Year One Newsletter
Autumn 2 2026



Welcome

A warm welcome back to all our children and their families. We hope you enjoyed a restful half-term break after such a busy and exciting half term. The children have returned to Year One routines with ease and have already learned so much. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and love of learning continues to shine through. Thank you for your ongoing support in making the transition into Year 1 so smooth. We are excited for another fantastic half term filled with fun, laughter, learning and of course our Christmas performance!

Home Learning

For Autumn 2 in Year 1, our main focus for home learning is daily reading. We encourage you to listen to your child read their phonics book each day for 10 to 15 minutes. By the end of the week, your child should be confident and fluent with their book, reading fluently and with automaticity.
After each reading session, please record what your child has read and the date in their red reading record.



It is important that your child brings both their red reading record and phonics book to school every day so they are ready for Guided Reading and can change their book when needed.
To further support your child's reading, we also encourage sharing stories and discussing what they have read or listened to. In the Spring term we will be adding Maths homework and more details about this will be shared nearer the time. For this term please focus on your child's reading.

Uniform and Coats

As the weather turns colder, please make sure your child comes to school with a warm winter coat. Since we will be spending time outdoors for our learning, it's important that coats are brought in every day. You are welcome to send hats, scarves, and gloves as well, but please ensure each item is clearly labelled with your child's name. We have noticed an increase in lost



property, much of which is unnamed. Labelling your child's belongings will help them take responsibility for their items and make it easier to return lost clothing.

Trip to Milton Keynes Museum



During the final week of term, the children enjoyed fantastic visits to Milton Keynes Museum, where they explored toys from the past and discovered what life was like in a Victorian classroom. The children were fascinated to hear about the punishments Victorian pupils received, especially the naughty children who were suspended in a basket from the ceiling. However, they were much less impressed by the thought of missing lunch to catch up on unfinished work.





The trips were a wonderful way to bring our Past and Present topic to life and provided a memorable end to a fantastic half term of learning.





We would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who gave up their time to support the visits. Your help and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated and helped make the morning s such a success.



Curriculum Over View for Autumn 2

This half term, our topic is Into our Imagination. We will be using our imaginations across the curriculum from learning about traditional tales in English to creating a showstopper piece in Art.

In English, the children are learning all about traditional tales and well-known stories. The children have loved learning the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and retelling it in their own words. In the coming weeks they will be making porridge and writing the instructions they need to follow. The children will read and learn many



stories to support writing for different purposes and to develop their understanding of the structure of traditional tales.

In Maths, the children will continue to consolidate their understanding of place value within 10 and will delve deeper into addition and subtraction.



In Science, the children will be learning all about the seasons: Autumn, Winter, Spring, and Summer. We will observe the seasonal changes and take part in an autumn and winter walk. The children will look closely at our environment to see how it changes from Autumn to Winter and closely observe the weather.

In Geography, the children will be learning all human features. They will begin to understand that human features are things that are designed and built by humans. We will do this by exploring houses, shops, offices, farms and factories.

In RE, the children will be learning all about how Christians remember Jesus at Christmas. They will also be exploring and learning about the role the church plays for Christians. This links to our topic in PSHE of celebrating differences.

In Art, we will be studying and creating a showstopper piece inspired by Karen Lederer. The children will create a printed piece of art inspired by Karen Lederer's Untitled 30. They will learn how to use a stencil and create their very own stencils too.

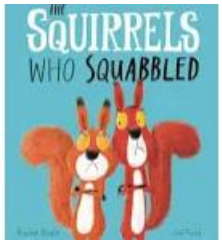


In Music, the children will be developing their understanding of rhythm and pulse by learning and practicing all of the songs for our Christmas performance of A Snowman at Sunset.

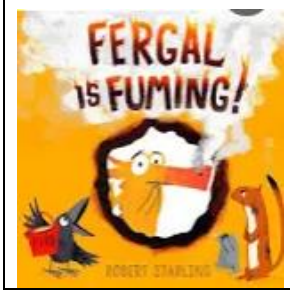
What a lot of fun and learning!

Recommended Reads

Miss Bulford recommends 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled' by Rachel Bright:

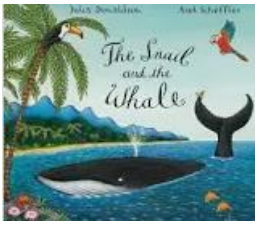


It is a fun and engaging tale that follows two squirrels as they compete to claim the very last pine cone of the season. Along the way, they discover the importance of friendship, teamwork and kindness.



Miss Harvey recommends 'Fergal Is Fuming' by Robert Starling: It is a fun and relatable story that teaches such an important lesson about managing big feelings.

I love how it shows children that feeling angry is okay, but learning to pause, breathe and stay calm can help us make better choices.



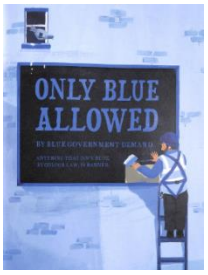
Miss Giles recommends 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson: This beautifully illustrated story takes children on an exciting adventure around the world while sharing important messages about friendship, courage and believing in yourself. With its engaging rhyme and rich vocabulary, it is a wonderful book to read together.

