

# Priory Woods Newsletter

## Brief News

### Upcoming Dates

Mon 5th January - Back to School

### Selection Boxes

Thank you to the Teesside Family Foundation for fundraising and providing all of our students with selection boxes for Christmas! The students were so excited to take them home at the end of term!

### Safeguarding Information

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact: Vicky McDermott, Emma Fox or Paula Smith. Our safeguarding Governor is David Mudd.

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>



## MESSAGE FROM EMMA

What an incredible and action-packed term it's been!

In September, we welcomed our new Reception and Year 7 students, they have all settled in brilliantly and are already part of our Priory Woods family.

Our new curriculum ensures that all students are engaged and making progress. The exciting topics this term were Me and My School, including learning about the Victorians, and Magic and Potions. It has been lovely to see many of you at events over the term, both social and sharing in celebrating your children's work. Your support is always very much appreciated, and we hope to invite you in to lots more events over the coming year.

As always, the festive season has brought plenty of sparkle and shine! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair - it was wonderful to see so many of you, and together we raised another record-breaking amount! Our Post 16 students are still hard at work fulfilling Priory Products orders, spreading Christmas cheer far and wide.

The Upper School Christingle service at St. Cuthbert's Church was beautiful and gave everyone 'that Christmas feeling.' Lower School wowed us once again with their wonderful Christmas performance - your children absolutely rose to the occasion and shone on stage. By the time you read this Upper School will have held their Christmas Singalong. I'm sure that it will have had you all smiling and joining in.

This term has been full of learning, creativity, and fun. I hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful experiences your children have had so far this academic year.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th January, ready for another exciting year ahead.

Warm wishes

Emma



Merry  
CHRISTMAS





LOWER SCHOOL



### BRONZE CLASS

Bronze Class have been exploring their new classroom and getting to know new staff and classmates this half term. They have enjoyed creating some marvellous mixtures and potions and have done lots of messy artwork too.

We have really enjoyed our 'We're Going On a Present Hunt' sensory story along with lots of Christmas themed crafts and sensory play. Children have also been working hard on their communication skills using switches, communication boards and signing.



Bronze Class hope you have wonderful holiday break. Merry Christmas!

### GOLD CLASS

Gold class have been busy bees this Autumn term. We've been engaging in messy play, sensory exploration and creative activities. We have also been working hard with our independent communication targets and having lots of fun!

The children have LOVED our sensory story, Room on The Broom, and have role played the different characters in the story and been on a broom stick ride too. We have mixed lots of potions and even watched a fantastic magic show.

We hope everyone has a gorgeous Christmas and we can't wait to welcome everyone back in January.



### PINK CLASS

Pink Class has had an amazing term, because for many students it has been their first term in school ever! We have welcomed into Pink Class some nursery students this year as well as full-time reception students and it has been fantastic seeing everyone settle into Priory Woods School. This term has been all about exploring our new environment, our classroom, new learning environments around school and making new friends! We have also enjoyed learning all about 'Birthdays' and 'Light and Dark' as part of our topics. We have been very busy lately with lots of exciting Christmas activities and preparing for our first Christmas Performance.

We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and New Year x





## GREEN CLASS

What a brilliant term Green Class have had! We have been very busy engaging in lots of sensory and messy play activities linked to our topics of 'My School' and 'Magic and Potions' and had fun learning about The Victorians through an immersive sensory experience. We have been very lucky to have been able to go out on various Educational Outings throughout the term, including to Senses Wellbeing, Kirkby Park and Picton Park, where we have developed our independence and worked on our physical skills.



Currently, we are having a brilliant time creating some wonderful Christmas crafts and participating in lots of festive activities. We also put on an amazing performance during our Lower School Christmas Show - the children were all superstars, and we are so proud of them!

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and wish you a very Happy New Year!

## YELLOW CLASS

Yellow Class have had a very busy, but fun filled term. We have enjoyed settling into our new classroom, making new friends and welcoming our new TA, Gemma into the mix. We have loved our weekly educational visits to Senses Wellbeing Centre in Skelton.

We have been working on our communication targets and are confident when using symbols to make requests. Some children have been developing their fine motor skills through play and already we are seeing some wonderful handwriting and mark making from all Yellow Class children.

