

Newsletter



Safeguarding Information

If you have any concerns around the safety of anyone in school, please speak to Emma Fox or Vicky McDermott.

Out of school hours you can contact:

Cleveland Police: 101



Early Help Team

support and advice for families

To ask for Early Help support, you can:
call 01642 726004

email:
MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Website:
<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/children-families-and-safeguarding/early-help/what-is-early-help>

Citizens Advice Bureau

Jayne Yellow from the Citizens Advice Bureau currently attends Priory Woods School each Thursday to offer advice and support to our families (by appointment only). Citizens Advice offer support on many issues including; welfare benefits, debt, fuel and housing. During the school summer break Jayne will still be available to our families, however, NOT in school. She can be reached by leaving your contact details at schools@mcab.org.uk and Jayne will contact you to arrange an appointment at one of their offices or over the telephone.



Message from Emma

As always, I don't know where to begin to condense such a busy year into a few paragraphs. We make the most of every moment at Priory Woods and I hope you enjoy reading what all of the classes have been up to.

This term has been bursting with activity and fun-filled learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom, exciting opportunities like residential trips, musical shows, art exhibitions, performances and work placements. You've likely caught glimpses of these moments on Class Dojo or the school Facebook page. I'd like to thank the staff who go above and beyond, often giving up their own time on evenings and overnight, to ensure that the children and young people have these amazing opportunities. The staff really are what makes Priory Woods 'A Special Place to Learn'.

Choosing standout moments is never easy, as each day brings something special. However, watching our pupils perform and shine on stage is always a Wow! moment for me. The Lower School Christmas performance was amazing as always and there weren't many dry eyes in the audience. I was up on my feet dancing at the incredible Post 16 'gig' at Teesside University – Legends, Live and Unplugged – Yeehaw! A group of pupils from Upper School worked with schools across Middlesbrough to study and rehearse scenes from Macbeth, this culminated in a performance at the Acklam Green Centre. Priory Woods pupils acted out the opening and closing scenes and I was blown away by their performances, I was incredibly proud of them all.

Our summer newsletter always carries mixed emotions. It's a time to reflect on and celebrate the year's achievements, but also a moment to say farewell. Our Year 14 students marked their departure with a fabulous prom, looking absolutely stunning in their formal wear. You'll be missed so much, but I'm confident you're all ready to embrace the exciting journeys ahead.

I hope you've enjoyed reading your child's end-of-year report. As I've said before, I personally read every single one—it's a time-consuming task, but one I truly cherish. It's a joy to see the progress and accomplishments of each pupil, and I hope you feel as proud as we do.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and joy-filled summer break. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Wednesday 3rd September.

PD Days for 2025/26

Monday 1st September 2025
Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Monday 1st December 2025
Monday 20th July 2026
Tuesday 21st July 2026



Lower School



Orange Class

Orange Class have enjoyed another busy term which has included learning through the topics - 'Traditional Tales' and 'Under the Sea'. We have particularly enjoyed our sensory story 'Stop Sea Creature Stop'. Especially the part at the end where we get soaked by the shark!

VE day celebrations were another highlight for Orange Class, we loved dancing with our friends and teachers and taking part in the Lower School Tea Party.

During the lovely weather we have had fun in the Sensory Garden including, water play, using the swing and roundabout and playing our favourite parachute games.

This term we were lucky enough to be visited by Hullabaloo who were trying out some ideas for their new theatre production with us. They brought lots of exciting equipment with them for us to explore.



Yellow Class

This term, Yellow Class have loved our topics 'Traditional Tales' and 'Under the Sea'. We have enjoyed playing and learning across the various activities both in the classroom and outside.

We particularly enjoyed getting a visit from an ice cream van for Tommy's birthday. We all waited very patiently and chose our ice creams independently. It was such a yummy treat.

We have worked hard in maths this term, looking at numbers, singing number songs, ordering numbers to 20 and practising our number formation.

We have had the pleasure of weekly yoga lessons with Becky from Mighty Warriors. Some of the poses have been quite challenging but we have had lots of fun.

Wishing you all a lovely summer break with your families. Be safe and we will see you all in September.

Blue Class

Blue Class have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our topics 'Traditional Tales' and 'Under The Sea' this term. Children have particularly enjoyed our sensory stories Jasper's Beanstalk and Commotion In The Ocean, and also enjoyed lots of water play in the summer sunshine!

Jabadeo remains a firm favourite session in Blue Class and we have been focussing on 'Stop', 'Go', 'Fast and Slow'. We have loved our relaxing hydrotherapy sessions this term, as well as lots of topic-based sensory dance and rebound therapy. We have also enjoyed country dancing on a Friday afternoon, particularly our celebratory VE Day country dance and tea party!

