

St Nicholas Priory C.E.V.A. Primary School

Christmas Newsletter



Our Vision Statement

We aim to welcome and celebrate the diversity of all God's children and provide a safe, caring space in which they can achieve their best academically, spiritually and pastorally whilst learning to serve others.

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our December newsletter. What an exciting and different term it has been. I must say that everyone has been amazing coping with all of the necessary changes we have had to put in place in order to prioritise the safety of our children, staff and wider school community.

Systems seem to be working more smoothly now but we are constantly reviewing our procedures in response to feedback as it becomes necessary. However despite staff making every effort to ensure that everyone is safe coming into and exiting from school we have no control over the public highways and would like to thank parents and families for

keeping a safe distance at all times.

We recognise that these are very challenging times and would

like to remind members of our school community that we do have members of staff who can be contacted if there are any issues or concerns as we are always very eager to hear from you and help if we can.

We also acknowledge some of the enormous financial pressures that some families are facing and as such it might appear that we are doing some things just a little differently.

Given the current national situation, we have thought carefully about the many high profile fund raising events. We would like to remind

parents that it is not our intention to ask for lots of donations as this can be extremely expensive, particularly where there is more than one child in the family.

Instead, our aim is to ensure that all children can participate in events such as Christmas Jumper Day or World Book Day and hope that parents and carers will understand and support the reasons why we are making changes. Therefore please do not feel the need to go out and buy expensive clothes or costumes.

I do hope that you will enjoy reading our newsletter and celebrating the achievements of your wonderful children.

We have had a real focus on reading and art this term and there are certainly some very talented youngsters at Priory. Lots of examples of lovely artwork have been included in this issue of the newsletter.



As we prepare to go into the Christmas holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to seeing you on January 4th 2021.

Take care and very best wishes,

Maria Grimmer

Head Teacher



Despite the challenges, our relentless focus on school improvement has continued and this academic year we are working on the following areas;

Having Impact as a Church School

As a church school we are working hard to share the importance of our key vision statement taken from the gospel of Matthew **'I come not to be served but to serve.'** Governors, staff and children all work together in a variety of ways to ensure that we think carefully about how we can make a contribution to our school community and beyond.

Later on in the newsletter you will be able to read about our Priory Citizens group and also the Archbishop of York leadership programme for children who are producing hampers for members of our community. We are also looking to make links with schools in other parts of the world.

During 'Lockdown' we were able, through the purchase of additional mobile phones, to keep in contact with families and this is a very important part of our work in school, as a



partnership with parents enables better learning for the children in our care. We enjoy talking to everyone at the

school gate and this is an ideal opportunity for you to ask to speak to members of staff about any concerns you might have in order for us to help these to be quickly resolved.

Developing the Curriculum

At St Nicholas Priory we have always focused on trying to provide a broad range of learning experiences for our children which enthuses them. We expect our children to be confident and creative learners and are developing different ways to enable them to have great choice with their learning. We are trying hard to support parents/carers to ensure that you are aware of what is being taught in each

year group as we have lots of parents who are doing a brilliant job in supporting their children at home. Support at home can be anything from talking about home learning to more practical tasks such as going for walks or baking. Lots of talking to children can also lead to high quality learning experiences.



During the current and ever challenging situation with Covid 19, we are able to offer considerable online learning support through 'Purple Mash' and 'Google Classroom.' Parents can also be kept up to date with 'Class Dojo.'

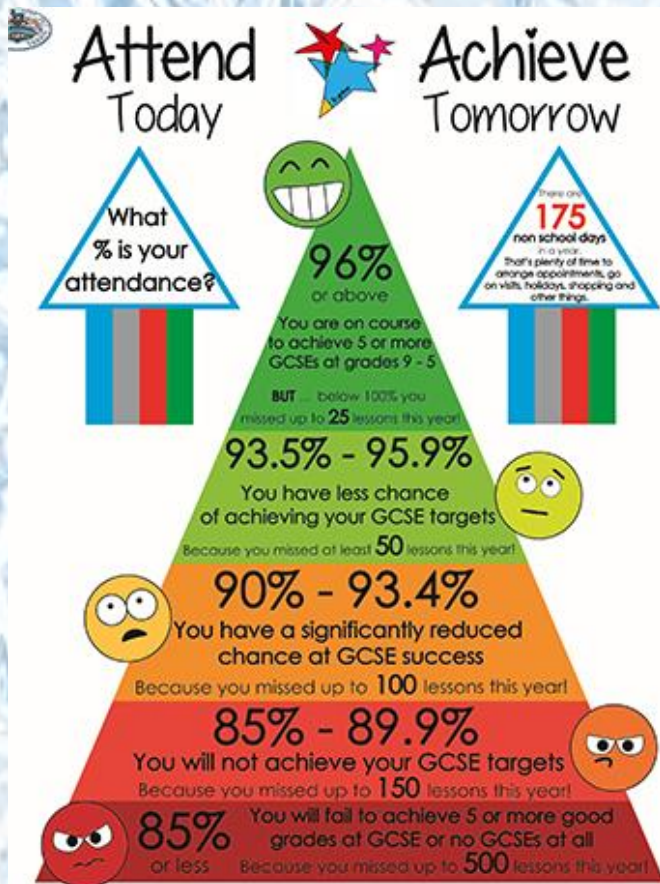
To Improve Early Identification, Provision and External Support for SEND Children

