



Dear Parents

9 February 2024

Beginning with Monday's assembly, the theme was the forthcoming General Election. We started by practicing voting on a later start to the day, a 4-day week, longer holidays, and Hector as Principal of Priory School, with the pupils voting in favour on all four topics. Looks like I am out of a job then!

We then got more serious and discussed the difference between democracy, autocracy and the reality of decision making, using Priory School as the example. Things became more factual, and I shared with the pupils the latest dates for the dissolution of Parliament and the Election, and the meaning and number of constituencies in the UK, exemplifying the latter by looking at the election outcome maps for 2010 and 2015. We talked about the 25 day 'Purdah', and the King's role in asking the leader of the winning party to form a new Government, and the role of the opposition party.

We finished on arguably the most important point of the assembly – voter apathy and the importance of exercising one's democratic right, whether at school council level or in the General Election, particularly given that members of our Upper Sixth can vote on the next Government.

The word and question of the week are:

- Word: Apathy (voter)
- Question: Why is it important to take an active part in democratic decision making?



Turning to Tuesday, we were fortunate to have a Tuesday Talk given by Professor Wills, Head of Mechanical Engineering at Southampton University.

Prof. Wills gave a fascinating talk on undergraduate life, studying at Southampton University and mechanical engineering. After leaving school, he studied Chemistry at university and this developed into Mechanical Engineering, both in industry and in academia, and Prof. Wills is not only a lecturer, but is also a researcher, consultant, and Head of Department (for a very large department).

Particularly interesting was his research into energy storage and batteries, and he explained this using many transport related examples, including electric cars. Pupils asked lots of questions about his research and involvement in university, national and international energy projects. Environmental concerns featured significantly in his talk and he explained current research into more environmentally friendly materials used to store energy. We are very grateful to Dr Wills for giving up his time to come to school and participate in our Tuesday Talk programme.