We certainly have some budding artists in Blue Class; we have had lots of messy time blowing coloured bubbles onto paper, creating sparkly sea creatures, painting a beanstalk to get to the giant's castle and making dancing jellyfish.

Blue Class staff team are so proud of each and every child this year; you are all amazing. We wish you a happy and safe summer and we can't wait to see you in September x





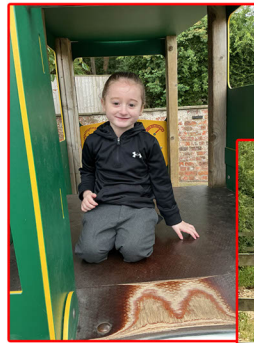
Green Class

This term, we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our topics: Traditional Tales and Under the Sea. Our exciting sensory stories, 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Commotion in the Ocean', and 'The Snail and the Whale', captivated the students and brought the stories to life.

The children loved engaging in a wide range of activities, both in the classroom and outdoors, where they continued to learn through play. We made the most of the beautiful sunshine with plenty of water exploration and play, helping everyone stay cool and have fun.

VE Day was a lovely celebration; the students looked fantastic dressed up for the occasion, and the country dancing to 1940s songs brought smiles to everyone's faces. Our immersive Traditional Tales Day was also a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thank you all for another brilliant year. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer holiday. Well done, Green Class - you are all amazing!



Pink & Red Classes

What an amazing Summer Term we have had in Pink and Red! Not only have we had a fantastic opportunity for lots of outdoor play in the sun, which included a water play day, this Summer Term, we have been learning all about 'The Farm'. This included making lots of fantastic artwork, dancing to animal songs in our dance class, exploring farm related tuff trays and best of all... visiting a real farm!! We all had a fantastic end of year trip visiting Newham Grange Leisure Farm. We sang "Old McDonald Had a Farm" all around the farm as we saw pigs, piglets, lambs, goats, rabbits, guinea pigs, peacocks, chickens, donkeys and a horse. We then had great fun in the park and soft play.



Pink Class, what an amazing first year at Priory Woods you have all had. You have settled into life at Priory Woods so well alongside your friends in Red Class who have shown you the ropes. Have an amazing summer everyone, stay safe, have fun and see you in September! X



Lower School

Silver Class

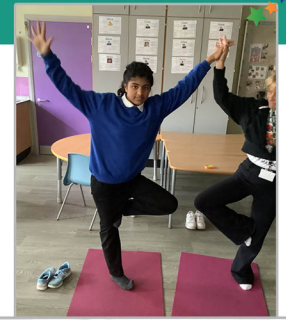
What a brilliant summer term Silver Class have had! The sun has been shining, and we have loved taking our learning outdoors. Our weekly Forest School sessions have been a particular highlight; we have explored the wooded area, searched for bugs, built dens and cooked food on the campfire. We have also thoroughly enjoyed our 'Under the Sea' topic and have learned about lots of different sea creatures through songs, dances and sensory stories, which really brought them to life.

We have also been lucky to work with Becky, an instructor from Mighty Warriors, for weekly yoga sessions. During these sessions, we learned a range of yoga poses and used them to tell familiar stories, including 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'; some of the poses were really challenging!

Thank you for such an amazing year Silver Class. You are all superstars and have made us all so proud. Have a wonderful summer break everyone!

Gold Class

Wow it's been another busy and fun packed Summer term! This term our classroom was transformed in to the theme of the topic 'Under the Sea' to make the space an immersive experience for the students even with our very own yellow submarine! We have made the most of the beautiful sunshine and enjoyed lots of water play splashing to keep cool. Gold Class enjoyed going out on the bus to visit Senses Wellbeing Centre where they explored lots of different sensory equipment alongside their friends. VE day was a special day of celebrations, and the students looked amazing dressed up for the occasion; country dancing together to 1940s songs made everybody smile! Thank you all for another brilliant year, we hope everybody has a wonderful summer holiday. Well done Gold Class you are all superstars!



Carlton Adventure

At the beginning of July, four students from Silver Class participated in a 2-night, 3-day residential trip to Carlton Adventure. It was the first time they had stayed away from home and their families, and they were all absolute superstars! They took everything in their stride, gave all the activities a try and challenged themselves further than we ever expected; climbing 10 metres in the air and balancing on a rope was no mean feat! We all had so much fun, especially on the canoes where no-one stayed dry, but watching the children's independence and confidence grow was the real highlight for the staff, as well as seeing how supportive and encouraging they were of each other. The children represented the school brilliantly and we couldn't be prouder of them all. Well done, Alice, Coraline, Gene and Ravin!