We are currently having a fantastic time celebrating the build up to Christmas and creating all our Christmas crafts for you to enjoy. We hope you loved the Christmas show. We were so proud of our performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and sending best wishes for the new year.



## RED CLASS

Red Class have had a great term. We have had two new pupils join Priory Woods, in Red Class, and both have settled amazingly into their school routine along with our existing Priory Woods Red Class pupils.

This term we have been exploring 'Birthdays' and 'Light and Dark' as part of our topics. We have enjoyed exploring our classroom environment and others within school. We like to use the sensory room, soft play, hydro, sensory integration and the bike track. We have enjoyed celebrating Christmas, creating Christmas crafts and performing in the Christmas show. We are so proud of the progress the children have made this term. Well done Red Class.

We wish you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year x





## SILVER CLASS

Silver class have had a lovely term. Our topics were 'My School' and 'Magic and Potions'. We enjoyed a Victorian school day, set up in the drama studio with a volunteer from Beamish, everyone loved dressing up and exploring lots of Victorian artefacts. We have enjoyed reading 'Room on the Broom' this half term and have explored making lots of different potions and magic spells! We have just finished our Christmas show, which had a Disney theme, we sang and signed 'Let it Go' from Frozen. We had a trip to Arcadia to do the 'Christmas Walk' which was magical, we enjoyed a hot chocolate as well.



## ORANGE CLASS

It's been another busy and exciting term for Orange Class. We have all been working incredibly hard in our therapies and have loved using the new interactive switches in the hydrotherapy pool.

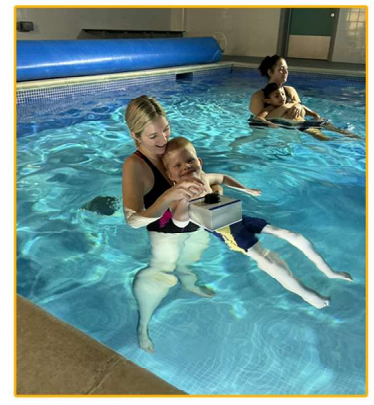


Some of our highlights this term included watching our caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies as part of our science topic, and taking part in an immersive Victorian drama experience linked to our history learning. We also enjoyed trips out to parks and garden centres with our friends.



Of course, Christmas is always a very special time. We all loved performing for our families in our show Disney in Lights, which was a wonderful way to end the term.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone in Orange Class



## BLUE CLASS

Blue Class have had a wonderful Autumn term full of magic, potions and sparkle! We have thoroughly enjoyed our 'Room on the Broom' Sensory Story, made glittery magic potions, engaged with magical Attention Autism experiments and loved creating lots of messy art work!

We have worked super hard on our individual communication, independence and academic targets, as well as our resilience, tolerance and social skills, and every child has made so much progress; we are so proud of you all.

We had a really special day down in our Forest School area with sparklers and toasted marshmallows around the campfire.



Of course, we've finished the term with all things Christmassy, including our incredible Christmas Show, in which Blue Class were total superstars!



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year. See you all in January!



## AMY'S CLASS

Amy's class have had a wonderful start to the school year. We have worked hard learning about our topics - 'Me and My School' and 'Magic and Potions'. We have also celebrated Halloween and Bonfire Night together with sensory activities and class parties. We loved our visit from Mummy Bear for Children in Need, and we made poppies and watched our Remembrance Day Attention Autism session very carefully.

Right now, we are enjoying our Christmas activities together as a class and looking forward to a fortnight off with our loved ones.



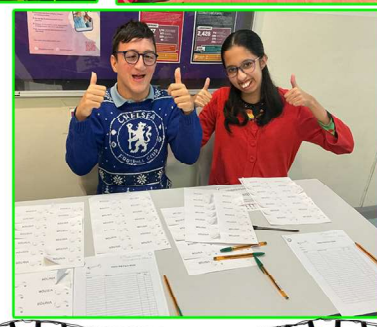
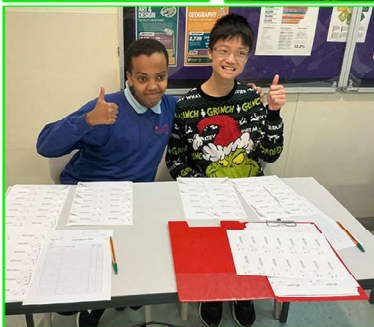
## KATE'S CLASS

Kate's class have had a very busy half term, we can't believe how fast it has gone!

