



# ST. NICHOLAS PRIORY NEWS

## September 2017

‘There is no finish line to learning’

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome Back! I hope you have had an enjoyable summer.

All staff are looking forward to developing our community links and working with you to ensure the best possible learning opportunities for your child.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of staff; Miss Horspole (Y4 Teacher), Miss Dewberry (Trainee Teacher), Mrs Steward (Cover Supervisor), Mr Howes (Cover Supervisor) & Miss Edwards (Teaching Assistant).

Each year group has planned some exciting REAL projects for the children which include visits and presentations. Please take time to speak to class teachers and standards leads as we welcome parental involvement.

Last year we saw an improvement in results but recognise that there is still much more to do. Only by working in partnership can we achieve this.

It really helps that, as parents and carers you put a great value on school and education by explaining to your child that treating everyone with respect, being on time and in school everyday, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school will give them a great start. Having a routine in place whereby children know they must do their home learning will really help. If you have any concerns around home learning then please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. We in school will do everything we can to help your child to do their best. Let us know if we can support you in any way.

Finally, thank you for your support, and we look forward to another successful year, for your child, for you and for our whole school community.

Yours faithfully

***Mrs Maria Grimmer***  
Headteacher

### **Safeguarding**

The governors, headteacher and staff of St. Nicholas Priory School, through the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, endeavour to ensure that all safeguarding issues, or where there are reasonable grounds to suspect an issue, will be dealt with appropriately including reporting to the duty social services officer, who will act on the concern. We are legally bound, in our duty of care, to make referrals. Do let us know, for any reason, if your child is upset or distressed when s/he comes to school

### **Home Time Arrangements**

All children must be collected on time at the end of the school day, by the designated parent/carer/other specified adult. Please ensure your child is aware of home time arrangements, i.e. if they are to wait for an adult to collect them, or they are to go home alone or to go to an after school club. You must also ensure that arrangements are made for the care of your child once they return home. You **MUST** contact the school office if there is a change, i.e. if another adult will be collecting your child – we will not let your child go home unless we are notified of any change. Please also ensure that all contact details are up to date.

### **Food in School**

For children who choose to have a packed lunch, please ensure it contains a healthy balance, with no fizzy drinks or chocolate.

### **Mobile/Internet Safety**

As your children become more and more reliant on the Internet for both school work and entertainment, we must all, as a community, be more aware for the need to monitor the sites your child/ren visit. In school, through classroom activities and discussion, we highlight positive uses of technology, but also ways in which we can all keep safe through responsible use of the internet, our mobile phones and social media (eg WhatsApp, Facebook etc). Please talk to your child about the dangers of accessing unfamiliar sites, or giving parents' e-mail/Facebook/Twitter etc details to strangers.

### **School Uniform**

Just a reminder that new uniform guidance was issued in the Summer Term (see below). We expect all children at Priory to be smartly dressed and represent our school well. Parental co operation with this is much appreciated. Further parental consultation on uniform will happen at the next Parents' Evening. To complement this uniform, we also expect that children will attend school with suitable haircuts. Extreme haircuts, for example tramlines, patterned styles, Mohican cuts etc are not permitted in school.

The school is hoping to work with parents to ensure that all children are compliant with school policy. If you have any concerns then please contact the school office to speak to Dee Kirk or Roz Hazell as children will be given a consequence for incorrect uniform.

### **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

There will be no ties for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. Instead they will be allowed to wear a plain white polo shirt which can be bought from a supplier of your choice. Pupils will also be allowed to wear plain black tailored trousers which can be bought from any supplier.

### **Key Stage 2**

Children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be expected to wear a white shirt with a stiff white collar and a Priory tie. The white shirts can be purchased from a supplier of your choice. The ties are available from our school office. As for KS1 pupils children will also be allowed to wear plain black tailored trousers which can be bought from any supplier.