Miss Chessa recommends 'Lucia Lacorte Poor Sport' by Christianne Jones:



The story shares useful messaging around the importance of being a good sport, and about making amends when we make mistakes. Although Lucia Lacorte is a very bossy llama and a sore loser, she soon learns the error of her ways and turns things around for her games club. The story is accompanied by some colourful, entertaining illustrations.

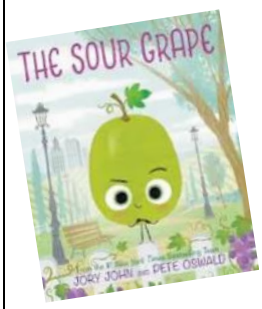
Mrs Benham-Smith recommends 'ONLY BLUE ALLOWED' by Blue government demand. Anything that isn't blue, by colour law, is banned. In a very blue house on a very blue street, sits a little boy who feels as blue as the world around him. For this little boy has a BIG secret: he loves the colour yellow. In a world where only one colour is allowed, will he be brave enough to tell his dad? And will they be able to defy the rules and create a world where EVERY colour is welcome?

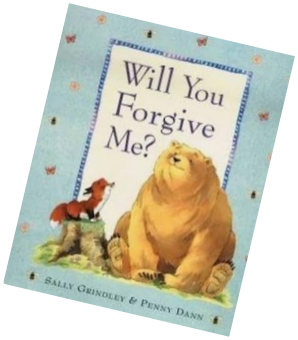


Our School Values for November and December

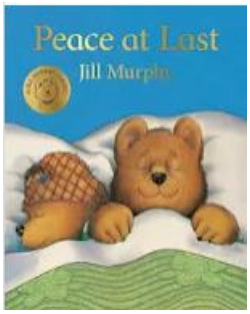
This half term, our school values are **Forgiveness** and **Peace**. Through stories, assemblies, circle time and daily interactions, the children will explore what it means to forgive others, show understanding when mistakes are made, and make positive choices to put things right. They will also learn about peace by developing kindness, empathy and cooperation, and by understanding how to build calm, happy relationships with those around them.

Some stories that support and promote these values are:









Communication

Positive communication between parents and school is vitally important in our Priory Rise community and, with this in mind, we have created a number of effective vehicles where parents are able to positively communicate with the staff team.

Where possible, if parents wish to communicate with the staff team, it is always best to talk to the class teacher at the end of the day, once all children from the class have been dismissed. However, where there needs to be an email, clear and respectful communication helps us work together effectively.

Please follow these guidelines when emailing into our year group email address.



Important to know

• Year group emails are not monitored between 8:20am and 3:30pm while teachers are teaching and preparing lessons. Please do not expect to receive a reply during these times.

• Urgent or time-sensitive matters should always be directed to the school office.

Before you hit 'send', please consider:

· Is it urgent? If so, contact the school office instead of emailing the year group.

· Has the email been written in anger? Pause and consider requesting a phone call or speaking in person to a member of the staff team.

· Is this part of a long email chain? A phone call or face-to-face meeting is usually better.

· Attendance or absence? Email the school office directly.

· Clubs, diary dates, lunches, medication, or music lessons? Contact the school office at office@pr5d.com.

· Behaviour or health concerns? If urgent, call the school office.

· If the issue is not urgent, please email the class teacher to arrange a face-to-face or telephone conversation or speak to the teacher at the end of the school day once all children have been dismissed.

Response times

· Teachers aim to respond to emails within 2 working days. It may be that the initial response is acknowledging receipt of your message

· If the matter requires investigation, a full response may take longer. Please be patient and understanding of staff responsibilities alongside managing email responses.

· For urgent issues, always contact the school office by phone or email.

Our Year One email address is year1@pr5d.com

Attendence

Thank you for your continued support with attendance this year. We are pleased to see that attendance has improved, and we appreciate the efforts families are making to ensure children arrive at school regularly and on time.



While this improvement is encouraging, attendance remains a key focus for us. Every school day provides valuable opportunities for learning, friendship and personal development. Children who attend school consistently are better able to build confidence, establish positive routines and make the most of all that school has to offer.

We understand that there will be times when children are genuinely unwell and unable to attend. However, wherever possible, we encourage regular attendance so that children do not miss important learning experiences.

If your child is finding attendance difficult for any reason, please do get in touch. We are always here to listen and work together with families to provide support where needed. Thank you for helping us give every child the very best opportunity to thrive.

Thank you!

Thank you for your continued support. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to our recent Parent Pop-In event. The children were incredibly excited and proud to share their classroom with you, and it was lovely for families to see their children settle so confidently into class and begin their learning. We hope the visit provided a valuable insight into the routines, activities and enthusiasm that make up a typical school day.



We are incredibly proud of how well the children have embraced their new routines and risen to the challenges of Year 1. We look forward to another fantastic half term of working together to help your wonderful children grow in confidence, achieve their potential and continue to flourish.

Dates for your Diary
Thursday 5th November Fireworks by Friends of Priory Rise Friday 6th November – Diwali celebration – dress up or down Friday 13th November – Children in Need wear PJs for £1 donation Monday 16th November – Wear odd socks for anti-bullying Tuesday 15th December – Christmas party and dinner Wednesday 16th December – 8.45am - Year 1 Christmas performance Thursday 17th December – 8.45am - Year 1 Christmas performance Friday 18th December – End of autumn term Monday 4th January 2027 – start of Spring term – children back to school