every student in our school. These were delivered by Santa who made a guest appearance in Lower School's Christmas show. We were so pleased everybody had made it onto Santa's nice list this year!

Lower School also enjoyed a beautiful sensory Christingle service with lots of twinkly lights, dressing up and singing carols.



Pink & Red Class

It has been lovely to see all our Reception children settle into school for their first term here at Priory Woods. They have been building up relationships with staff and making new friends in both Pink and Red Class. We have had such a busy term learning all about 'Colours,' both in school, and whilst going out on the mini-bus to see the decorations in our local Garden Centre. We have especially loved playing and learning outdoors this term, exploring our brand-new trim trail climbing equipment, spinning top and playing together on our accessible roundabout. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Merry Christmas.

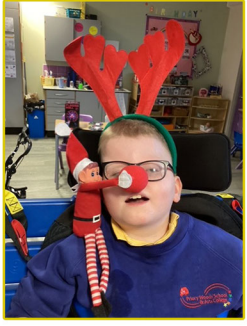
Love from, EYFS x





GOLD

It has been another busy and fun packed half term for our class. We loved visiting the garden centre to look at the wonderful Christmas displays to get ideas for our own classroom Winter Wonderland. We got stuck into activities for Children in Need in November, even having a fun Pudsey pool party in the hydrotherapy pool. Our class Christmas show performance was based around The Nutcracker, with sugarplum fairies and twinkly lights. We also had fun with the cheeky elf who visited our class this year.

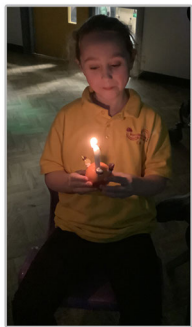


SILVER

Silver Class have been very busy this term and have particularly enjoyed our Winter Wonderland topic. We have learned about different animals that live in colder climates through sensory stories and Attention Autism sessions. Linked to the topic, we used a sensory tuff tray to explore melting ice and rising sea levels to support discussions around climate change and how this is affecting animals that live in polar regions.

In our Lower School assemblies, we have enjoyed learning about some of the different celebrations and events that occur around the world, including Children in Need, Harvest Festival, Bonfire Night and The Christmas Story. Last week, all of the children took part in our annual Christmas Show which they performed to the rest of school as well as to families. They worked very hard during rehearsals and put on a great show – they were all amazing!

Thank you for a lovely term, Silver Class! We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break.



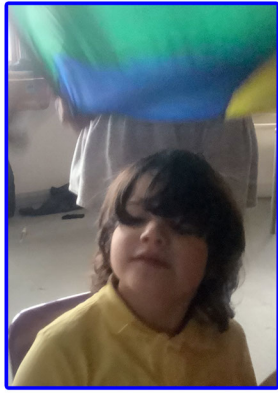
BLUE

Blue Class have had a fun filled term exploring our 'Extreme Weather' Topic! We've been exploring snow, rain and wind and we even had a visit to our Winter Wonderland in school complete with a snow machine! We have worked hard on our Lower School Christmas Show and our class did really well in their roles, they practised hard and gave a brilliant performance!

We have raised money in school for Children in Need and Red Nose day and we have had a lovely sensory drama experience based around World War Two and Remembrance Day.

During the term, we have been lucky enough to visit Senses Wellbeing Centre and used their sensory play environment for an hour a week. The students have loved to explore the environment and play with their equipment including bubble tubes, black out tents, tuff trays and light-up resources.

We hope you all have a lovely, safe and happy holiday with your loved ones. From all in Blue Class; Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





GREEN

In Green Class, we have enjoyed creating a wide variety of Winter Wonderland and Christmas Crafts, We especially like painting with our hands!

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas!



ORANGE

This term in orange class we have looked at the topic Winter Wonderland, using sensory stories and sensory play to learn about the different animals in colder climates. All the children have taken part in putting on a wonderful Christmas performance that was performed to the whole school and to parents. We have used our Attention Autism sessions to learn about special events such as, Bonfire Night and Christmas. We have worked on children's physio plans, partaking in rebound, hydrotherapy and lots more. All children have worked hard using eye gaze, using different cause and effect games.