### **School Skirts**

To be purchased from Harrison's School Wear, 86 High Street, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, NR31 6RQ. Phone no: 01493 662214; website: address: [www.harrisons-schoolwear.co.uk](http://www.harrisons-schoolwear.co.uk)

The skirt which has been chosen by the school is the Banbury box pleat for KS1 girls (Reception, Years 1 & 2) and the Henley black pleated skirt for KS2 (Years 3, 4 5 & 6). **No other skirts will be allowed.**

### **Jumpers/cardigans**

**Plain black jumpers and cardigans will no longer be part of the uniform.**

Harrison's will also stock embroidered jumpers and cardigans. The school still has a stock of embroidered jumpers which parents can buy and pupils are able to wear until they have outgrown them. When our current stock has gone, jumpers and cardigans will then only be available from Harrisons.

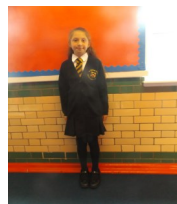
### **Shoes**

All children need black formal school shoes these can be purchased from any supplier. Black leather or leather look shoes should be worn to school, not trainers. There should be no trainer like features on the shoe. Even if the supplier states they are school shoes they may not be acceptable. These shouldn't have any big bows or buckles and should not be suede or material. Boots can be worn to and from school and at break and lunchtimes in winter, however pupils need to be able to change into shoes in school.

Socks need to be plain black. White socks or black tights can be worn if wearing a skirt.

### **PE Kit**

PE kit is an important part of the school uniform from Year 1 to Year 6. This consists of black plimsolls (without black soles) for indoors, trainers for outside; white T – shirt and black shorts for inside or summer activities, sweatshirt or tracksuit top (preferably black) for winter games.



### School Test Results

Below are the results of Year 6 (Key Stage 2)

Key Stage 2	At Standard
Reading:	57
Writing:	70
Grammar:	58
Maths:	66

**Early Years Foundation Stage:** 63% of pupils achieved a good level of achievement. This is significant improvement from 36% last year

**Key Stage 1 Phonics:** 65% achieved the expected mark in Year 1

### Behaviour Policy

We have recently reviewed our Behaviour Policy, which will be available on our website shortly. Please talk to your children regularly about being good ambassadors for their family and school.

### Learning Ambassadors

St Nicholas Priory is extremely pleased that the children are able to discuss their learning orally and in terms of reflection at the end of the lesson. We also have representatives from each class who are 'Learning Ambassadors.' These children are given additional opportunities and responsibilities to discuss learning with visitors and the school leadership team. They also represent the school on visits.

### Governors

All the Governors at St. Nicholas Priory School, work very hard, voluntarily, to ensure our school continues to serve the whole school community, at a consistently high level. Governors visit the school on a regular basis, attending meetings, undertaking training, attending interview panels and tour the school, looking at children's work, achievement and progress.

### After School Clubs

After School Clubs will start week beginning 25th September

We are able to offer the following clubs this year : Multi Skills Y1 & Y2, Football Y1 & Y2, Y3 & Y4, Y5 & Y6, Dodgeball, Y3 & Y4, Y5 & Y6, Girls Netball Y5 & Y6, Hockey KS2, Athletics KS2, Basketball KS2, Indoor Cricket KS2, Dance Y3 & Y4, Y5 & Y6, Dodgeball Y3 & Y4, Y5 & Y6, Chess KS2, Sewing KS2.

Further details will be sent out in a separate letter at the end of this week.

### **Contact with members of staff**

A member of the senior leadership team is always on one of the playgrounds in the morning to chat to parents. Similarly, teaching staff are always willing to talk to parents about any matters you may have concerning your children. If, on the very rare occasion, a teacher cannot see you, e.g. as they have to attend after school training or meetings, an appointment can be arranged at a mutually convenient date and time. Teachers may also on occasion, request to meet with parents to discuss your child. If you have any concerns then please speak to class teacher in the first instance, then the year group standards lead (see below), then the deputy Head Teacher/Head Teacher. If, following this, you feel your concerns have not been addressed adequately, please speak to the chair of governors. We do really appreciate you speaking to the relevant person so that your concerns can be quickly and effectively addressed.