Inclusion is very important to us at Priory and we try to support children with a wide range of needs. We are very fortunate to have specialists in supporting additional needs who are available to work with our children. Should you have any concerns about your child, please speak to the class teacher in the first instance.



Attendance – to Meet the Government Target of 96%

A huge thank you to all parents who have supported us to meet the target of 96%. We are not there yet but have made significant improvements in attendance which is currently over 95%. It makes a huge difference to learning if children come to school every day.



Wellbeing for Everyone

When children come to Priory they become part of our Priory family and we aim to provide a highly nurturing environment where children feel welcome and included. All members of staff know their children well and our Pivotal behaviour approach seeks to understand how we can best support the children in our care.

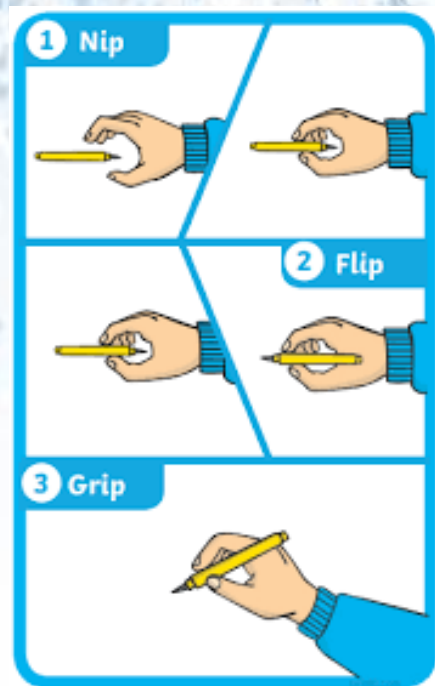
Meeting/Exceeding National Standards for Expected and Greater Depth.

We strive to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children constantly, whether it is supporting children who find school difficult or ensuring greater challenge for children to pursue their own learning.

News from Reception

Reception have settled into school wonderfully. They have all made some lovely friendships.

This term we have been concentrating on our nip, flip and grip pencil hold and through this we are starting to see some beautiful handwriting.



We have read The Little Red Hen which has produced some descriptive writing.



We are currently reading Paddington which is giving the children some great opportunities to practice those all-important CVC words.

The reception team wish you all a wonderful and safe Christmas.



News from Year 1

Year 1 have been busily planning our 'alternative nativity' ready for parents to view before the end of term. The children are excited to be learning the nativity story as well as songs and dances to accompany it. It will be a slightly different Christmas for us all here in Year 1 but that doesn't mean it will be any less magical.



News from Year 2

The children have worked incredibly hard this half term and created some fantastic work. They have written an alternative fairytale and a newspaper article about Christian the Hugging Lion.

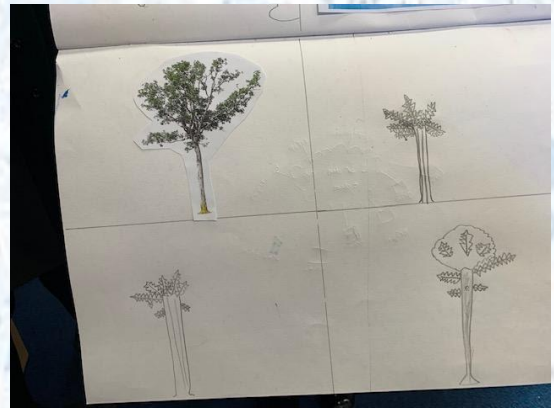
In our Creative Learning afternoons we have seen some beautiful pieces of art work and we are now looking at sharing some of these pieces of work with parents on portfolios on Class Dojo.

