

Priory Newsletter

January 2015

Attendance

We finished the autumn term with an overall attendance figure of 96.5%. This figure was lower than usual, due mainly to illness. However, attendance has been very good during the first two weeks of January and we hope to see this continue throughout the spring term. I would like to thank you for your continued efforts.

Link Club

As you may already know, the Link Club has been taken over by Gemma Walley and Nicola Dixon. They have settled in well and the children who use the club seem happy. The club is currently undergoing changes, following our recent survey, and users will be kept informed as details are finalised. Costs will be compared to other local providers to ensure good value for money.

Staffing

Rebecca Simms has sadly left Priory due to ill health. We would all like to thank Rebecca for her dedication and hard work over the last few years and we wish her the very best for the future.

We would like to welcome our new teachers, Mr Pattison (4P) and Mrs Clarke (5C), to Priory.

If any parents are interested in working at Priory, on a casual basis, as a Lunchtime Supervisor or after school Cleaner, please contact the school via the main office or email us at: priory@prioryceprimary.org

Snow Procedures

In the event of snow it is highly unlikely that school would close. However, I would urge parents to check the Stoke-on-Trent School Closure Notification website if conditions are particularly bad: <http://www.stokeschoolclosures.org.uk> (Please note that this web address is the most current and is different to the one on our previous letter.)

We would also post details on our own website and Facebook page: www.prioryceprimary.org.uk www.facebook.com/prioryceprimaryschool.

If it is necessary to close the school part way through the day due to worsening conditions, we will publicise the closure in the same way and allow you time to collect your children. Members of staff will remain in school until the last child is collected. We will also use the Parentmail text and email service to notify you. However, if the system is busy it may delay text delivery, so please check the websites as well. It is helpful if you don't phone the school unless you have a problem collecting your child as the phone line becomes jammed easily and we are then unable to call those parents who do not use Parent Mail.

Medical Needs

Any child who has long term medical needs will have a care plan in place. If your child has a short term medical need, such as a fractured bone or stitches, we will need to complete a risk assessment with you **before they can return to school**. Please contact the school office if this applies to your child at any time.

Head Lice

We have had several classes with recent outbreaks of head lice. If you would like advice on dealing with and preventing head lice, please refer to our First Aid Policy on the school website: http://www.prioryceprimary.org.uk/?page_id=11 Alternatively, one of our parents has kindly set up a Facebook page offering advice to parents on effectively dealing with head lice. Please feel free to visit her page: <HTTPS://www.facebook.com/pages/Lets-eradicate-NITS/542087589207395?ref=hl>

A Note from the Governors

The Interim Executive Board (IEB) continues to meet on a regular basis and has had 7 meetings so far this academic year.

The work of the IEB is focusing on the removal of special measures, in particular, monitoring and evaluating the school's progress in raising achievement. Governors receive and scrutinise a great deal of performance data and invite senior leaders to meetings to hold them to account for their area of responsibility. Items on the agenda of IEB meetings so far this year have included a Headteacher's Report at each meeting, SATs results 2013-2014, attendance levels, behaviour reports, assessment guidance, discussion of the November 2014 HMI Inspection, the School Development Plan 2014-2015, Priory Code of Practice for School Governors and numerous policies for review.

The IEB is also working towards re-constituting itself as a regular governing body as the school will no longer need an Interim Executive Board once special measures has been removed.

The Chair of the IEB, Fiona Dumbelton, will be subject to a 60 second quick-fire interview with the School Ambassadors later this month and they will have free reign to ask her anything they like! She will then be challenging the other governors to put themselves under the spotlight.

If you have any questions or queries for the IEB, please do not hesitate to email at: governors@prioryceprimary.org

Fundraising

Priory Talent Show

Priory Talent Show will take place on Monday 2nd February at 1:30pm (pupils only). **This will also be a non-uniform day.** A £1 donation for non-uniform and entrance to the show would be greatly appreciated. (Please note that applications to the Talent Show closed on Friday.) The money raised will be used by the School Council to improve playtimes.

FOPS The next FOPS meeting will be held in school on Wednesday 11th March at 7pm.

Reminders:

Year 6 will be taking part in an Evacuation on Saturday 24th January as part of their 'How Did Stoke Help to Win the War?' Please return completed forms by Friday 23rd January and meet at school at 4:45pm on Saturday.

Year 2 will be visiting Gladstone Pottery Museum on Tuesday 10th February.

Musical Theatre after school club will change over after half term. The **year 3 and 4 children**, who are currently on the waiting list, will start on Tuesday 24th February. The club finishes at 4:20pm.

Diary Dates

Year 6 Evacuation

Talent Show & Non-Uniform

Year 2 Gladstone Trip

Half Term

School Opens

Y3 & Y4 Musical Theatre Club

FOPS Meeting 7pm

Parents Evening & Book Fair 5-7pm

Parents Evening & Book Fair 3:30-6pm

Saturday 24th January

Monday 2nd February

Tuesday 10th February

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February

Monday 23rd February

Tuesday 24th February

Wednesday 11th March

Tuesday 17th March

Wednesday 18th March