We really enjoyed the Magic and Potions topic, especially our tuff tray day, every student enjoyed exploring all the different activities. In our English lessons we have written our own potions, with some very interesting ingredients and we have created a winter diamante poem. In maths we have been focusing on shape and counting in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s. Our geography topic was Marvellous Mapping in these lessons the students have explored a variety of different maps, made their own map and key and even started to use coordinates.

We are all enjoying all the wonderful Christmas activities in school and are very excited for a fun filled final week before we break up for a well-earned holiday!

Kate's class would like to wish all the staff, students and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## HELEN'S CLASS

Our Magic and Potions topic this half term has been great fun and very messy. We made love potions for Remembrance Day and Children in Need, sensory bottle potions and some healthy fruity potions too.

In our maths sessions we enjoyed making more mess while joining in number rhymes and taking turns. As part of a Geography topic, we made visits to our homes and explored routes to familiar places around the local area. We are always happy to return to school though.

We started to prepare early for Christmas with our Enterprise card and decoration making. We are very proud of our efforts and grateful for everyone who supported us at the fayre. Our baubles are on the class tree and we made a special one for the big school tree too. We are making the most of this special season with crafts, parties, stories, songs and fun and have a Quiet Christingle to enjoy in the last week of term.

As 2025 draws to a close, Helen's Class would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and will look forward to lots of exciting learning in the New Year.





# MAISIE'S CLASS

This term, our students have been busy settling into their new class and building strong relationships with classmates and teachers. It's been wonderful to see everyone embracing new routines and learning opportunities with enthusiasm!

Our Magic and Potions topic this half term has been great fun and very messy. We all enjoyed the tuff tray day in the drama studio. There was lots of messy magic things to explore.

We started to prepare early for Christmas with practicing for our Christmas singalong, making Christingles and attending the church for a special service. We are making the most of this special season with crafts, parties, stories, songs and fun to enjoy in the last week of term.

As 2025 draws to a close, Maisie's Class would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and will look forward to lots of exciting learning in the New Year.



# SONYA'S CLASS

This half term, Sonya's class have explored Magic and Potions through an exciting tuff tray day, the sensory story, 'Stop, Spider, Stop.' and potion making with glitter, glue and hot water to make sensory bottles for our engagement boxes. We've also explored Hannukah by listening to Jewish music, exploring the menorah and dreidels. All students have thoroughly enjoyed these experiences, alongside their regular therapies in the hydrotherapy pool, rebound therapy on the trampoline and stretches in their standing frames and gaiters. On the run up to Christmas, we've had a bus trip to Arcadia Garden Centre to explore the Christmas lights. Students became excited about card, calendar and decoration making, our Christingle service, performing The Polar Express to their parents and watching the Lower School Christmas Performance, as well as the X-Factor. We're all over-excited and over-tired, but still have enough energy to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



# TOM'S CLASS

What an amazing term we have had. Since September we have all become so settled and calm in our routine and we are so happy in our new class.

We especially enjoyed going on our Educational Visits this half term including; shopping in Asda to pick a pumpkin for autumnal activities. The Range to see the Christmas lights and visit the cafe and lots of different parks.

This half term's topic has been 'Magic and Potions' and we have loved making lots of potions and a mess. During the Upper School Potions afternoon, we were thrilled to mix and stir up some magic!





## GILLIAN AND HANNAH'S CLASS

This half term has been full of excitement, creativity and hands-on learning in Gillian and Hannah's Class. Our Magic and Potions theme captured everyone's imagination, with plenty of messy fun along the way. The highlight for many was our tuff tray session in the drama studio, where pupils eagerly explored a range of magical activities.

During English sessions, pupils enjoyed activities related to the book, 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. In Science, we explored skeletons, learning about bones and discussing how they support our bodies and help us to move. In Geography, children developed their location skills by identifying different areas around school and using Google Earth to find their own homes.

As Christmas approaches, we have been busy preparing for the festive season by practising for our Christmas singalong, making Christingles and attending a special church service. The final week of term is filled with seasonal crafts, stories, songs and celebrations, making it a joyful end to a busy term.



## BENDRIGG RESIDENTIAL

The week before October half term, a group of students attended a residential visit at Bendrigg, just near Kendal.