The Year 2 team is very impressed with the amount of children who are completing homework on a weekly basis to a very high standard so thank you for your support with this. We have some lovely activities planned for the children over the coming weeks and look forward to sharing more information about this with you on Class Dojo very soon.

Please remember to check the Class Dojo story and messages regularly as this is where we will post any important information for year 2. Thank you for your continued support

News from Year 3

Year 3 have enjoyed working with different media in Art to create pictures based on some famous artwork. We have also been developing our sketching skills and producing some lovely sketches.



We have learnt to draft and then redraft our work and asking other people to tell us in a kind way what we need to help us improve.



News from Year 4

Year 4 had an amazing start to the year. The children thoroughly enjoyed being back together again after the long break and they have worked incredibly hard throughout the term.

During the Autumn Term they have been exploring the lives of Ancient Greeks and also Romans living in Britain, with the



highlight being a 'battle' between the Romans and Celts - at the end both sides thought that they were the winners so it was declared a draw!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the amazing support that you have given both the children and the staff and would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.



Mrs. Maas and the Year 4 team.

News from Year 6

Year 6 recently had a practice test week, during the week commencing 7th December. This allowed children to become familiar with what it is like in test week and show us how much they have learnt since September.

The Young Leader's team, led by Mrs Miller, have been in action this half term. They have decided to collect food and Christmas items that they can then transform into hampers. They will then be distributing these to members of our community in need this Christmas.



Young Leaders Team with Mrs Miller

A really great example of following our Christian values. Thank you to all of our generous families for their contributions. We've also had lots of children continuing their learning at home on Google classroom, Bedrock and Times Table Rockstars.

Well done Year 6.



Some of the donations received so far

PE

Following on from the amazing amount of children who



**YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST**

joined in with sports whilst at home during lockdown, the Youth Sport Trust has created some great games to play with your children and stay active. Check out their free resources on the website

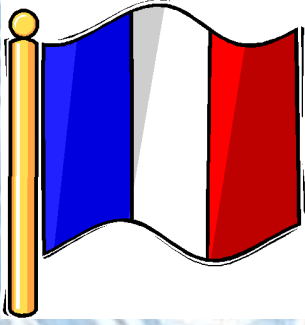
... <https://www.youthsporttrust.org/family-hub>



Have fun!

Modern Foreign Language

Bonjour! As a school, we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our children. As a school we are currently learning French in KS2 and they have the opportunity to put their language



skills into practice during our creative learning afternoons. We would like to give the children the opportunity to further their learning of French at home, therefore here are some videos they can access independently.

BBC bitesize

clips: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/french-ks2-virtually-there-france/zjby8xs>

Christmas

song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-PD5iz7qdE>

Vocabulary and

videos: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty>



Art and Craft



At St Nicholas Priory, we are constantly looking for ways to develop our children as young artists. Art offers children the opportunity to express themselves and their imagination and helps them process the wider curriculum. Our children enjoy art, and during these unprecedented times, it has offered a route of escapism and joy. Here are some examples of the wonderful work that has been created during this term.





News from the Minster

At Great Yarmouth Minster we are proud of our Church School: St Nicholas Priory. Our hope is that by working together we can help connect the relationship between church and school for the benefit of the children and the whole community. So, what do you notice about a Church School?

The ethos of a church school is different. It is underpinned by Christian Values which are celebrated throughout the school. Primarily is a belief in the God who loves each and every precious one of us and this impacts the way we see the world: valuing all people and seeking to love one another as we learn to follow the example of Jesus.



Church Values

A focus of our values is marked week by week in Collective Worship (often known as assembly). This is a gathering where we learn stories of Christian faith and pause to reflect upon how faith feeds our lives today. We explore 6 values through the year: aspiration, hope, service, forgiveness, love and trust. Members of the Minster team come in to lead these each week and the best part for me is hearing the amazing things the children see and think about the world around them.

We're also always delighted to open the doors of the Minster to the school and normally begin and end each term with a service in church: I know many families have enjoyed coming to these celebrations. We also look forward to when we can host our breakfast singing club in the Minster again (4 days a week). Above all, do remember that the Minster is for everyone and you are always welcome to come in a look around or have a moment to pause and think. It is an amazing church which has been at the heart of the town for 900 years!