Thank you for a great term Orange Class, have a lovely Christmas!



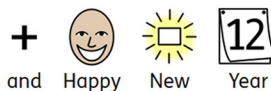
YELLOW

We have had a lovely, but very busy term in Yellow Class. We have loved exploring various materials for 'Winter Wonderland' and playing in our role play area, the vets. We have enjoyed the build up to Christmas and making all our Christmas crafts. We even had a cheeky little elf, Buddy, who played some tricks on us.

We all worked super hard learning the routine for our Christmas performance and the feedback received from our parents was amazing.

Yellow Class have also developed a love for Boccia this term, we are so competitive!

Wishing you all a fantastic Christmas with your families. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in 2025.





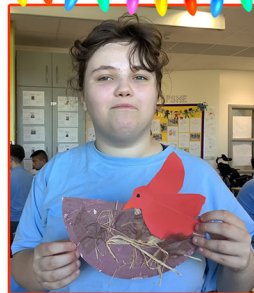
G1 We have had a very busy Autumn term in G1. We have enjoyed learning all about World War 2 in our history topic and about Extreme Earth in our Geography topic.

Every Tuesday the students have been developing their life skills by planning their lunch, going out to the supermarket to buy the ingredients, then cooking it in the food technology room. The students have also had some special experiences this term, they have had the opportunity to go to Southmoor Riding Centre in Sedgefield where they groomed, mucked out and had a ride on the horses. Some students also went to Billingham Forum Ice Rink to take part in an ice-skating festival.



Well done to all the students. Have a wonderful Christmas break!

G2 G2 have had a busy Autumn term. We have learnt about WW2 in History and have enjoyed working in our role play 1940's kitchen. We have made lots of crafts including tanks and air raid shelters out of recycled materials and created Blitz posters. As part of our topic Extreme Earth we have enjoyed learning about tornados, earthquakes and tsunamis and have enjoyed lots of practical experiments associated with these. In PSHE we have learnt about being kind and the importance of being a good friend. In RE we have learnt about Christianity including Saint Francis and the Meaning of Christmas. It has been our turn for swimming at the Neptune Centre and we have made some fantastic progress. We have earned our swimming and safety in the water certificates.



G3 G3 have had a lovely first term in their new class with friends and staff. We have explored the topic of Winter Wonderland, learning all about animals who live in cold climates, the children have used different sensory trays and stories to learn. G3 have shown us all great confidence in communicating with each other, developing new friendships, helping one another in the classroom and fantastic phonics! G3 have enjoyed learning new Makaton singing and signing songs that they performed at the church for Christingle. Thank you for a great term G3 and have a wonderful Christmas!

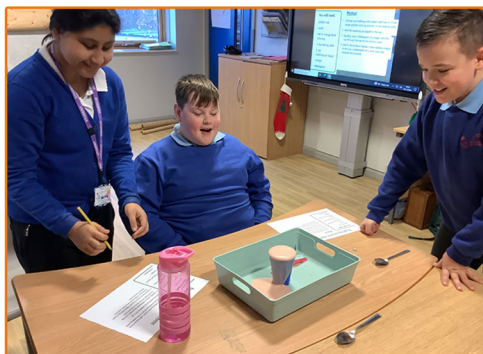




G4 have settled in well to the new academic year and have been extremely busy!

We have enjoyed exploring lots of different topics, such as World War 2 in our history and drama lessons. We all took part in a Remembrance Day performance, where we played the part of evacuees. We have learnt about our 'Extreme Earth' in geography lessons and made our own volcanic eruptions! In science lessons, we have been learning about animals, from mammals to reptiles! Every Friday, we go swimming to become stronger swimmers and develop our knowledge of how to keep safe in the water. We have also visited Café 16 to say hello to Post 16 students. We read from a menu, chose what we'd like and paid for it. We have enjoyed a class trip out to Stewart Park and attended carol singing in Middlesbrough Town Hall and a Christingle service in a local church.