The staff and students had an amazing time together cramming in lots of adventurous activities – including canoeing, climbing wall and a zip wire. The accessible, all-inclusive opportunities that Bendrigg provide for our students really are out of this world – they make the impossible possible for all. It was a memorable, fun-filled few days.





## KATHRYN'S CLASS

We have had a fantastic Autumn term. We have worked tirelessly to establish busy routines and have enjoyed making new friends. We have tried hard during our Little Wandle (Phonics) and White Rose Maths sessions and have enjoyed learning about the world around us through topic work with a creative focus. We have enjoyed our recycling work experience and are gaining confidence whilst completing jobs both in the classroom and around school. This is helping us to develop our independence skills.

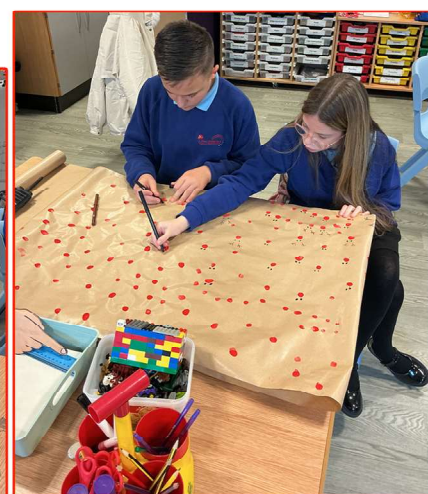
Well done everyone, fantastic effort.



## MADDY'S CLASS

We have been very busy this term and have had lots of fun! We have been creating magic potions and writing our own instructions to create a class spell book.

We have had lots of fun making Christmas gifts to sell at the Christmas fair and made our very own Christmas cakes and biscuits.



## STACEY'S CLASS

Stacey's class have been busy during the first term. They have done lots of work following our topics - 'Me and My School' and 'Magic and Potions'. In class, they have also been working on their preparation for adulthood skills by roleplaying in their shop area. There has been so many exciting things going on, and the pupils joined in very sensibly with the Sensory Christmas on Monday.

Merry Christmas!



## Nicola's Class

We have had a fantastic Autumn term! We welcomed new students, who have both settled into our class brilliantly. The class have enjoyed working with Wendy Gosling from Job Centre Plus, who has supported them in developing employability skills and preparing for adulthood.

Throughout the term, the students have taken part in important themed days such as Show Racism the Red Card, World Mental Health Day, and Children in Need. They have also been working hard towards their Functional English and Maths Entry Level qualifications, including sitting some mock exams.



We are incredibly proud of our students for organising this year's Shoe Box Appeal, which will support many local families during the festive season. We thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas party. Some of the students travelled independently on the public bus, further developing their independence skills



## Wendy's Class

This term we have been busy making Christmas decorations to sell at the Christmas Fair for our enterprise as well as working on our independence skills in the Independent Living Centre, making hot drinks, doing the washing and making the beds.

We have been practising our number skills with fun number games and working on our phonics skills too. Our class is learning BSL and our signing is coming on really well. We had a class trip out to the cinema this term, to see the Smurfs film. We all enjoyed the experience, especially the very comfy seats!

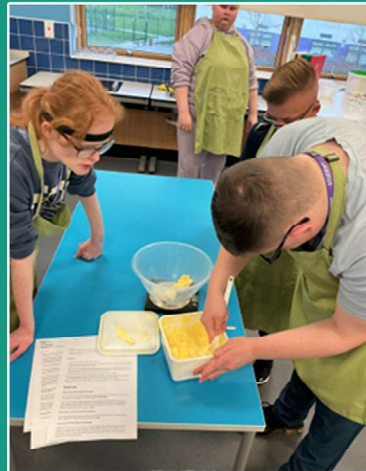
We love to move, so we enjoy our P.E. sessions, Yoga and sensory massage as well as singing and dancing as much as we can! We had a fantastic time at the Post 16 Christmas party, dancing, eating and playing party games.



### Esther's Class

This term has been very busy for us! We hit the ground running with our enterprise project, making lots of goodies for the Christmas fair. In addition to this, we started a mini business, making wax melts to sell to the staff. Students researched the most popular Christmas scents to add to the wax- they have been popular. We hope to continue this in the new year, with different scents.

We also enjoyed a trip to the cinema to see Karate-Kid, multiple community outings and our annual Christingle service. During our outings, students got the opportunity to develop their independence skills through handling money and using shopping lists. We are always impressed with how our students conduct themselves and represent Priory Woods school.



