

Priory Woods Newsletter

Brief News

G1 Hygiene Poverty Appeal

G1 collected and delivered a huge amount of hygiene products to the charity 'Friends, in Strength and Hope.'

The charity sent us a message saying "Fish would like to say an enormous THANK YOU to Priory Woods School for their astonishing collection of hygiene products for us. You have all done amazing and we are inspired by your kindness and generosity."

These products will be delivered to families who are in need in our local area. A huge thank you to all of the families who have donated and a massive well done to the pupils in G1 for organising this event.



Message from Janis

Dear Families,

Well, what a term! It has certainly been different and at times, extremely challenging both in school and at home for our families.

Fortunately, what hasn't been different is the way is the way your children and young people have come to school and have been ready to learn, ready to try new things and able to adapt to how we have had to work. There have been a few wobbles which we have worked hard to settle; thank you for your support when it has been needed.

All of this has only been possible due to the unwavering commitment of all of our school staff, from Jan, our Site Manager who makes sure we have all the hygiene resources we need, who has 'fogged' rooms to keep them hygienically clean, to Maureen, our café manager, alongside Julie, who have turned back the clock to prepare and cook the hot meals in Priory 16. Our admin staff have had to take on extra duties and learn to work in different ways whilst still carrying on with the day job. Paula, our Family Liaison Officer has continued to support families in many ways and Jenny, our new School Business Manager, has had to get to grips with an already challenging role whilst dealing with the extra challenges COVID 19 has brought. Glen, our IT technician has helped make all of this possible by keeping everything going with ICT, helping us, for example, to access Teams so we can keep communicating. Our lunchtime assistants have also had to adapt to new ways of working, as have the catering staff.

Classroom staff have excelled as always. They have had to stay in their bubbles, not meeting colleagues outside them, making school feel very different. They have come up with ingenious ways to ensure learning is still broad and balanced, relevant and fun. Who would have imagined we'd have art lessons by Zoom? They have looked out for their pupils' emotional welfare and stepped in quickly to resolve any problems. They have continued to support families, especially if children have had to isolate. They have remained ambitious for what the students can achieve and have done all of this when there have been times when we have looked at staffing levels and thought it was impossible to keep going. All of this, and they are still smiling and making sure Christmas is as exciting in school as always. Even the annual X Factor has carried on, via Teams of course! To say I am proud to be the Head Teacher of Priory Woods is the understatement of the year!

Who knows what 2021 will bring? Let's hope things continue to get better and we can get to a point where we talk about classes and not bubbles!

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and most importantly, a happy and healthy 2021.

Safeguarding Information

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Janis French, Hazel Souter, Emma Fox or Paula Smith. Our safeguarding Governor is David Mudd.

Out of school hours, please contact Middlesbrough as below:

During working hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 5pm

Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

Middlesbrough Multi-agency Hub

Tel: 01642 726004

Email: MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Out of hours:

Emergency Duty Team

Tel: 01642 524 552

In an emergency contact Cleveland Police on: 101

LOWER SCHOOL

Priory Woods School & Arts College
A Special Place to Learn

Pink and Red have had a very busy term. All of our new starters in Pink class have settled in beautifully, and we have all had lots of fun. We have created lots of art, made lots of mess and played outside in all weathers! We came to school in our pyjamas for Children in Need and put on our antlers to do the reindeer run. We even met Santa and one of his reindeer! Then, we all became movie stars and filmed our Christmas show. No autographs please!



We love to play team games outside in our bubble during PALO sessions.

Lower school have adapted to the changes and working in a bubble really well. Everyone was so happy to see their friends again.

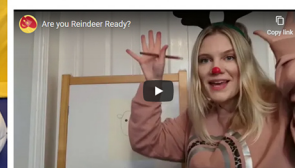


We have all loved outdoor play and have new resources to play and explore with.



Most of us have managed to get out on the bus for some lovely trips.

We have kept the website updated with ideas for home learning and everyone who has had to isolate has had a lovely home working pack. All our therapies continue, we are still accessing the rebound room and most classes have new Tree Tops equipment.



