



Summer NEWS UPDATE



Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a little message to say thank you for all your support this year. It has been lovely to see so many parents involved in sessions in school, such as reading with your child in the library, progress coffee mornings, progress evenings, fund raising events, special assemblies, Forest School sessions, Family Thrive and a range of arts events to name but a few. Next year, we plan to increase the opportunities for families to work closely with us for the benefit of all of our children; watch this space!

As always, it has been a busy year with a number of residential abroad as part of Erasmus, residential in this country, sporting events, arts events and much more. It never fails to amaze me a how much we can pack in to each term! It is a privilege to work in a school with such a dedicated staff team who go over and above to ensure that our children and young people have these wonderful opportunities to learn. Thank you everyone!

This July we will be saying goodbye to one of our dedicated teaching assistants, Lesley Harrison, who will be retiring at the end of term. Lesley has been with us for twenty three years and has worked across school in that time. We will be sorry to see her leave Priory Woods but wish her well for her retirement and the opportunities it may bring.

We will also be saying goodbye to Judy Offiler, Speech and Language Therapist who has worked with us for too many years to remember! Again, we wish her all the very best for her retirement and a well-earned rest!

We have two one to one teaching assistants who are also leaving us; Tammy Barends and Abbie Potter. Tammy supported William, one of our leavers so is leaving us to go off to pastures new. Abbie is off to train as a teacher and who knows, we may see her back with us one day in her new role.

All that remains for me to say is that I hope you all have a lovely summer and we look forward to an equally busy and exciting year in September, after a bit of a rest first though!

Best wishes, Janis

BATD Dance exams 2017

This year we have had 76 pupils from KS1 to Post 16 taking BATD dance exams. In Lower School pupils participated in the Starlite exams in tap, ballet, acro and freestyle, whilst in Upper School pupils took part in the BATD syllabus exams from Levels 1 to 6 in

ballet, street dance and jazz.

All the pupils have worked really hard and we look forward to getting their results very soon!

Here they are all ready to meet the examiner!



The Tempest

Some of our pupils recently performed in The

Tempest alongside pupils from other Middlesbrough Schools. The performance was part of the RSC's Associate Schools Programme. Here they are in drama learning about the characters in the play.



Outdoor area and outings

(Pink and Red)

To really get stuck into learning at Priory Woods you have to get your hands dirty... And that's exactly what pupils in Pink and Red classes have been doing this term with top trips to beautiful beaches, fabulous farms and plenty of parks to enjoy. Children particularly loved splashing and making seaweed monsters at local beaches as part of our fun 'Land Ahoy' topic.

We've also been exploring the tunnels, plants and hills of our own outdoor area and have been lucky enough to design and build a brand new play area for Lower School. With a super-sized sandpit, messy mud kitchen and large grassed area it's the perfect place for all our pupils to experience the great outdoors.



Live Music Now Musician in Residence 2017

Tom Hawthorn a musician in residence from Live Music Now. He has been working with our staff and students this year. He has worked with a mixture of students throughout the year and has been working with staff to develop his own teaching practice. As part of this project we have had our final celebration. Tom brought his whole band in to perform with our wonderful students.

Football Tournament

Students from Lower, Upper, Post 16 as well as 5 other schools took part in this year's football tournament. The tournament was extra special this year as it was in memory of Abbi Steedman who sadly passed away last year. Despite the rain all the students had a fantastic time. Our A team won the final, with a very close penalty shootout.



Blue and Orange classes visit to Saltburn

Blue and Orange Class enjoyed a wonderful day trip to Saltburn to conclude our topic "Land Ahoy". The two classes took the 10.22am train to Saltburn on a gloomy July morning. However, on arrival the rain stopped and the sun appeared.

We then had an action packed day with the children (and adults) collecting stones on the beach, walking along the sea front, taking a ride on the funicular, eating fish and chips and even exploring the Valley Gardens on the miniture railway! It was a fabulous day and the children all returned to school with huge smiles on their faces.



Bell Boating

Thirteen lucky students got the chance to take part in the Tees Valley Bell Boating Regatta at Tees Barrage on Tuesday. The children got more wet from the rain above than the river below but kept smiling throughout. Priory Woods came second in the competition after a close photo finish. All of the pupils were fantastically behaved and did the school proud.



Leavers' Prom 2017



On Wednesday 12th July Post 16 celebrated at the Leavers' Prom. They all came in their smart suits and beautiful dresses and all looked magnificent.

They travelled in style to the Riverside Stadium where they enjoyed a beautiful lunch followed by a disco. Families and some other school staff came and joined in the celebrations later in the afternoon. It was a wonderful day even though we are sad to say goodbye to our leavers.

Sports Week

We had an amazing sports week at school with all children enjoying a week long focus on sports. They had the opportunity to take part in many competitive challenges



such as the 'swashbuckle' challenge, a 'water challenge' and a bench ball tournament. Pupils also had the opportunity to try out lots of different sports that they may not normally have

chance to do such as rockclimbing, archery, clubbercise and hula hooping. All pupils showed a great deal of enthusiasm and determination on their sports day with many school records being smashed. We ended our week with a fantastic whole school fun run with all proceeds going to the Great North Air Ambulance charity. Once again thank you for your amazing generosity with this! All pupils were a credit to you and hopefully they were so shattered that you had a peaceful weekend!



Fashion Show

Post 16 students thoroughly enjoyed studying textiles as part of their creative curriculum.



They all worked extremely hard to design, make and customise items of clothing and they



amazed us all with their wonderful fashion show!

Post 16 Business Enterprise

Thank you to everyone for your continuing support to Post 16 Business Enterprise. All the gifts we have

made and sold have made a massive £700 and this will provide a wage for the students, cover additional costs to post 16 events and the rest will be donated to a charity of the students choice.



PD DATES (school closed)

Friday 1st September 2017
Friday 8th September 2017
Monday 27th November 2017
Friday 9th February 2018
Monday 23rd July 2018

Term Dates 2017-2018

Autumn Term
4th Sept-20th Oct & 30th Oct-22nd Dec
Spring Term
8th Jan-9th Feb & 19th Feb-29th Mar
Summer Term
16th Apr-26th May & 5th Jun-21st July

Have a lovely summer