### Brian's Class

This term Brian's Class have been busy with our weekly phonics session which have been coming on well with new sounds which is improving our reading. We had a very successful Christmas fair selling our reindeer hot chocolates and tea-light holders.

We have been improving our Independence skills in the ILC by making simple snacks and washing and cleaning up. As a class we have been brushing up on our BSL sign language skills with a weekly session and learning new signs. The class have settled in well and wish you all a Happy Christmas.



### Halloween Spooktacular

The Halloween Spooktacular event, organised and run by Post 16 students was very well attended, parents and students had a wonderful time. We are hoping are reintroduce our parent and friends' group to organise similar events throughout the year. If you would be interested in being part of this, please contact the office.



### Christmas Fair

Thank you for supporting the Christmas Fair, it was once again a huge success. We took over £2,500 and the kind people at Lloyds Bank are also donating a further £1,000, taking the total to an amazing £3,500!



### Macmillan Coffee Morning

Post 16 students organised and ran a Macmillan coffee morning, they were very proud to raise £394.78!

Thank you very much for the wonderful cake entries.



### Priority Products

Priority Products would like to thank you all once again for supporting their business.

We hope you have been pleased with your orders. We now have a new WhatsApp number to be used to place future orders **07440781539**



# CREATIVE

## 2025 A Season of Creativity

From music and art to drama and storytelling, this term has been bursting with talent, teamwork, and joy. Thank you to all our students and staff for making Priory Woods such a vibrant place to learn and grow!

### BOOKMARKS FOR KINDNESS

Upper School and Silver Class have been sprinkling kindness everywhere - literally! They've decorated beautiful bookmarks provided by The Teesside Charity to support fundraising. Each design is a little burst of joy and creativity, reminding us that kindness never goes out of style.



### MUSIC THAT MOVES US

Our Open Orchestra hit all the right notes at MIMA, performing for parents and the wider community as part of the Open Orchestra display. It was a magical moment of music and togetherness that left everyone smiling!

### PARTNERSHIP IN HARMONY

We're loving our ongoing partnership with Tees Valley Music Service (TVMS). Their bespoke equipment - like the Sound Beam sound board has added a professional sparkle to our performances and opened up new creative possibilities for our musicians.



### CREATIVE COLLABORATION

Gold Class and Maisie's class welcomed visitors from the Tees Valley Museums Consortium to experience their sensory drama sessions. The students worked so hard, and the visit sparked exciting plans for future SEND collaborations and resource development - watch this space for more creative magic!



### MUSICAL MILESTONES

The orchestra enjoyed a well-deserved visit to the TVMS Sound Pod - what a treat for our talented musicians!

Maddie's class rocked out at the Big Rocking Christmas Concert at Middlesbrough Town Hall. Huge congratulations to Daniel Y, who passed his Grade 5 Piano exam - a fantastic achievement and a testament to his hard work!

### TUBULAR BELLS TRIUMPH

One of the term's shining highlights: the Open Orchestra's live recording of Tubular Bells! It's already making waves on YouTube with 500+ views.

Search: Tubular Bells Priory Woods School and enjoy the performance!



# CREATIVE

## ARTISTIC ADVENTURES

Creativity is in full bloom! Kathryn's class showcased their incredible drawing skills in a Drawing Exhibition, featuring linear techniques and shape recognition. It was a true celebration of artistic growth and imagination—our budding artists shone brightly!

Helen's group has been working hard on their drawing skills, creating amazing sketchbooks full of creativity and thoughtful ideas.

Behind the scenes, our talented Art students have been busy making props for the Lower School Christmas Show, bringing festive magic to life with their skills and imagination!



## DRAMA DELIGHTS

Hannah and Gillian's classes, along with Silver Class, stepped into the festive spirit at Stockton Arc for a magical performance of A Town Called Christmas.

Meanwhile, Kate's group has been creating, devising, and rehearsing pieces inspired by Roald Dahl to perform for their parents - expect plenty of mischief and fun!

Our Post 16 drama groups have been writing and rehearsing their own Christmas shows to perform for peers and parents. One group is bringing the festive cheer with a classic panto, while another tells the heartwarming story of how playing Mary in the nativity changed a little girl's life forever.

