



Priory School of Our Lady of Walsingham
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Dear Parents

10 November 2023

It has been a very busy week at school, with preparations underway for Beauty and the Beast, the Christmas Fayre, our internal 'Save the Seas Week', national 'Anti-Bullying Week' – which includes 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 13 November, and Remembrance. In addition, the slightly better weather has allowed a return to competitive sports fixtures.

On Friday 17 November we will have a mufti day and cake sale in aid of a sea conservation charity, hopefully one with local impact. Thank you in advance for your donations and baking, it is appreciated.

As such, this week's assembly had three parts to it. Firstly, I held a poppy quiz, in which I tested the pupils on the significance of the poppy, the meaning of the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by Colonel John McCrae, and the sacrifice made by armed services personnel, the uniformed services and civilians in conflict from the beginning of the First World War to the present day. The poem was read by our Heads of School, Maya Bennett and Milo Barnes. I think it is important to note that people from many occupations and backgrounds have given their lives to preserve peace and freedom for our nation. That said, wearing a poppy is a choice but I am pleased to see so many doing so and raising funds for the Royal British Legion, which uses the money to help service men and women and veterans in need.

The Word of the Week is Remembrance, and the Question of the Week is 'Why do we wear the poppy at this time of the year?'

Secondly, we received a presentation from Amelia Brocklebank and Rachel Lambert on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Panashe Chibwana was also on the expedition but not present for assembly. It was interesting to listen to the girls speaking about the skills they developed whilst walking and camping in the New Forest, not only outdoor skills, but also interpersonal skills and resilience and fortitude.

Finally, several members of S5 acted out various scenes on the theme of bullying, and we also heard how Kate Middleton, HRH The Princess of Wales, and Lady Gaga were bullied as children. The message the pupils ably delivered was that excuses such as, 'it was only banter', 'I was only joking', 'I didn't mean to hurt him or her', 'he or she doesn't mind' and many more which are similar in nature are wholly unacceptable. The S5 pupils involved were Adam Farley, Eve Vincent, Georgia Arnold and Kieran Dale. Well done to all of them.

There was no Tuesday talk this week, but the school did come together for some hymn practice for the Remembrance Service this Friday at St Mildred's Church. We practiced the following hymns – *Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace*, *Jerusalem* and *I vow To Thee, My Country* – and both the Junior School and Senior School sang with feeling and gusto. The Service will be led by Miss Shyvers, who is a Licensed Lay Minister in the West Wight Mission Community (Church of England), as well as our Head of Mathematics. We are very grateful indeed to Miss Shyvers for leading us in worship and song.

This Saturday, some of our pupils are taking part in court-based preparations for the Mock Legal Trial Competition, in which they conduct a simulated criminal case in a real court and play the roles of witness, jurors, and barristers.



On 14 November at 4.15pm Mrs Holt will be holding an Iceland Trip Information Evening, to which all interested families are warmly invited.

Looking ahead to the Christmas Fayre on 7 December, the PSPA have asked me to remind you of their recent request for prizes for the raffle and tombola. So if you or your company can donate an appropriate prize, then Mrs Bell and her team of parent volunteers will be very grateful indeed.

Turning to the sometimes thorny topic of social media, please ensure that you are aware of the UK age restrictions on the platforms used by young people, for example:

- WhatsApp 16+
- Facebook 13+
- Instagram 13+
- Snapchat 13+
- TikTok 13+

Are you monitoring activity, such that you know what content and language your child is using and viewing? Many of our current behavioural problems start outside of school hours on social media and are very preventable. These platforms do have many great benefits, but pupils are at risk of exploitation and of leaving an irreversible virtual footprint which may cause them problems later on in life.

Finally, the same neighbour's drive has been blocked three times this week, and each time he has contacted the school to complain of the inconvenience caused. I'm afraid the cars involved appear to be those of parents dropping off, picking up or visiting school for some other reason, e.g. bringing in forgotten kit. Not only is this causing tension with Beatrice Avenue residents and forcing me to write to you repeatedly, but it is also occupying time which should be spent on the business of teaching and learning. I believe some of the neighbours are now lobbying the Council to take action, but until this materialises it falls to the school to do its best to maintain cordial relations. Please help us in this regard by parking sensibly, even if you are only popping in. Feel free to use the school car park if there are spaces.

Reports

1. Wed 8 Nov S4/S5 Boys, Rugby Match, Free School
2. Thurs 9 Nov S4 Photography, St Mildred's Church Graveyard
3. Thurs 9 Nov S1/S2/S3/S4/S5 Seniors, Cross Country Relays, Medina College
4. Thurs 9 Nov S1 Parents' Evening
5. Fri 10 Nov Remembrance Day Service, St Mildred's Church
6. Fri 10 Nov Y5/Y6 Boys, Football Match, Gatten & Lake Primary School
7. Fri 10 Nov S4/S5 Girls, County Netball Tournament, Seaclose Netball Courts
8. Sat 11 Nov S5/6th Form, Demonstration Trial, Newport Crown Court

Future Dates & Events

1. Mon 13 Nov Eco-Week commences
2. Mon 13 Nov Odd Socks Day (anti-bullying campaign)
3. Mon 13 Nov Eco-Monitors Led Assembly
4. Tues 14 Nov Tuesday Talk '4 Year Seafaring Adventure'
5. Tues 14 Nov S1/S2 Girls, Hockey Match, Free School



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| 6. Tues 14 Nov | S3/S4/L6th, Iceland 'Questions & Answers' |
| 7. Wed 15 Nov | S3/S4 Girls, Netball Match, Ryde Academy |
| 8. Wed 15 Nov | 6 th Form Evening |
| 9. Thurs 16 Nov | House Winners' Pizza Lunch (York/Red House) |
| 10. Thurs 16 Nov | Y5/Y6 Boys, Football Match (home game v Arreton Primary School) |
| 11. Fri 17 Nov | Mufti Day & Cake Sale 'Sea Conversation Charity' |
| 12. Fri 17 Nov | Y5/Y6 Girls, Football Match (home game v Godshill Primary School) |
| 13. Fri 17 Nov | S1/S2/S3 Girls, County Netball, Seaclose Park |

Achievements

David EJJ Lloyd
Principal