Upper School

G1 Have Had a Very Busy Summer Term

All of the students enjoyed participating in Challenge Enterprise Week and worked together with other classes to build a very impressive structure. Some of the class enjoyed an adventure filled week on residential at Peat Rigg Outdoor Centre and really challenged themselves to try new activities. We have also taken part in the Royal Shakespeare Company performance of Macbeth, working with other schools to produce a wonderful performance of the play. Well done to all of the students, we have had the most wonderful year. Have a fabulous summer and we will look forward to seeing you back in school in September.



G2's Summer Term: Learning, Fun, and More!

They have enjoyed the topic 'Under The Sea' and showcased their signing and dancing skills during a class assembly. Many of our students have visited Priory 16 for their transition visits and have enjoyed accessing the Independent Living Centre and Priory 16 cafe. Their independence skills are developing, and they are even transferring the skills into the home.



G3

This half term G3 have enjoyed exploring and participating in our topic of 'Under The Sea', learning about different sea creatures, the beach and lots of messy play! G3 have made lots of progress with their independence and willingness to complete jobs around the school, we are all very proud of you all. We have all been very excited and happy this half term, learning about the summer weather and the importance of wearing sun cream. All children have enjoyed telling their friends about what they have been doing at the weekend and how much fun they will have in the six-week holidays!

Good luck for next year G3, I am sure you will shine as bright as you all have this year!





Upper School

G4, What a Fantastic Summer We Have Had!

We started off the term with a busy Challenge Enterprise Week. G4 worked together with other classes and demonstrated excellent problem-solving skills when building different structures. Some of our students embarked on daring adventures at Peat Rigg Outdoor Centre such as abseiling, canoeing and climbing. We have thoroughly enjoyed our cooking sessions on a Tuesday where students planned, prepared and cooked their lunches and did so with increasing independence. G4 has enjoyed exploring our topic of 'Under the Sea' and we loved our trip to the Sea Life Centre to watch seals being fed, penguins waddling and jellyfish floating. Thank you for a wonderful year and well done for all your hard work! You have all taken on challenges with open minds and determination. Have a fantastic summer holiday everyone!



G5 Have Had a Fantastic Year

It has been brilliant seeing their progress across the year, especially in their communication. We have had lots of fun over the year doing lots of activities. Our favourite activities have been sensory stories, messy maths and the parachute. In these sessions, there has been some wonderful choice making. Our best educational visits have been to Saltburn Beach, Saltholme and Tesco. Over the year, they have all become so much more confident and calmer within the community, and we are so proud. Good luck in your new classes and have a safe and fun six weeks off!



G6

G6 have enjoyed learning all about 'Under the Sea' this half term. They've been out and about on educational visits to Picton Park and enjoyed the glorious weather we have been having. Everyone has made progress with their communication, thinking and learning skills and is happy in school. We particularly enjoyed the day the ice-cream van came.



G7

G7 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Traditional Tales, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'The Princess and the Pea' and 'The Three Little Pigs' in the first half of the summer term. We grew our own beans and peas and planted some sunflowers too!

In the second half of the summer term, we have been, 'Under the Sea', exploring sea creatures through sensory stories, listening to music related to the topic and even visited Tynemouth Aquarium for our end of year school trip! It was an amazing day, seeing sharks, jelly fish, seahorses and stingray in real life. The Seal Show was amusing for our students, as they performed tricks and were very cheeky.



Upper School

G8

G8 have celebrated Eid recently by listening to music, eating sweet treats and making cards to take home to our families. The celebrations did not stop there as two of our group have had birthdays this month. One of these was an 18th birthday so we had a special party. We enjoyed the balloons, party hats, lots of visitors and especially the cakes.

A trip to the beach started off our explorations of the topic "Under the Sea". We collected stones, sand, shells and seaweed from the beach and brought it back to school. We used these things to make pictures and sensory trays to help us to bring the seaside into the classroom. Running along the sand was hard work but great fun and as we try hard to get fitter, we have been running, cycling, climbing and scootering in school and on our trips out.

It is not all just good fun though, our trips to shops and cafés have helped us to practise our communication skills, and, back in class, we work hard to focus on tricky tasks and sticky artwork. We have learned how to use a whisk to make ice cream and enjoyed a magical story about a fish who could wish.

The year finishes with a great time at the prom for our Post 16 student and a special trip out in the last week. Well Done G8. Have a lovely summer!