Well done G4! I can't wait to see what exciting opportunities next term brings. Have a wonderful Christmas break and a happy New Year!



G5 This term in G5 we have been very busy!

We have all worked hard and done lots of learning with our friends. We have especially enjoyed learning about numbers, Forest School and becoming better in cookery.

We have been practising our knife, pouring and mixing skills.

To end the term off well, we had the special treat - going to Winter Wonderland and the school disco!





G6 Everyone in G6 has had a brilliant first term back at school and everyone has settled well and worked hard on our topics 'My Family' and 'Winter Wonderland'. In Attention Autism we have explored different experiments and eruptions which links to our Geography topic. We have taken part in lots of different activities linked to The World Around Me where we have explored and learned about events such as Halloween, Remembrance Day, Bonfire Night and Christingle.



We have enjoyed lots of fun Christmassy activities in the last few weeks such as making Christmas cards, opening our advent calendar and going to see the Lower School Christmas performance.

All the staff in G6 would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will see you all in 2025 ready for our new topic 'Dangerous Dinosaurs'.

G7 G7 have loved the build up to Christmas. We have explored the Cherry Hill Garden Centre Christmas Walk, enjoyed watching the Lower School Christmas Show and made crafts, cards and baubles. We've worked hard on our Eyegaze skills and are getting better week by week. Cause and effect games are our favourites on the interactive whiteboard, especially the Christmas motivators and the Advent Calendar games. We continue to take part in our therapies in the hydrotherapy pool and on the trampoline as well as our weekly and daily physiotherapy sessions. Friendships are blossoming and we have enjoyed reading Christmas and winter stories in our Winter Wonderland sensory tent with the sensory lights on.



G8 Our Winter Wonderland topic this half term has brought some exciting opportunities to explore everything cold. We have loved our sensory story called 'You might be a snowman if...'. We liked having carrot noses, woolly hats, icy handshakes and a visit from a friendly snow person. He had to go before it got too warm though. We liked to see (and taste) the ice melting in warm water.

Our Geography linked explorations took us from cold climates with polar bears, snow foxes, penguins, icebergs, and snow to the heat of the desert watering hole. We got sandy feet, warmed our hands and met elephants, tigers and lizards. We encountered volcano activity using baking soda and smelly vinegar and were excited to see and hear how it fizzed.

In Attention Autism, we have focused on some special events like Remembrance Day, Christingle and the story of Jesus at Christmas. We made cards and goody bags to sell at the Christmas fayre and even had a little shop in the school library.

We hope you all have a good break over Christmas and we are looking forward to our Dinosaur topic in the new year.





G9 G9 have had such a busy Autumn term. We have visited local parks, garden centres and cafes, the students have thoroughly enjoyed our educational visits. During our PSHE lessons, we explored a sensory story based around the book 'The Invisible String'. This allowed the students to learn about love and people who are special to us. The students have enjoyed messy play sessions, especially water play, and have enjoyed exploring our forest school area. They have wowed staff with their developing communication skills and symbol exchange, and are beginning to develop their independent skills which have been seen in the classroom, dining room and during cooking lessons.

Thank you for a great term G9!



G10 This half term students have worked hard on their focus with learning and engaging during more focused sessions. We have learnt about the importance of being a good friend and gained lots of new independence skills whilst making some lovely winter treats.

In Geography this half term we have explored extreme Earth, where students explored tsunamis, tornados and volcanos. They then had a go at experimenting with resources to create their own volcanos in class.

In Attention Autism, we have focused on some special events such as; Remembrance Day, Christingle and the story of Jesus at Christmas. Students have created some wonderful art and will be bringing these home with them.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. See you all in 2025 when we will be exploring our Dinosaur topic.