We joined in the annual 'Reindeer Run' event and loved searching for reindeers around school with our class elf.



We have also been doing lots of Attention Autism this term, our concentration and attention skills are really improving.





Blue class decided to set up their own Hot Chocolate café to keep us warm during the winter months and explore using money. They have really enjoyed playing together in this area.



We have made a virtual Christmas show "The Advent Calendar" which we really enjoyed performing. We hope that everyone loves to watch this from home.



Lower school loved creating our Christmas Enterprise products. We all worked hard creating decorations, wrapping paper and reindeer food to go into a lovely festive bag, designed by Daniel in Silver Class.



We had a real reindeer visit school which was great and really kicked off the festive season. Bobby's dad organised this for us!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us.

Silver Class have kept themselves, and their friends, safe this term by being 'Soaper Heroes'. We make sure that we wash or sanitise our hands very carefully. We know that germs don't like soap so we clean them away as often as we can. We use six easy steps to make sure that every part of our hands are cleaned. We help to remind each other about hand washing when we enter or leave the classroom, before and after eating, when we've used the bathroom or equipment that others might have touched.

We are glad that we can stay safe and have fun by following some simple soapy steps.





G5 have had an extremely busy autumn term. During our topic Light, Camera, Action we have hosted our own Priory Woods Academy Awards where we walked along the red carpet modelling our unique costumes and hairstyles. We had a great time and we photographed and recorded the event with the cameras we had made in the art and craft area.



G5 have also participated in a number of sensory stories throughout the term including Firework Night and Diwali. All of our activities involved a mixture of art and drama and we had a great time acting out the stories. We worked fabulously together whilst working as a team and most importantly we laughed throughout the sessions and had tremendous fun.



G7 have had a very busy time at school. Our bubble have made poppies for Remembrance Day, wore pyjamas for children in need, washed our hands a lot, met Santa and his reindeer, played hook a duck, super market sweep and robot wars! We have had fun and stayed healthy.

Merry Christmas to everyone!



Hooray back to educational outings! We enjoyed a bracing walk at Redcar lots of splashing in enormous puddles.

We all get so much from the outings, we work on our Tree Tops programmes and have lots of fun – students and staff!

We are getting lots of exercise on bikes and trikes at lunchtime and hope to get some help to get all the bikes working so we can all get cycling together.



G3 and G4 have had a great term! We have been involved in lots of lovely activities including mindfulness for Children in Need, visiting the Grinch, meeting Chaz the reindeer and getting presents from Santa!

They have all settled in really well into upper school and feel like they have been with us forever!

We hope they all have a lovely Christmas and we can't wait to have them all back in the New Year!





This term G6 have been very busy! We have been making Christmas Tree decorations and wreaths in class for enterprise.

We have also been learning how to use a post office, we have one in class and we have been delivering cards for the whole school.

Our favourite thing this term was learning a dance routine for our Christmas Show, Kian was our star milkman, Ernie, and we all danced our socks off!

Finally we have all been working hard to keep fit with our weekly lessons on the bike track, Liam is now riding a two-wheeler and everyone is trying their best and having lots of fun.

We all wish you a very Merry Christmas
Love G6



G2 have had a lovely Autumn term. It has been so lovely to get settled back in to school. For our topic, 'Lights, Camera, Action' we have been working on a production of Matilda including lots of acting, singing and dancing. We have also worked really hard on our literacy and maths skills.

We are looking forward to an equally busy spring term.





Poppy Appeal

Once again this year the pupils and staff at Priory Woods School set to work, flooding our school corridors and classrooms with handmade poppies in the month of November. We created curtains of poppies, stained glass windows and acrylic poppies to help us to remember all those who made sacrifices for us. We also took part in a special assembly and held a silence to honour fallen soldiers.

Reindeer Run and Santa came to town!

