



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



Dear Parents

5 July 2024

Well, the academic year has now closed and I would like to begin by saying a fond farewell to our pupil and staff leavers. It is always a sad time when pupils and colleagues move on, but I am sure that exciting times lie ahead, and I ask that all our leavers keep us updated on their progress and pop in to see us in the future. You are all very welcome.

In the final assembly, we presented gifts and tokens of our appreciation to Mr Sampler and Miss Mildenhall. Mr Sampler leaves for promotion to Director of Music in the West Country, and Miss Mildenhall moves on to her second school, one of the Island Academies, so we may well meet her again on the sports field as an opponent! Both colleagues have contributed a great deal to the curricular, co-curricular and pastoral life of the school and we will miss them. They leave with our best wishes for a successful career in their new schools.

Next year, Mr Lynch changes role and becomes Head of Performing Arts across the whole school, Mrs Sullivan (a familiar face in school) temporarily takes on Year 6 whilst we recruit a replacement for Mr Lynch, and Mrs Justine Hamer joins us in the Sports Department. Mr Groves, our temporary Science and Maths teacher, becomes a permanent member of staff, and I am sure you will join me in welcoming all new colleagues to the Priory School community.

Well done to those members of the Junior School who recently took a New Era Academy exam in Speech & Drama, and thank you to Ms Jeni Law for getting them through





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Congratulations also go to S4 for their enthusiasm and impeccable conduct on their recent trip to the Summer Exhibition at The Royal Society in London. The Royal Society is 'the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science for the benefit of humanity'. Mrs Bates was hugely complimentary of all our pupils, as I believe members of the public were too.





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At the end of the penultimate week of term, a team of Year 3 and 4 pupils travelled to West Wight Sports Centre to participate in the annual PEACH Games. The Games are part of the Partnership Education Attainment and Children's Health (PEACH) programme, which benefits Island pupils, families and communities; with its ethos designed to provide opportunities for primary school aged children to lead a healthy lifestyle and to participate in sports and physical activities. Pupils got to experience a range of sports, some of which were new to them, including archery, curling, orienteering, golf and many more. They were also taught some basic first aid. The Sports Department said that the pupils were a credit to the school and enjoyed their day.

All the photos of this event are in our Sports Report, dated 28 June.





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We were very lucky this year to be awarded tickets for Wimbledon. So, 8 pupils and 2 staff, Miss Mulligan and Miss Mildenhall, travelled to SW London and had a great day watching the tennis and soaking up the atmosphere of a major international sporting competition steeped in history. Miss Mulligan said, 'Miss Mildenhall and I were lucky to have such a brilliant group of pupils to spend the day with.' She added that the pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves.





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As an annual rite of passage, we enjoyed the Year 6 Leavers' Prom, when the class of 2024 enjoyed a super evening of music, dancing, fish and chips, chocolate fountains and awards. The staff and pupils had a super time and I hope the evening capped off a happy, memorable and fulfilling time in the Junior School in the appropriate way. The pupils looked amazing in their suits and dresses (and chauffeur driven cars), and we look forward to them joining S1 in the autumn. To those starting Senior School elsewhere, we send our best wishes for a smooth transition.





This year's Isle of Wight Madi Gras was a great success, and under the leadership of Mrs Hart our pupils played a major part in the celebration. The theme for 2024 was the 'Story of Carnival', and giant puppets, samba bands, a 'bike fish', Rio de Janeiro themed costumes and many more handmade creations were on display. The streets of Ryde were lined with spectators as the carnival processed down Union Street and along the Esplanade. Our pupils, parents and staff made their own costumes, rehearsed their singing and choreography, and represented the school proudly and brilliantly. It was quite emotional watching them pass me by in Union Street as onlookers clapped and cheered. Well done everyone.





One of the highlights of the term is the Summer Showcase and this year was no different. Lots of families arrived with picnics to listen to musical pieces from the Choir, Amelia Brocklebank, Emma Ross, Will Gill-Cheney, the Guitar Club, and our very own pupil rock band, The Rubber Plants. We also enjoyed some LAMDA pupil duologues, thanks to Ms Jeni Law, and a full rehearsal of our Madi Gras performance. As has become customary, this was also the occasion for the House Song Competition and Canterbury House won with their singing, dancing, costume and House inclusivity, all delivered through a wonderful rendition of 'Wake Me Up When It's All Over' by Avicii. Congratulations go to all the Houses for their valiant efforts. Thanks also go to Mrs Sherree Whiteman and Miss Mia Rowdon for joining me on the judging panel, the PSPA for once again providing us with refreshments and stalls and to everyone who donated raffle prizes, and well done to all pupils and staff for such a wonderful display of music, speaking and creativity.





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The final week ended with our Thanksgiving Service at St Mildred's Church. Thank you to Father Jonathan for leading us in worship, all the staff at St Mildred and to those parents and families who joined us for the occasion, and well done to all pupils for reading, singing and behaving with such solemnity and maturity. I was very proud of you all.

The last 2 weeks have been incredibly busy even by Priory standards, so if I have missed off any events or achievements, then I apologise and will include them in the next Newsletter.

Before signing off, may I take this opportunity to thank three other groups of pupils. Firstly, our non-teaching staff who do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes, and without who the school could not function. Whether working in the School Office, cleaning, driving, maintenance, grounds and much more, thank you so much.

Secondly, thank you to all our volunteers: the PSPA, readers, Duke of Edinburgh Award helpers, backstage crew, Madi Gras team and others who have all been amazing this year. You are so generous with your time.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our parents and extended families. You work in unison with the school and with a common goal, and you do it with compassion, friendliness, camaraderie and humour. By working together as we do, we help children and young people develop as upstanders with a strong moral compass, and as future leaders and role models in our local, national and international communities.

I wish you all a super summer holiday and I look forward to seeing S5 and the Upper Sixth for the results in August, and everyone else in September.



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## Reports

Tues 2 July	Summer Fayre (including Summer Showcase)
Wed 3 July	S4, Summer Exhibition, Royal Society, London
Thurs 4 July	LAMDA Exams, Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde
Thurs 4 July	Eco Party (for Eco Monitors)
Thurs 4 July	S4, Photography, Freshwater Bay/Niton area
Fri 5 July	End of Term Thanksgiving Service, St Mildred's Church
Fri 5 July	Summer Term ended

## Future Dates & Events

Sat 6 July	Juniors, Mardi Gras Carnival, Ryde
Mon 8 July	S1/S2/S3/S4, Tennis Championships, Wimbledon
Thurs 15 Aug	A Level Results Day (9.00am)
Thurs 22 Aug	GCSE Results Day (9.00am)
Mon 9 Sep	Christmas Term begins
Wed 11 Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Form, Escape Room, Newport

David EJJ Lloyd  
Principal