G9 Pupils Have Blown us Away This Term!

They showed such bravery when we had a visit from the big bad wolf as part of our 'Traditional Tales' topic, and they engaged with their sensory story superbly well. As part of our VE Day celebrations, the children made decorations for the classroom and shared a very posh afternoon tea together. This half term, we have dived into an 'Under the Sea' theme. It has been a pleasure to watch them give attention, practise their fine motor skills and take part in sensory exploration activities. We are so proud of them all!



G10

G10 have worked so hard on their communication & being a kind friend this term! We have explored our topic of 'Under the Sea' through Attention Autism sessions. In circle time, we have explored the meaning of being a kind friend and worked together in partner work to show this. G10 have also been out and about in the community and have enjoyed visits to local parks as well as our weekly outing to Priory 16 Café. Students have worked hard on developing their independence skills and have completed different tasks around school. It has been amazing to see each and every student become more confident and try new things this half term; the smiles on their faces, most definitely says it all. It has been an amazing year and we wish all of our leavers good luck as they embark on their journey into adult services. We are so proud of them all!



Challenge Enterprise

Some of our Upper School and Post 16 students took part in Challenge Enterprise Week. This year our challenge was to make a structure that would move across the stage holding a bag of sugar. During the week the students worked on skills such as problem solving, communication, being creative, working well in a team and being a leader. We are so proud of all of the hard work that has gone into this week and the students have really enjoyed it. Around 15 schools took part in this event and around 600 students. At the celebration event, we are delighted to announce that Post 16 won the most successful structure and also the best communication skills! Upper School won the most creative scrapbook for the third year running! We also had a very special award presented to Dian for being the 'Star Pupil' out of all 600 students that week! We are incredibly proud of our young people and look forward to next year. Thank you to TVCA for the organisation of this week.



My Voice Matters

A group of Post 16 students participated in the My Voice Matters conference held at Middlesbrough Town Hall. It was a wonderful day; we met new people and had the opportunity to express our opinions. A huge congratulations to our students for their efforts in helping to organise this event. Additionally, well done to those students who delivered speeches.



SEND and Inclusion Strategy Meeting

Three of our students represented Priory Woods exceptionally well at the SEND and Inclusion Strategy Meeting. They addressed professionals and other students regarding the positive aspects of Middlesbrough and shared their thoughts on necessary changes and developments. They proposed some excellent ideas!

P1

This term we started by exploring traditional tales – with our sensory story being 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We loved listening to the giant's booming voice on the switch and pulling up the rope to make the magic beanstalk grow. This half term we have been looking at the world 'Under the Sea', through a musical story, and pretended to be surfers in drama with the surfboards we have painted. Cooking this summer term has been all about ice cream! Different flavours and smells each week, and plenty of switch work to get that ice cream blended. On top of all that we have found time for physio, country dancing, hydrotherapy, ICT, tacpac, boccia and rebound, and have enjoyed some sunny days in the playground on the roundabout and swing.



Post 16

Beamsley

The Post 16 residential to Beamsley was a huge success. The students enjoyed trips to Castleford, Bolton Abbey and Black-pool, with lots of activities included. They even developed their independent living skills further as they had to make their own breakfast, packed lunches and make and strip their bed.



Priory 16 Garden

The garden at Priory 16 is starting to come alive with colour. This is down to the hard work of the students. We currently have sweet pea flowers, dahlias, sunflowers and others. We have also grown fruit and vegetables which includes; potatoes, rhubarb, garlic and strawberries.

Enterprise

Enterprise has had another successful year, with Priory Products completing over 250 orders and generating £5,500 in sales. Our staff lunch group have made 650 meals, for staff in school, making £1,000 in profit. In addition to this, parents have also supported our school fairs. The profit funds the annual prom and provides the students with a wage at the end of the year. In addition to this, enterprise has been able to make all of our year 14's a leavers hoodies and provide t-shirts to celebrate their Post 16 Show. Thank you for all your support.

Prom 2025

Saying goodbye to our Year 14s is always an emotional yet exciting time. The Prom was the perfect way to celebrate the end of their Priory Woods journey. We wish them all good luck in their next chapter and hope they come back to visit us in Cafe 16.





Creative Arts

Post 16 Art

Our talented Post-16 students have been working on an exciting textiles project with Pods UK Ltd. They created vibrant designs for special seating pods and learned how to present their work like real professionals. Their creations were even exhibited at the company's headquarters – and we're thrilled to share that the CEO will be visiting school at the end of the year to personally deliver the finished pods during a special parent showcase!