Even during a global pandemic, Priory Woods has managed to still make Christmas magical for all of our pupils. Our annual Reindeer Run in aid of Teesside Hospice was made extra special this year with the help of some very special people. The Teesside Family Fund Charity provided selection boxes and gifts very every single child at school. They even organised for the big man himself, Santa Claus, to set up a Grotto and give everyone a socially distanced wave!

Santa was not alone however....thanks to the amazing fundraising of the dad of Bobby, one of our new pupils in Pink Class, we even had a real life reindeer join in the fun too! The whole day was amazing and we managed to raise a fantastic £735.93 for Teesside Hospice.

Thank you to all of you who sent in donations and sponsor money – you are all fantastic!



CREATIVE ARTS



Creative days continue within bubbles. We have all been learning how to still work together despite being distanced.

Dance with Sue has been fun - learning routines from Starlight Express and Matilda.

Small group and 1:1 Instrumental music lessons are still continuing to flourish in upper school, with socially distanced lessons and zoom sessions. This term we have focussed on Cello, Piano, Ukulele, Music technology and keyboard.



We have also recorded several compositions. Naseem's piece was picked up by a national music organisation and it now features in their musical Christmas postcard.

We have been busy filming lessons for each other so pupils can share their work remotely.



Some of our art work can be seen on the 'Tees Valley Ventures' advent calendar and students have been working hard to create their own animation.



Upper school have filmed sections of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' which has been put together for a special 'virtual' Christmas show



Post 16 have had a wonderful first term back! It's certainly not been easy getting used to all the changes but our students have been up for any challenges thrown their way. Firstly, we are very proud of those students who have been working in the kitchen to prepare 31 dinners each day! They have all learned lots of new skills and are becoming more independent by the minute and the students have given their meals 5 stars. Watch this space for who will be our named chefs for next term!



The students planned, organised and ran a Halloween event as part of their working as a group task in PSD. It was a huge success and everyone had a great day. They raised over £40.00 for the 'In out of the Cold' Homeless Charity.



Purely Positive



We would also like to introduce you to our new enterprise team, Purely Positive. The team have decided to start their company making masks but I'm sure there will be many more exciting products to watch out for.



We used our creative skills to produce a wonderful poppy display within our art, photography and textile lessons.



Whole School PE

During our PE sessions this term, we have had done lots of classroom activities and had sport coaches in school to teach us new skills in our bubbles. Across school we have entered a virtual Boccia and virtual Multi-Sports games competitions. Our students have all had the chance to engage in new activities and had huge smiles on their faces throughout.





Important information

RE any COVID infections at the start of the Christmas holidays.

As you know, school provides information for local Track and Tracing should there be any COVID 19 infections in school, not only during the week but also over the weekend.

To help us continue to do this for the first part of the Christmas break, please can you follow the following rules? This is because we will need to go back forty eight hours from the onset of symptoms and identify and inform close contacts in school.

Child displays symptoms on Weds
16th December.

Arrange a test and inform us if positive by email when
you get the result.

covid@priorywoodsschool.com

Remember, the whole household has to isolate until the
test result is known. If it is positive, follow the guidelines
from Track and Trace.

Child displays symptoms on Thurs
17th December.

Arrange a test and inform us if positive by email when
you get the result.

covid@priorywoodsschool.com

Remember, the whole household has to isolate until the
test result is known. If it is positive, follow the guidelines
from Track and Trace.

Child displays symptoms from Friday
18th December onwards.

Arrange a test. There is no need to inform us on or after
this day.

You will only need to inform us if you have received a
positive result from a test taken on Friday or Saturday
which you have not received until later in the week.
Remember, the whole household has to isolate until the
test result is known. If it is positive, follow the guidelines
from Track and Trace.

It is important that you arrange a test as quickly as possible if there are any symptoms. (Cough, high temperature, loss of taste or
smell. Some children have also been known to have an upset tummy.)

If your child has been in close contact with anyone who tests positive over the weekend, we will contact you by text message using
the 'Teachers to Parents' text service. Please ensure you check your texts and follow the advice around isolation.

Many thanks
Janis