### **Year Group Standards Leads:**

Reception : Miss Riley/Miss Lawrence

Year 1: Miss Ray

Year 3: Mrs King

Year 5: Mrs Maas

Year 2: Mrs Simons

Year 4: Mr Midmore

Year 6: Mrs Richardson

### **Class 'Drop Ins'**

Parents/carers are invited to come along and meet their child/ren's teacher in their new classes anytime from **2.30 to 3.15pm** on the following dates:

Year 3: Wednesday 20th September

Year 4: Thursday 21st September

Year 5: Thursday 21st September

Year 6: Monday 18th September

(Separate arrangements have been made for Reception parents which have been advised by letters sent in the post).

### **High School Open Nights**

The local high schools will all be having open nights for parents in the coming weeks for current Year 6 students. Please see school websites and local press for the dates. We are aware of the following :

Ormiston Venture: Thursday 21st September 5pm—7pm

Cliff Park Ormiston: Thursday 5th October 6pm—8.30pm

Great Yarmouth Charter Academy: Thursday 28th September time unknown

Caister Academy: Wednesday 20th September 6pm—8pm

Lynn Grove Academy: Tuesday 19th September 6pm—8.30pm

## Home learning Guidance

**By completing work at home, children can embed skills they have learned in class and make better progress. They also benefit from parent / carer involvement in their learning.**

### HOMEWORK IN RECEPTION & Y1

**Reading** - we provide a wide range of age appropriate reading books. It is recommended that parents or carers listen to their child(ren) read, once a day, for a minimum of ten minutes. Read stories as often as possible as this way they learn to enjoy reading and pick up new vocabulary.

**RWI (Read, Write Inc) sounds** – we provide the children with ‘sound’ sheets for the sounds that the children have been learning each week; it is recommended parents/carers practice five sounds at least once a week with their child(ren). Please speak to Teaching staff if you have any queries.

**Words** – In Reception and Y1 children are given bookmarks, each containing ten high frequency words. Parents/carers are asked to use the bookmarks to support their children in learning to recognise and write these words. Once the children are confident with these words, they are given the next bookmark with different words to learn.

### Years 3, 4 and 5

**Daily reading** – we provide a wide range of age appropriate reading books. It is recommended that parents or carers listen to their child(ren) read for around 15 minutes a day but we do appreciate that with busy lives this is not always possible, so parents and carers should aim for a minimum of a few minutes, three times a week. Even if you can't hear your child always encourage them to read. What they liked about the book, for example their favourite character.

It is important for your child's comprehension, to ask questions about the story they have read to you. Check they understand difficult words. Help them use a dictionary or the Internet to look up words that they don't understand. This will help to extend their vocabulary. Children should write a short summary of what they have read in their reading journals.

**Weekly spelling** – Your child will be given a weekly list of 10 spellings to learn. These will generally be linked to the National Curriculum, or to their particular project. Spellings will be tested weekly.

**Weekly times tables** – To help your child's understanding of maths, we are also introducing a weekly opportunity for times table learning, and will provide the resources.

**Maths Practice** – Each child is provided with a maths practice book at the beginning of the year. To promote independence, your child(ren) should find the topic they are working on in the book to complete. The books are provided with answer in the back for parents to assess the work.

**Termly or half termly Discovery Project** - Generally we will set a voluntary half termly craft based project which will be related to the Project the children are studying. Children will then exhibit their work to the class. We do find they really enjoy the opportunity to show off their work and would like to take this opportunity for parents to be involved.

## YEAR 6

**In addition** to the Lower Phase (Years 2, 3 & 4) homework schedule as above, in the Year 6, we will be providing our children with workbooks to practice and embed the learning taking place in class. This is a voluntary opportunity for children to extend their skills and knowledge independently.

