



# ST. NICHOLAS PRIORY NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2018



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Spring newsletter. Firstly I would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their support, patience and kindness through some very difficult events this term including the tragic loss of Mr Harry Simons last week.

It is lovely to see so many parents attending our school events. It makes such a difference to both the children and staff. Please look out for lots of Summer Term opportunities to come and join in with what is happening in school.

It is great to be able to celebrate a real improvement in behaviour with 264 of our children not having any behaviour points at all this term. Staff are working hard to ensure that behaviour is consistently good and that any incidents of aggression or bullying are tackled quickly as these will not be tolerated. I am sure that parents and carers will support school staff to ensure that all children are able to focus on learning. We are eager to work with you so please contact school staff if there are any issues around this or anything else.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Easter Holiday.



Maria Grimmer, Head Teacher

### Attendance update

A huge thank you to all families and carers who are sending children everyday. We are working hard to meet our attendance target of 96.5%

The winning class is awarded each week with a voucher and also the attendance cup. Children can also earn a bronze, silver and gold badge

Please can we remind parents/carers of the importance of children attending school every day with the aim of achieving 100% attendance. If your child is feeling slightly under the weather in the morning, please send him/her into school as often children will feel better once they are in school and concentrating on their learning. We will of course, contact you if your child becomes poorly during school time. We would not expect a child to stay at school if they are feeling really ill.





We are continuing to focus on ensuring that all Priory pupils demonstrate good behaviours for learning and it was great to see so many families and children at the Oscar's evening braving the weather.

Thank you for your support.

*Ronni Lei , Daisy , Dezire, Harry , Darawan, Cianna, Sara, Rodrigo, Romario, Rugile, Harry , Amelia , Lulu , Max, Vaclav, Patricia, George, Bianca, Dovydas, Lewis, Charlie, Dovydas, Harley , Emie , Sareena , Harry , Brian, Chelsea, Summer ,Aiden, Calisha, Charlie*

Please look out for our next celebration event

### Year 6 National Curriculum Tests

The staff and children in Year 6 have been working extremely hard as the KS2 National Curriculum tests will be starting the week beginning 14th May. Please can parents support school by encouraging the children to attend the revision classes in the holidays and also ensuring that they do any learning activities that have been set. The tests will soon be here and we would like all children to be able to do their best. Please support us by ensuring that children get a good nights sleep and are in school on time. If you have any questions or concerns then please speak to a member of staff .



### Cookery Club after Easter

Exciting news, Priory will be offering a school cookery club after the Easter holidays. Places are limited to 15 children so please contact the school office to reserve a place.



### Anthony Horowitz and Year 6

As part of our project this term, we had the opportunity to have a live webchat with the famous author, Anthony Horowitz!

We had all written him a letter to try and persuade him to answer some of our questions during the webchat—and luckily he responded!

Some of our questions included; 'What research do you do before you start writing?' and 'How long does it take to write a book?'

We learnt lots of things about Anthony Horowitz; he has a dog (who made his first public appearance during our webchat) and he writes all of his books down on paper first before typing them up on a computer!



## Priory Community News

Hot on the heels of our fabulous Valentine's Quiz and Chips, where staff and parents came together to share a bite to eat and some head scratching questions, we have recently enjoyed our Science Day. Parents joined classes to fire off rockets, make helicopters and filtered water to make it clean! Thanks to Mrs Allibone (and Mr Allibone) for all the fantastic science equipment.

If you missed it – many of our children travelled to Wembley to take part in the Voice in a Million project. Many of their parents came along last week to hear them sing three of their favourite songs from the concert to their family and friends. Many thanks to Mrs Goffin for all her tremendous hard work in organising this fantastic opportunity for our youngsters.

Running up to the end of term, we had Easter Colouring and Art competitions for upper and lower school, not only celebrating egg shaped chocolate, but encouraging children to think of the real meaning of Easter – the Resurrection of Christ. The Easter Service at the Minster was held on Tuesday afternoon this week.

The Easter Bunny is not forgotten however, and we distributed Gingerbread Men to the children on Monday. We have also held an adult Easter Raffle with prizes including two large Easter eggs kindly donated by Tesco. Staff have also kindly donated eggs for our children's raffle. All proceeds will go towards a proposed Outdoor Learning facility.