CREATIVE

Bamboozle Theatre Company

Students from Maisie's class and Tom's worked with Bamboozle Theatre Company on a two-day residency in school.

The project was called 'The River of Baada' and told the story of an environmentalist trying to save an island from being industrialized.

Upper School students joined the circus, learning new skills through free exploratory play.



Students from Stacey's class also worked with Bamboozle Theatre Company. They too were exploring environmental issues and our polluted seas.



Remembrance Service

Pupils from Post 16 and Maddie's class created, devised and performed Priory Woods first ever, Remembrance Service. The service included a selection of dance, drama, poetry and speeches all researched by the students. It was enjoyed by an audience of pupils, friends and family. The service looked back through history and paid tribute to the fallen.

Pupils from Kathryn's class and Post 16 explored the art of making collage. They responded to a design brief using World War II posters as a stimulus. Their artwork was exhibited as part of the Remembrance service.



Art Canvas Coming Home for Christmas

Our amazing whole school painted artwork, which was created last term by all pupils making their mark, was brought back to Priory Woods after being exhibited at Teesside Airport over the summer. Visitors to the airport, from far and wide, got in touch to say how impressed they were with the piece and commented on it's beauty.



Daniel Gets Grade 4 Piano!

We have all been working hard in music this term, but we wanted to give a special mention to one of our wonderful pianists, Daniel, who was awarded a merit after scoring 120 marks for his Grade 4 piano exam.

Well done, Daniel!

Big Rocking Christmas

This term, four classes from Upper School attended Musinc's Big Rocking Christmas. We had an amazing time dancing and singing and signing lots of Christmas songs. We had some amazing students signing live on stage to the whole audience.

Open Orchestra

Students composed a special song/ soundscape for an installation in Middlesbrough train station. This has been recorded and is due to be broadcast in the train station over the Winter. This was in association with Fulsonic Media. The group also performed at Welburn Hall School in York as well as recording an amazing Christmas cover of "Rocking Around The Christmas Tree".



Christmas Party

Our Post 16 Christmas party was wonderful. We spent the day celebrating with our friends, we shared a lovely lunch and of course we danced the day away.



Cafe 16

It has been great to have new students working in Café 16. We can't wait to welcome the next team into their work experience in January. The café is open to the public each Monday and Tuesday, from 10am – 2.30pm. If you come and visit in January, we will offer you a free cup of tea or coffee with any food order.

Work Experience

Post 16 students have completed a number of external work experience placements, including the library at Discovery Academy, hairdressing experience at Beverley School salon, Senses Wellbeing centre and MFC catering. The hairdressing placement also allows other students to go along to be the model, this is proving very popular indeed!



Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair was a huge success, bringing in over £2000. Priory Products have worked hard, and they are still busy completing final orders.

Shoebox Appeal

Post 16 would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated items and money towards our shoebox appeal. Teesside at Christmas were extremely grateful for all the wonderful items we have collected. The students in Post 16 worked extremely hard to sort all of the items and pack them up, ready to be delivered.



Pupil Participation Project

Some of our students in Post 16 continue to be involved with Pupil Participation again this term. They are currently planning 'My Voice Matters' event again, which will be held in May. In addition to this, three students represented Priory Woods at the Proclaim, Young Person Voice event and three took part in a photo shoot with the Breaking Down Barriers Commission, to help drive positive change in our local area. The commission aims to see how the Tees Valley can become the centre for inclusive growth, improving the opportunity, the environment and good employment for all. We look forward to hearing more about this project.



P1

This term in P1 we have been exploring how Autumn turns to winter in our sensory story, blowing Autumn leaves around and feeling cold ice and smelling wintery smells! We have also enjoyed the smells and tastes of winter whilst making our cinnamon apple cakes in Cooking. We are working hard at our switch and eye gaze skills in ICT and continue to enjoy our rebound, hydro and country dancing sessions. We made gorgeous Christmas decorations which proved very popular at the Christmas fair!

