



Priory School of Our Lady of Walsingham
Beatrice Avenue, Whippingham
Isle of Wight, PO32 6LP
Tel: 01983 861222

mail@priorschool.org.uk
www.priorschool.org.uk



Dear Parents

3 November 2023

I am writing this from home due to school closure but hope that by the time you receive it Storm Ciaran has well and truly gone for good!

Reports from around the Island have been heartbreaking with water levels flooding homes, workplaces and cars, and with some Islanders barely over the last time their properties flooded. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected by the extreme weather conditions. May I also thank you for your understanding with regard to my decision to close the school. I had planned to wait until 6am – and will try to do so in the future – but it was clear during the course of the previous day that it would be too dangerous to travel.

Looking back to Monday, and given that the week commencing 13 November is national Anti-Bullying Week, I used the assembly to start thinking about what bullying is, the types of bullying and the impact on both the victim and the perpetrator. We also looked at why bullies do such unpleasant things and agreed that in some cases, the perpetrator may actually be a victim at the same time but in other circumstances, for example, outside of school.

Bullying is not defined in law, but pupils identified the following ingredients of any suitable definition. Bullying is intentional, hurtful and repeated, and usually reflects a power imbalance between the victim and perpetrator. Discrimination is often a feature of bullying too.

In order to celebrate our individuality (a previous Word of the Week), we will take part in Odd Socks Day on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week – Monday 13 November. Once again, this is a national initiative, and it is about having pride in our own uniqueness and taking a stand against bullies. I want all of our pupils to be upstanders, to feel confident in saying ‘that is not okay’, and for Priory School to be a ‘telling school’. Please reinforce this at home. The Word of the Week is ‘bullying’, and the Question of the Week is ‘Why are bullies unkind to others and what can we do about it?’ And remember, on Odd Socks Day the ‘louder’ one’s clashing socks, the better! I may even find a prize for the most impressive mismatched pair.

The week commencing 13 November is a very busy week because it is also our (internal) Save the Seas Week, with the Eco-Council leading school assembly and with as many lessons as possible delivering the curriculum through the medium of the seas and the coral reef. I look forward to seeing our Eco-Councillors taking the initiative and educating us all on the very worrying fragility of our planet.

Our Tuesday Talk was cancelled this week due to our speaker having COVID, and we wish him a full and speedy recovery. Thank you for your many offers of delivering a Tuesday Talk. We are now largely fully booked for this term, but still need speakers for next term. You can talk about your job, hobby and/or vocation, and we would love to hear from you, so please do get in touch.

Finally, please save the date for our Christmas Fayre on Thursday 7 December, 2 – 4pm. We will be joined by Father Christmas for an afternoon of Christmas gift shopping, festive refreshments and games, carols and much more. The Priory School Choir will be singing for your enjoyment, and we hope you can join us and help re-establish this important event in the post-lockdown era.



Reports

1. Wed 1 Nov S4/S5 GCSE Geography Fieldtrip, Amazon World
2. Wed 1 Nov S3 Options' Evening

Future Dates & Events

1. Wed 8 Nov S4/S5 Boys' Rugby Match, Free School
2. Thurs 9 Nov Senior Cross Country Relays, Medina College
3. Thurs 9 Nov S1 Parents' Evening
4. Fri 10 Nov Remembrance Day Service, St Mildred's Church
5. Fri 10 Nov S4/S5 Girls' County Netball Tournament, Seaclose Netball Courts
6. Sat 11 Nov Demonstration Trial, Newport Crown Court

Achievements

Mai MacKay (S4) – During the half term break, the Hampshire and IOW Royal Air Force Cadets went to Ypres in Belgium to mark Remembrance. Mai was among the cadets paying their respects at the World War I Battlefields and at the Menin Gate service. Well done Mai.

Amelia Brocklebank, Panashe Chibwana and Rachel Lambert completed their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award training and expedition over six days and five nights in the New Forest. The girls persevered and endured very wet and cold conditions under canvas, covered 100 miles in total, made many fabulous memories along the way and successfully completed this part of the Award. Well done on showing such great resolve and good luck with the remaining components.

David EJJ Lloyd
Principal