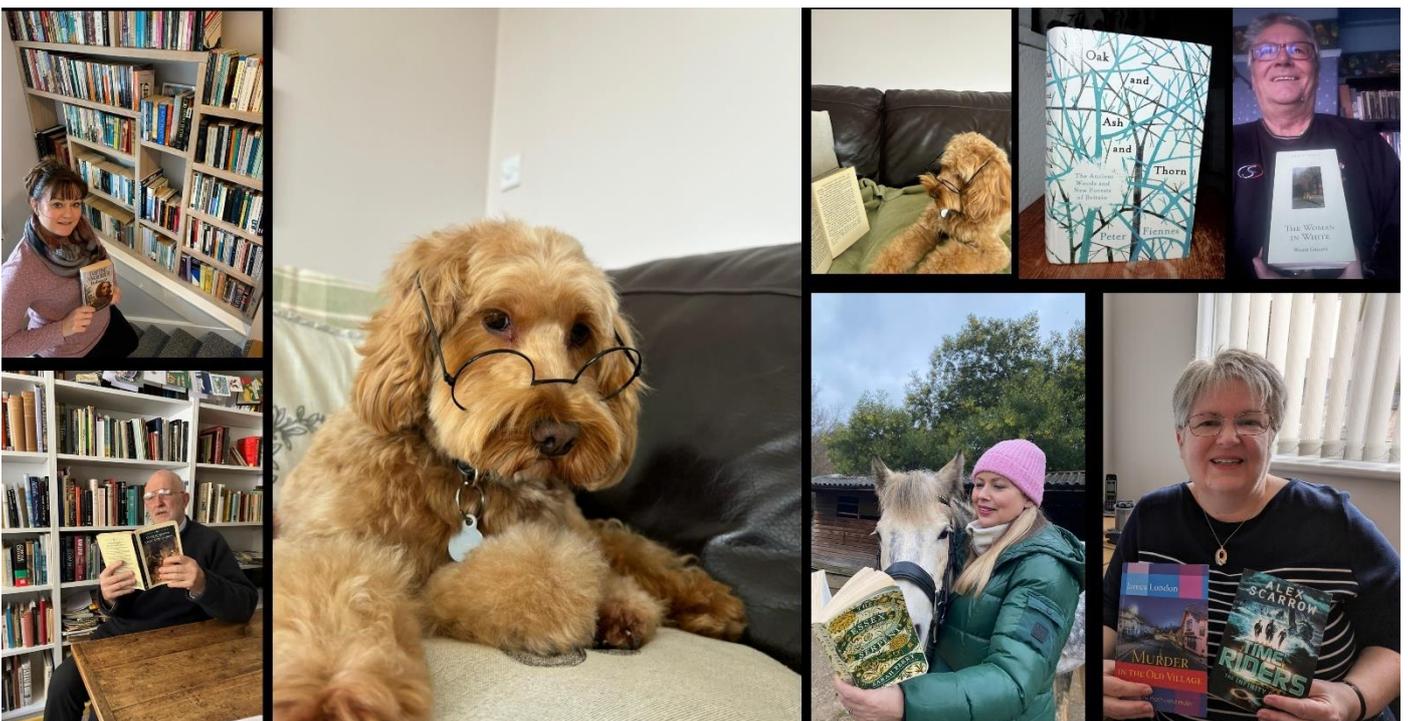


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As I stated last week, and in support of World Book Day on 7 March, I am posting on Facebook a different colleague's favourite book each day. They are a mix of fiction and non-fiction reads, and some colleagues are finding it impossible to narrow things down to one book only! Here is a montage of last week's featured staff and books.



Principal: Mr DEJJ Lloyd BSc (Econ)



Regarding activities on World Book Day, Mrs Barnes, Head of the Junior School, will write with more detail after the half term holiday, but you may like to start planning a costume based on a favourite character from a book. As always, we encourage homemade or borrowed costumes, and prizes will be given on the day.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the school trip to Poland will be well underway. Please follow our Facebook page to keep up with what the pupils and staff are doing whilst there. An appropriate mix of remembrance, reflection, and cultural and leisure activities are planned.

Pupils in S5 and the Sixth Form have a Parents' Evening on 22 February, so please encourage your son or daughter to sign up for appointments on your behalf.

And finally, a message regarding school fees. We operate significant discount schemes for forward payment of fees, and these are now open for payment of fees for the Summer Term 2024. Details are available on request and **to qualify for a 5% reduction, discounted fee payments are due by Friday 9 February 2024**. Please email the School Office for details and invoices.

Reports

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| 1. Tues 6 Feb | Tuesday Talk 'University – Education, Research & Enterprise' (Prof Wills) |
| 2. Tues 6 Feb | S1 Girls, Netball Match, Ryde School |
| 3. Thurs 8 Feb | S3/S4/S5, Residential, Poland (ends Tues 13 Feb) |
| 4. Fri 9 Feb | Y5/Y6 Mixed, Football Match (home game v Wootton Primary School) |
| 5. Fri 9 Feb | Half Term week began |

Future Dates & Events

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| 1. Tues 20 Feb | Tuesday Talk 'Apprenticeships IOW College' (Ms Williams) |
| 2. Wed 21 Feb | S4/S5 Boys, Rugby Match, Free School |
| 3. Wed 21 Feb | S1/S2 Mixed, Cross Country, CTK College |
| 4. Thurs 22 Feb | S5/6 th Form Parents' Evening (4.15pm) |
| 5. Fri 23 Feb | S2, L'Oreal Workshop, Royal Institute, London |



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Achievements

Please send in details of your child's achievements outside of school. A picture is also very welcome. Just as we do in school assembly each week, we would like to showcase and celebrate pupils' talents and endeavours in the Newsletter, for example, sailing, cadets, karate etc. Please note that pictures should not include faces of young people who attend schools other than Priory.

Pandora in Year 5 has won 'Showing Promise' awards from the Isle of Wight Pony Club. The trophy is engraved with the words 'One to Watch'. Well done, Panda, we are all very proud of you!



David EJJ Lloyd
Principal