In the first half term children will receive a Literacy booklet at the start of the year which we would like them to complete over the first half term. This features a range of Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling and Writing activities. There will also be a Maths booklet where your child's Maths set teacher will assign a task to do on a weekly basis. Children are always welcome to work through their homework and seek advice from their teacher during their lunchtimes.

We hope that this will provide parents with an opportunity to gain a real understanding of the curriculum and how your child is performing. It also gives the children a chance of some independent learning and assessment, both of which have been proved to raise attainment.

If you have any questions or would like additional information or support please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

## Feeding Back on Homework for Parents



Positive feedback to your child will build pride in their learning and give them the confidence to take on greater challenges to improve their results.  
Some tips for homework!

### Reading

Listen to your child read daily. Give them time to sound words out and avoid jumping in to correct them. Praise them for their attempts at reading difficult words, as well as when they get it right. If they struggle with pronunciation, they probably don't know the meaning of the word. Discuss it with them. And lastly, ask questions about the story to help them gain understanding of what they are reading about. The teacher can give you some ideas.

### Spelling

Praise independent practice of spelling – it's great when you don't have to remind them. Try splitting the words, identifying similar spellings in the weekly list and test them.  
Congratulate them for any success – many words on the National Curriculum are tricky.

### Maths

Apart from homework, take any opportunity to get your child to count. The number of cakes in a window, the number of seagulls in the car park, can be good practice. Give them the money to pay for items – they can count it out and count back the change! Ask them what the time is. And praise – always praise, even if the answer they give is not quite right!  
Remember your class teacher is always on hand to suggest ways in which your child can improve their learning. Please don't be afraid to ask. We are working together for our children!



# Autumn Term School and Homework Projects

The children are studying some really interesting and worthwhile, community based projects this term. Look out for details about how you can get involved. We are hoping to be able to invite parents to take part in some of the class activities and practices in the coming weeks.

## Year 1

Our REAL project for the Autumn Term is: A performance and presentation of art work to residents of a residential home.

Our essential question is: Who am I? Who are you?

To ease their passage into the school, they will not be undertaking any home learning this term.

## Year 2

Our REAL project for the Autumn Term is: Learning how to stay healthy through exercise and eating the right food types.

Our essential question is: Is being healthy fun?

The children will have one piece of homework this term which is designed to back up the children's understanding of what it means to eat healthily by asking them to make a healthy lunchbox. A template for this will be provided.

## Year 3

Our REAL project for the Autumn Term is: Community themed

Our essential question is: Can music feed the world?

Y3 will be linking with the Salvation Army to study the impact they have on the local community. The children will be visiting the citadel in Great Yarmouth and will have the opportunity to create their own musical instruments to play. Closer to Christmas, Y3 will be organising a food bank collection to donate to the Salvation Army and will be singing in the market place to raise money for a collection. We also plan to visit other public places and perform our songs.

#### Year 4

Our REAL project for the Autumn Term is: Giants and Dragons

Our essential question is: How big is your imagination?

We will be exploring the world of dragons and giants and preparing for a trade show showcasing our creativity. The children will be thinking about the features of dragons and giants and creating their own through writing and design. A visit from a story-teller will help us wake up our imaginations!

Our project homework this half-term will be making a home for a homeless dragon. More details will follow.

#### Year 5

Our REAL project for the Autumn Term is: Local Community

Our essential question is: 'What does it mean to be 'old'?'

We will be studying the process of aging as well as a little bit of history. The children will be visiting residents of the Fishermen's Hospital to get some insight into what it's like to be a little bit more senior. The children will be building their design and technology skills to make the residents some surprise Christmas gifts in the coming term.

Our project homework this half term will be making a "Nine Men Morris" game. This is an old Anglo-Saxon game and instruction booklet on how to play it. Detailed instruction sheet soon.