As a school our church values are very important to us. This half term we have focused on our school value of 'Hope'. We have explored hope through bible stories in collective worship and discussed how we can spread hope to others in our everyday life. Next half term our school value will be 'Service'.

From January we are making available to parents the collective worship videos made for the school by members of the Minster staff. You might like to watch these with your children. The links can be found on the website.

Teaching children to be kind is also a very important part of what we do here at Priory and to recognise when someone needs help.

School Rules

We have three rules in our school. We ask everyone, our staff and our children, to be



Ready, Respectful and **Safe.**

You are able to monitor your own child's behaviour via the Schoolgateway app (free download). Please let the school know if you require any assistance in downloading or setting this up. Alternatively, you can log in at www.schoolgateway.com



As a church, it is important for us to support St Nicholas Priory School and the wider community. Week by week we pray for the school, staff and the whole community. Do know that we are there for you too and if ever you need to be in touch, do ask.

With prayers and good wishes for Christmas 2020!

Rev Simon Ward




You can follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/GtYarMinster



School meals


From January will be offering a wider range of school hot dinners. The meals will include a vegetarian option each day, home cooked cakes and a drink. Please see the new 2 week menu below.



WEEK 1

Monday	Tuesday
<p>Jacket potato with cheese and beans Chocolate cake Carton of milk</p>	<p>Sizzling sausage, Potato chunks, peas and sweetcorn (V) Veggie sausage Cherry cake Apple juice</p>
Wednesday	Friday
<p>Italian style, cheese and tomato pasta Chocolate oatcake Bottle of water</p>	<p>Burger in a bun and chips (V) Vegan burger Ice-cream Carton of milk</p>

Available Everyday
A School Packed Lunch: A selection of freshly made sandwiches with a choice of filling, fresh fruit, a cake, bag of crisps and drink
Jacket Potato Meal: A freshly baked potato with a choice of fillings, fresh fruit, a cake, bag of crisps and drink



WEEK 2

Monday	Tuesday
<p>Vegetarian balls and pasta twists Lemon sponge Carton of milk</p>	<p>Breaded chicken, potato wedges and rainbow salad (V) Cheese country bakes Chocolate oat cake Apple juice</p>
Thursday	Friday
<p>Chicken Fajita wrap with cucumber and carrot sticks (V) Vegetable wrap Bottle of water</p>	<p>Jumbo fish finger, chips and corn on the cob (V) Fishless finger Ice-cream Carton of milk</p>

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Medical Information

If your child suffers from asthma it is **vitaly important that they have their inhaler in school**. Please check with the main office if your child has asthma and you are unsure if your child has an inhaler in school.



Diary dates

Friday 18th December – School Christmas dinner

Friday 18th December – Priory Christmas Jumper or Christmas Tinsel Day

School closes – Friday 18th December at usual year group times

Christmas holiday: Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January 2021

Spring term

Monday 4th January - Friday 12th February 2021

Half-term holiday: Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2021

Monday 22nd February - Friday 26th March 2021

Easter holiday: Monday 29th March - Friday 9th April 2021

Summer term 2021

Monday 12th April - Friday 28th May 2021 (Monday 3 May is a bank holiday)

Half-term holiday: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2021

Monday 7th June – Thursday 22nd July 2021

Summer holiday: Friday 23th July - Friday 3rd September 2021



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Breaking News !

Demi has been working incredibly hard on the Maths work this half term. She has been regularly attending Maths booster sessions 3 mornings a week, coming into school at 8am, as well as completing multiple home learning tasks on Google Classroom. On top of all of this, Demi has shown a fantastic attitude to learning in all of her lessons in class. This has resulted in Demi doubling her score on her most recent Maths assessment, an improvement of over 50 marks!

All of Year 6 are incredibly proud of the hard work and effort that Demi has put into her learning.



Year 5

Year 5 children continue to impress their teaching adults with their hard work across all curriculum subjects. This term children have been thinking about others and those of our community who may be in care homes, and creating pictures to send to them to make them smile. In the wider curriculum, children have been finding out about how the Vikings lived by investigating artefacts, looking at pictures, creating artwork, watching videos and reading information texts. Year 5 have also been taking part in lots of reading quizzes on Accelerated Reader. Children can take quizzes on most books at school and at home following the link through the school website- parents-useful links - accelerated reader. A big shout out to those children who have read over 29,000 words since September. Caius 83,488 words read, Jessica 54,859, Dexter 42,495, Harry 40,923, Zane 37,234, Amelia 29,989 and Dylan 29,929.

