



We honour God through our actions

**Priory RC Primary School**  
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**PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER**  
13th November 2009

Dear Parents/Carers and Friends of our school

Next week is anti-bullying week around the country and our children will be working on the theme of cyberbullying. At Priory School we believe it is both important (and possible!) to change bullying behaviour. Helping children to understand the other person's feelings and the effect of their behaviour on them (developing their empathy), teaching them to stand up to peer pressure from others, giving them support to manage the problems they are facing in their own lives - all of these things can change bullying behaviour for good.



**What is Bullying?**

In SEAL your child will learn that bullying:

1. ....goes on for a while, or happens regularly.
2. ....is deliberate. The other person wants to hurt, humiliate or harm someone else.
3. ....involves someone (or several people) who are stronger in some way than the person being bullied. The person doing the bullying has more power; they are older, stronger, there are more of them or they have some 'hold' over the other person (e.g. they know a secret about them).

Because these three things have to happen together for something to be called 'bullying' they will learn that bullying is not:

- A one-off fight or argument
- Someone occasionally being unkind to them
- An argument with someone

Dear Lord  
Help us to remember that everyone is special and that calling names and saying hurtful things can make others feel really bad inside. Help us to be like David who knew that You were with him all the time. This gave him the confidence to be able to speak out and stand up for himself.  
Amen

**Say No To Bullying**

Schools must by law have an anti-bullying policy which tells you what the school will do if bullying is reported, and also what the school is doing to stop bullying happening in the first place. If you would like to see a copy of our policy please contact your child's teacher.

The SEAL and Anti-Bullying Week work will be one part of what the school is doing to stop bullying. This work helps schools to stop bullying happening by:

- Making sure that all children and adults mean the same thing when they talk about bullying.
- Helping children to understand how bullying feels for the person being bullied.
- Making sure that all children feel OK about telling an adult when they know that bullying is going on.
- Making sure that all children know exactly what to do if they are being bullied, and feel confident that something will be done to stop it.
- Helping children enjoy, celebrate and respect the ways we are all different, as well as the ways in which we are similar, and to feel good about themselves.

Cyberbullying- A whole-school community issue

Today's children and young people have grown up in a world that is very different from that of most adults. Many young people experience the internet and mobile phones as a positive, productive and creative part of their activities and development of their identities; always on and always there. Above all, information communication technologies support social activity that allows young people to feel connected to their peers.

Unfortunately, technologies are also being used negatively. When children are the target of bullying via mobiles phones or the internet, they can feel alone and very misunderstood. They may not be able to identify that what is happening to them is a form of bullying, or be confident that the adults around them will understand it that way either. Previously safe and enjoyable environments and activities can become threatening and a source of anxiety. As mobile phone and internet use become increasingly common, so has the misuse of this technology to bully. Current research in this area indicates that cyberbullying is a feature of many young people's lives. One study carried out for the Anti-Bullying Alliance found that 22% of young people reported being the target of cyberbullying.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

As we are now in the Winter term the children in classes 3, 4, 5 & 6 are expected to wear white shirts and ties.

If you have any surplus uniform that your children have outgrown, please hand it into the school office to be handed on to grateful families.



DIocese OF PLYMOUTH

Our SEAL target 'I am working cooperatively to help a group'.

## SEAL WORKSHOP

Thank you to the parents who attended this week's workshop and we hope they enjoyed a lovely relaxing afternoon with their children. We do hope that many more will attend our workshop next term. It is so beneficial for parents and children to be able to share this 1:1 time together.

**CHORISTER SCHOLARSHIPS at Exeter Cathedral School** – for further information Tel Lucy Lewis 01392 255298

## CHILDREN IN NEED – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Pudsey Bear biscuits will be on sale at breaktime and after school for a minimum donation of 20p - please be generous for this wonderful cause.

We thank the staff in the canteen at St Cuthbert Mayne for kindly cooking and donating these biscuits for our school.



## ATTENDANCE CUP

### Week Ending 30th October 2009

Reception 89.8%

Class 1 93.9%

Class 2 92.6%

**Class 3/4 96.4%**

Class 5 92.7%

Class 6 92.6%

**Well done Class 3/4**

**Uniform Teddy Award = Class 2**

**Number Smart Award = Jack – Class 2**

**House Points – Blue = 203 points**

## HOUSING & COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT

Torbay Council have informed us that from 2 November 2009 that Child Benefit will not be taken into account as an income when assessing the above benefits enabling more people to claim. For more information Tel: 01803 207256 or email [ian.sharratt@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:ian.sharratt@torbay.gov.uk)

## WEAR IT PINK – Breast Cancer Campaign

We are pleased to inform you that we raised £170.00 for this wonderful cause. We are also having a staff tea to raise further funds, so if anyone wishes to make further donations, we are still able to accept them. Thanks for your continued support and generosity.

## FOOTBALL

Football club is **on** next Tuesday for Year 5 & 6 boys.

**No** football club for Years 3/4 boys, because of their match away at Homelands.

**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS** – Proof copies have now been sent home to all children and we should be grateful if these are returned by **Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009**, in order that we get the photographs developed before the Christmas holidays.

## SCHOOL LUNCHES- update next week

## HOLIDAY DATES

Autumn Term Last Day in School

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009

School re-opens Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

## KEEPING UP WITH THE CHILDREN

Weekly numeracy workshops for parents started on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November from 1pm until 3pm for five weeks. If you are interested you may come along to the remaining sessions - please give your name in to the school office. Come along – have a chat – no commitment. There will be crèche facilities throughout the course.

## PARENTING

We have weekly visits from Paul (Parent Support Facilitator) on Mondays from 8.40 until 9.30 a.m. He will be available to discuss any parenting issues you may have either by a "drop in" arrangement or by appointment. You may telephone or enquire at the office about making an appointment either at school or at home confidentially. We welcome this service and hope you will make good use of it.

**SCHOOL NURSE** – Our school nurse, Rachel, will be very pleased to see any parents who wish to see her on her new visiting day, Monday from 8.30 – 9.30 am

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB** – Last day for receipt of orders will be Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 – to ensure their return in time for Christmas.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Next session for parents is on Thursday,

10<sup>th</sup> December at church from 6pm until 7pm

Next session for children is Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at church before 10.00 mass from 8.45 until 9.50 am

Any queries please contact Pat Wilson – Tel: 325620

**Gabriella in Class 5** – following her major surgery, please remembers her and her family in your prayers and thoughts.

## Advice about Swine flu

*Tobey Care Trust's Flu Information Line, on 01803 217222. The Line is open every day from 8am to 8pm. Outside these hours, please contact NHS Direct on 0845 4647*

**POLISH & INTERNATIONAL PARTY at Albert's Bar – Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 5.00 – midnight**

For details call 01803 400115

## DATES FOR DIARY



**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> November 3.30pm** – Strawberry Cream Tea in the school hall for all staff, governors and PSA to welcome our new Parish Priest Fr Jonathan Shaddock. Donations to Breast Cancer Campaign.

Sarah Barreto



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