#### Year 6

Our REAL project for the Autumn Term is: Community

Our essential question is: 'What are the secrets of the sea?'

Year 6's Autumn project, launches with a visit to Robin Hood's Bay, Whitby from Monday 11th September to Wednesday 13th September. During this trip children will have the opportunity to collate answers to their essential question whilst taking part in activities such as rock pooling, stone painting and making sketches of the sea. On returning to school children will present their trip report to their Year 6 peers. Children will creatively explore the sea and write adventure stories, biographies, diaries and smugglers tales throughout this term. Year 6 will continue to revisit, and improve their art work inspired by Robin Hood's Bay in a view to selling this in a market sale. Children will invite some of the local fisherman, an authentic audience for this project, to view their work as well as families and friends in early December.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is free for all children. It starts at 7.45am every morning, you do not need to book, your child/ren can just turn up. (Please do not send your children to school before 7.45am as they cannot be supervised until this time). Children should enter via the gates on the small playground on St Nicholas Road. The gate closes for Breakfast Club at 8am prompt.

**Song School**

Song School will start again week beginning Monday 18th September. For those of you new to the school, Song School takes place at Great Yarmouth Minster every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during term time. Children attending must arrive at school at 7.30am when they are escorted to the Minster by school staff where they are given breakfast before taking part in singing activities. Children are escorted back to school in time for morning registration.

If your child is interested in taking part, please speak to Mrs Goffin or Rev Sander-Heys.

**Curriculum Information**

Please look at the curriculum section of the school website to see what your child/ren will be learning about this term and how you can help.

**Contact/Medical Information**

Please remember to keep us updated with any changes to your contact information e.g. address/telephone numbers. Please also let us know if there are any changes to your child's medical information.

Data collection sheets have been sent to all children in Years 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6 last week for you to check the information we have on file for your child and update if necessary.

**Priorities for School Improvement for 2017 – 2018**

- ◆ To improve communication and links with parents and the wider community
- ◆ To ensure that the curriculum for the children is exciting, stimulating and challenging
- ◆ To ensure that joint attainment in English and Maths continues to improve to meet and exceed National expectations
- ◆ To raise standards of learning and teaching to be consistently good or better in the teaching of all subjects
- ◆ To ensure that all pupils are stretched from their starting points in each lesson

## Dates to remember

**Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th September:** Teacher Training Days (Developing Project Based Approaches to Learning)

**Wednesday 6th September:** Start of Autumn Term for pupils in Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

**W/B Monday 18th September:** Song School at the Minster re-starts

**W/B Monday 11th September:** Autumn Term starts for Reception children (letters sent separately)

**Monday 11th September:** Year 6 Project Launch visit to Robin Hood's Bay

**Monday 18th September:** Y6 class 'Drop in' from 2.30pm to 3.15pm

**Wednesday 20th September:** Y3 class 'Drop in' from 2.30pm to 3.15pm

**Thursday 21st September:** Y4 & Y5 class 'Drop in' from 2.30pm to 3.15pm

**Friday 29th September:** MacMillan Vintage Tea Party 2pm—details to follow

**Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th October 2017:** Parents' Evening—details to follow

**Thursday 5th October 2017:** School Photographer in, individual photos

**Thursday 19th October:** Harvest Festival at the Minster at 2pm

**Friday 20th October to Friday 27th October 2017:** Half Term holiday (Friday 20th October is a Teacher Training Day, school is closed to pupils)

**Wednesday 20th December 2017 to Wednesday 3rd January 2018:** Christmas Holidays (children return on Thursday 4th January 2018)

**Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018:** Half Term holiday

**Thursday 29th March to Friday 13th April 2018:** Easter Holidays (Thursday 29th March is a Teacher Training Day, school is closed to pupils)

**Monday 7th May 2018:** May Day Bank Holiday, school closed

**Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June 2018:** Half Term holiday

**Tuesday 24th July 2018:** Last day of the school academic year