

Priory Junior School

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Headteacher: Tracy Keefe B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know that after a career spanning 33 years in teaching, Mrs Keefe will be taking early retirement at the end of this academic year.

We have chosen to share this information with you at this early stage as we would like to give the children the opportunity to play a part in the recruitment process for a new Head Teacher. The staff are already aware and the children have been given the news by their class teacher today.

During her 23 years at the school, 20 years as Head Teacher and 3 years as Deputy Head, Mrs Keefe has been instrumental in leading the school, developing and delivering our vision with an outstanding commitment to our pupils, their families and the whole staff team. Over the years, Mrs Keefe has delivered many key initiatives to drive the school forward including implementing the restorative approach within school, building The Base from scratch to enable the school to provide after school care, the great 'Young Voices' initiative, leading the choir to annual trips to the O2, her commitment to the school PTA being ever present at all events, and during COVID19 – creating the 'Great Priory Run'. Everything underpinned by the school mission 'to be the best you can be'.

There have been significant challenges along the way, the COVID19 pandemic being the most significant with schools in the front line throughout. Mrs Keefe, with the support of all the staff, led the school through those challenging times, ensuring we were able to continue to provide an education for all pupils, both in and out of school using new strategies and technologies.

I have been aware of her intentions for some time, but I know, given how much Mrs Keefe cares passionately about the school and children, that making the final decision to retire did not come easily. She has chosen also to give us plenty of notice to give us time to identify the right person to lead the school into its next stage of development and the recruitment process has now started.

We will be arranging activities towards the end of the summer term to celebrate Mrs Keefe's time here and the dedication and commitment she has shown. In the meantime, I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Mrs Keefe all the very best in her retirement, when the time finally comes.

Kind regards,

Stephen Hardy

Chair of Governors

# Príory News



# 22nd November 2024

#### Dear Parents,

During this week, we have welcomed many visitors to our school. The NSPCC workshops concluded—with the team working with our Year 6 pupils.

We were thrilled to see the enthusiasm from the children for our Anti-Bullying theatre shows and workshops on Monday and Tuesday. Both these, and the NSPCC workshops, reminded the children of the importance of sharing their concerns / worries with trusted adults at home or in school.

In OPAL news, there has been much excitement this week with the opening of the 'beach' and the digging area. The routines for playing in these areas were shared with the children in an OPAL assembly this week. Currently, the beach has been put onto a rota for year groups—as we knew that it would be exceptionally popular—and it has been. Please do help us, and your child/ren, by providing them with a change of clothing and footwear, especially during these winter months.

A group of our children attended the Hunts Schools Sports Partnership Panathlon challenge this week. We were delighted to hear how well they had competed during the morning. Working together, they came third in the competition. Well done to you all!

Al6 also shared a superb class assembly too—demonstrating a good understanding of Crime and Punishment over time. It was fantastic!

Best Wishes,

Mrs Keefe

#### **Panathlon Competition**

We awarded certificates to the children who took part in the Panthlon competition in assembly this morning Well done to you all!



### Year 3/4 Disco

Don't forget to book your place at the disco. This is on Thursday next week!

### **Diary Dates**

Prospective Parents Open Morning	25th November
Year 6 Buddhist Visitor	26th November
HT6 Class Assembly	27th November
Year 3/4 Discos	28th November
Parents Do Day	3rd December
Year 5/6 Discos	5th December
Years 4 and 5: Chaos Science	10th December
Workshops	
Panathlon Bowling	10th December
FOPJS Christmas Present Room	11th—12th December
Christmas Lunch	11th—12th December
Year 3 Christmas Performance	17th December 9.30am
Year 5 Christmas Performance	17th December 2pm
Year 6 Christmas Performance	18th December 9.30am
Year 4 Christmas Performance	18th December 2pm
Christingle Assembly	20th December
End if Autumn Term	20th December
Christmas Holiday	23rd December—6th January
Spring Term Starts	7th January

#### Year 4 Habitats Homework

The Year 4 children held a gallery of their habitats homework today. It was wonderful to hear the thought that had been given to both the habitat being created and the animals that would be found there.



#### **Tuck Shop**

Tuck shop re-opened this week. This is an enterprise scheme which is run by our Year 6 children. They are responsible for marketing, ordering, stock control and running the tuck shop. It has got off to a great start!



## Next Week's Lunch Menu:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Pork Sausages Mashed Potato Peas & Carrots Gravy	Beef Lasagne Herby Potatoes Salad/Sweetcorn	Roast Chicken Roast Potatoes Peas & Carrots Gravy	Beef Chilli Rice Sweetcorn & Broccoli	Fish Fingers Chips Baked Beans/ Garden Peas
VEGETARIAN	Vegan Sausage Mashed Potato Peas & Carrots Gravy	Vegetarian Lasagne Herby Potatoes Salad/Sweetcorn	Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese Roast Potatoes Peas & Carrots	Vegetable Enchilada Rice Sweetcorn & Broccoli	Cheese Pizza Chips Baked Beans/ Garden Peas
JACKET POTATO	Pasta with Optional Homemade Tomato Sauce and/or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Pasta with Optional Homemade Tomato Sauce and/or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo	Pasta with Optional Homemade Tomato Sauce and/or Cheese
SANDWICH/	Sandwich with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo, Cheese or Ham	Baguette with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo, Cheese or Ham	Bap with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo, Cheese or Ham	Bagel with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo, Cheese or Ham	Wrap with Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo Cheese or Ham
DESSERTS	Lemon Sponge Custard	Shortbread Fruit Slices	Iced Chocolate Sponge	Apple Crumble Custard	Fresh Fruit Friday
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