Parents and carers are also invited to get involved in our Adult English Language Learning Course on Thursday afternoons at 1:30pm. It's open for new people to improve their English. So why not come along?

Michele's Magical Counting is running each Wednesday from 2:15pm, where parents and carers can join their children to sharpen up their skills and play maths games along with our parent helper, the marvellous Michele Jackson. Refreshments are available.

You may have read about the Great Yarmouth Island Migration Project in the local press. You will be interested to know that several of our Year 5 and 6 children are currently taking part in researching some of our forefathers in Great Yarmouth Library with local historians. The characters they discover will be made into clay figures by local artists (see more information from Mr King below).

Upcoming events for the new term include an International Food Fayre, where we hope people will bring and share their favourite international dish from 5pm on 20<sup>th</sup> April. This is part of the 'Norfolk Welcomes' event being run across the county to celebrate our county which has welcomed refugees in need including famous scientists and Norwich City Football players!

Later in the summer, in the evening, we will be running a traditional Beetle Drive for parents and carers, children and staff. Of course, there will also be the Summer Fayre, where this year, we hope to have a roller skating ring, a climbing wall and zorbs!

Thanks go to Mrs Mramba, our tenacious Communities Parent Governor for her tireless efforts.



## Island Migration Project

Four children from Y5 and Y6 are involved in a community project called the Island Migration project. This involves working closely alongside local artists who are researching the history of families that have moved to Great Yarmouth and had a positive impact on the town.

The children are attending evening research group sessions at the library and have visited the Time and Tide museum. They will be having the stories they find made into clay models for an exhibition in September. In the Summer Term, the artists will be arranging workshops at the school for parents and children to attend, where they can create a clay model depicting their own family story.



# SCIENCE FAIR



On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March KS2 spent the afternoon taking part in science experiments as part of British Science Week. Across the Key Stage we completed experiments in different areas of science including: making circuits using light bulbs, buzzers and switches; making a battery using lemons, copper coins, zinc screws and LED bulbs; making and flying helicopters and rockets; filtering water and stones and making walking junkbots. Everyone had a good time and our parents said they really enjoyed taking part in the experiments with us.

### Highlights of the Y5 Spring Project....

We had a fantastic project launch involving visiting the Beaconsfield Playground when the children had the opportunity to fly a variety of kite designs (from traditional box and diamond kites to a modern 'octopus' kite). The children were running around for an hour—they were pretty tired by the end! Even a young lady in a wheelchair, after having had an operation on her foot, got to fly a kite too!

This enabled the children to decide which style of kite they felt was the easiest to fly, influencing their kite design when making them during the spring, using their design and technology skills. The kite-making incorporated skills such as the safe handling of saws, accurately measuring kite-supports, the surface area of a kite and creating a design for it in the style of Mondrian.

The culmination of the project was a kite flying competition with prizes for the best 'Mondrian' design, which kite flies the highest and which kite flies for the longest time.

### Highlights of the Y1 Spring Project: 'Who helps those who help us' .....

has been our visit to the Caister Lifeboat shed. We learnt a lot about sea and beach safety, the children went on their first ever coach ride and haven't stopped talking about it since!

Another highlight has been the visit from the fire fighters when we learnt who to call when in danger and got to sit in the fire engine!

### Voices in a Million



A group of children from Priory attended the Voice in a Million concert in London on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. They were a complete credit to the school and community. Well done everyone!

### St Nicholas Priory Choir/Song School

We would like to form a school choir that we can call upon to perform at various events during the year including the GY7 Britannia Theatre show and the Great Yarmouth Schools' Carol Festival.

Choir rehearsal for children in Years 1 and 2 will take place in the hall every Tuesday lunchtime at **12.20pm** and for children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6, rehearsals will take place every Tuesday in the hall at **1pm**. All children are welcome to attend.

Our Song School runs Monday through to Thursday at the Minster before school starts. Children need to arrive at the side entrance of the school on St Nicholas Road at 7.30am. Staff will accompany children to and from the Minster where they will be provided with a free breakfast and enjoy a good old 'sing song!' All children are welcome to attend. Further details and permission forms are available from the school office.

Mrs Goffin would like to thank all the 'Voice In a Million' children who attended the concert at Wembley. She is very proud of them all and is very honoured her first experience of a concert was with the children of St Nicholas Priory—well done to everyone involved!