Out and About

G1 students had a brilliant trip to the Town Hall on 9th June, where they watched End Times, a unique Classical Café show by Liza Bec. This imaginative performance included live music, storytelling and British Sign Language. It was a thought-provoking experience that really opened our eyes to how music and performance can be used in creative and inclusive ways.

Music Exams and Achievements

ABRSM Performance Exams – 9th April

Twelve of our young musicians took part in their solo performance exams – and all passed with flying colours! This is a huge credit to their preparation, confidence and love of music.

Daniel Y passed his Grade 4 piano exam and is already working hard towards Grade 5. Well done Daniel – we're all very proud!



Open Orchestra News

Our wonderful Open Orchestra has been busy sharing their music with the wider community.

Residential & National Performance – Birmingham

The orchestra travelled to Birmingham for a residential trip and performed at a national SEN conference. They were praised for their brilliant playing and for showing how inclusive and empowering music can be.

MIMA Art Installation

Their music and visuals were featured in an art installation at the Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA). Visitors described their work as heartfelt, enthusiastic and full of team spirit.

Middlesbrough Train Station Soundscape

Since February, the orchestra's soundscapes have been part of a public installation at Middlesbrough Train Station, alongside local choirs and musicians. What a wonderful way to share our students' creativity with the community!

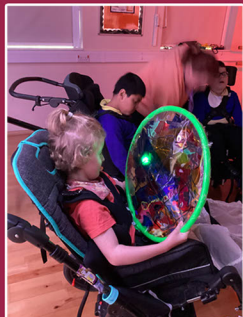
Arts Award - A Brilliant Achievement

A huge well done to a group of our Post-16 dancers, who have successfully completed their Arts Award Explore! Working closely with our friends at Tin Arts, the students developed their creativity, reflected on their progress, and explored the wider arts world. Their commitment and energy throughout the project have been truly inspiring – we are so proud of them!



Theatre Hullabaloo Visit

Artists from Theatre Hullabaloo visited our Pink, Red and Orange classes to work with students and share ideas for their new Moonbeam playscape. The children loved the sessions, which sparked lots of creative responses.



Moonbeam will be on in the Theatre Hullabaloo in September.



We Can Dance

Our friends from We Can Dance joined Sue Thornton's Post-16 dance class and were blown away by the progress and quality of the work. We thank them for their continued support of dance at Priory Woods.



Creative Arts

M&M Productions

We were thrilled to welcome M&M Theatrical Productions to school this term for a live performance of Alice in Wonderland for our G1 and G2 students. The show was full of colour, laughter and energy, and the students had a brilliant time!

There was lots of joining in, singing along, and big smiles all around – it was a truly engaging experience, and the fun was shared by everyone. A big thank you to M&M Productions for bringing the magic of live theatre to Priory Woods!



RSC Performance

Our talented G1 and G2 students took to the stage at Acklam Green Centre, performing powerful extracts from Macbeth as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company Associate Schools Programme. They gave confident, expressive performances and made us incredibly proud!

Post 16 End-of-year Show

Our Post-16 students lit up the stage at Teesside University Students' Union on 3rd July with their incredible end-of-year production: Music Legends Live and Unplugged – Yee Haw!

The show was a vibrant celebration of music, personality and teamwork. Students worked together to plan every element - from the setlist and staging to costumes and performance. The energy, creativity and joy they brought to the stage were truly infectious – and the audience absolutely loved it!

A huge well done to everyone involved. It was a fantastic way to round off the year and celebrate all the hard work that's gone into Creative Arts across Post 16.



Confident Parenting



Priory Woods School & Arts College
A Special Place to Learn



Informal workshops starting in the Autumn term

With Alison Hooper & Stacey Ward

6 or 7 sessions, covering a range of topics

Tailored to meet parents needs

One week day morning

Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs 10am-12pm

Interested? Please let your child's class teacher know or contact Alison/Stacey direct.



This course is open to parents/carers, it is delivered in a relaxed, friendly, and informal setting within our Post 16 Café.

The aim is to build confidence, share experiences, encourage, and empower parents to believe in themselves.

During the course, parents will explore the importance of good communication skills, discuss why it is important to set rules and boundaries, explore suitable consequences and rewards and look at different ways to build better relationships with children.

There are no set 'topics'. Sessions will be based around discussions and 'hot points' from the previous week to ensure no parent feels alone.

On completion of this course, the aim is that parents will have a more positive outlook on parenting with strategies to manage their child's needs/



**SOCIAL
ATTENTION**



SENSORY



**GETTING
THINGS**



ESCAPE