



# Priorsford Newsletter

## February 2024

'Supporting each other to grow and learn together'



Priorsford Primary School, Marmion Road, Peebles, EH45 9BE, 01721 721236

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our newsletter for February 2024. As we return from the February break we are looking forward to a busy term and we are hoping the weather improves to allow more classes to enjoy the outdoors.

I would like to thank parents/carers who were able to pop along to the recent Brew & Blethers sessions to meet with myself and the Senior Leadership Team. It was a really nice opportunity to meet many of our families.

As well as getting to know the school community, I have been capturing the school ethos, and through speaking to the staff and children I have been finding out what is unique and special about Priorsford Primary. This is helping me to understand what is important to everyone. I am delighted that so many people really treasure the welcoming and supportive learning environment within the school and that the importance of the positive relationships is valued. This is a true strength at Priorsford. I look forward to seeing the variety of learning across the school over the next few weeks and trust that many parents/carers will take up the offer to discuss their child's progress during our consultations next month. Please do contact myself, or the school, if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

Susan Woodyer  
Headteacher

### Talent Show



On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February we held our annual talent show. It was a fantastic showcase of a variety of talents within our school. We were entertained by musicians, comedians, gymnasts, singers and dancers.

Our House Captains and Vice Captains held auditions prior to the show, and they had very hard decisions to make about who would perform. Well done to all the children who auditioned. On the day of the show, a finalist for each House was chosen by our three judges, Mr Russell, Mrs Sharp and Mrs Inglis. The winners for each House were:

Bonnington - Orla C in P4M

Kingsmeadows - Emily B in P6S

Haystoun - Finlay A in P7C

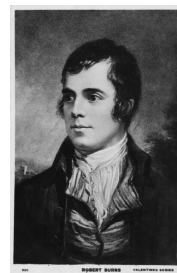
Cademuir - Diana T in P6W

Our overall winner was Orla in P4M. She did an amazing solo. Orla sang 'That Part' by Lauren Spencer-Smith.

A big thank you to Miss Adamson for co-ordinating everything and we look forward to our next show in 2025!

### Scot's Poetry Celebration

Following our Talent Show, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February we held our Scot's Poetry Celebration. Each class chose an overall winner to perform their poem in front of the whole school. They all did extremely well.



P1C - Robyn S - My Doggie

P1G - Flora E - My Doggie

P2K - Flo M - Crocodile

P2S - Riley C - Mince and Tatties

P3H - Cally F - Jeanie Deans

P3D - Ava L - The Heiland Games

P4M - Pollaidh H - Auld Lang Syne

P4P - Jackson M - The Sair Finger

P5C - Marta M - Pedro Puddock

P5M - Bonnie H - Nessie

P6W - Cecie C - Extract form Tam O' Shanter

P6S - Emily B - Extract form Tam O' Shanter

P6/7A - Rowan McN - Address tae a Haggis

P7C - Hannah D - Address tae a Haggis

P7E - Evelyn W - Address tae a Haggis

### Book Fair

The Book Fair will be in school from Monday 25th March. The children will have the opportunity in school to browse the Book Fair, however, buying times will be during our Parent Consultations on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March. As our staff are all involved in the meetings, we would really appreciate a few volunteers to take payments and record any orders. If you are able to spend an hour on one or both of these nights please contact the school office before Wednesday 20th March.

### Sportshall Athletics

Our Sportshall Athletics team went to Queens Leisure Centre in Galashiels on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February with Mr Edge, Mrs Foster and our parent helpers. Mr Edge was particularly proud of the sportsmanship displayed throughout the competition. I am delighted to announce our Sportshall Athletics team **won** this event!

The presented winning trophy will be proudly displayed in our trophy cabinet. Yesterday, 28th February, the team represented Scottish Borders at the East of Scotland Sportshall Athletics final in Edinburgh. This was held at Meadowbank Sports Centre where the children competed against schools from across east Scotland. It was wonderful when they came home victorious! Well done to the all of them and Mr Edge who gives his time to coach them.

### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 8th March. Our Reading Ambassadors and Mrs Palmer have organised a wealth of activities to promote reading. We hope the children enjoy these and are enthused to read new books and to try books from different authors.

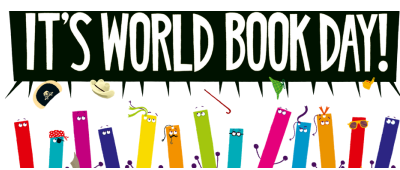
The activities organised for the whole school will allow the children to take part in different events throughout the school day.

Children can decorate a potato as their favourite character from a book. These should be brought into school on World Book Day and there will be a book token prize for the winner from Nursery-P3 and another book token for the winner from P4-7.

A book swap will be held during break time and lunchtime of World Book Day. Time slots will be given to all the children to swap a book from home and they will choose a new one to take home. Each class will be decorating a lantern that will be displayed in our school library.

We are hoping to finish our day with a Book Mob!

You can also follow '[Priorsford Reading for Pleasure](#)' Page on Facebook.



### Dates For Your Diary

Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> March - Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> March	World of Work Fortnight
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March	P7 visit to Holland & Sherry
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day - various activities 6pm - P7 Parent Information evening at Peebles High School
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> March	11.15am - Scottish Book Trust Reading Schools Gold Award celebration with Reading Ambassadors
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> March	P7s to Dalguise (No Fitness Club for P4 & P5 at lunchtime)
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day - Wear red for the day - donations welcome P7s return from Dalguise
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Reports & jotters home
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> March	P4 Easter Assembly Book Fair browsing
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> March	P1 Health Reviews Parent Consultations 6pm - 8.30pm
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations 4pm - 6.30pm
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Dance Festival at The Gytes & School finishes until Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April

### Attendance and Lateness

It is in the best interest of your child's education that they attend school regularly to ensure they have continuity in their learning and have the best opportunities to achieve and make steady progress.

We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable and if your child is unwell, or needs to attend an appointment, please advise the school office via email [Priorsfordps@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:Priorsfordps@scotborders.gov.uk)

There are some children regularly coming late throughout the week and we would encourage all parents/carers to ensure their child is in the school playground for 8.45am so they can enter the classroom with the their peers.

We are keeping a record of those pupils coming in the front entrance and we would appreciate if this area could be kept free to welcome visitors.

We hope that we can all work together to promote good attendance and timekeeping.



## PTA

Our PTA are holding the Spring Discos this week. We hope they are well attended so a good time can be had by all.

Helpers are still required and volunteers can do so here. [Sign Up Spring Disco](#)

The PTA are having their next meeting on Thursday 18th April at 7pm in our staffroom to finalise plans for the Summer Fayre. This will be held on Saturday 11th May 10am-1pm. It would be great to see some new faces to make this fundraising event run smoothly.

These kind of events need a team of people to organise and make it all happen. Please let the PTA team know if you could help, even with some of the small jobs that need done beforehand and could be done at home. We will also be looking for helpers on the day. Sign up via the link below or on our Facebook 'Priorsford Parents' page.

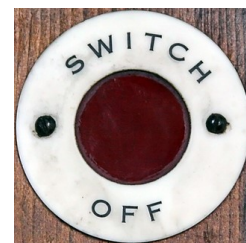
## [Sign Up Summer Fayre](#)

We would encourage as many parents/carers to join the team to help organise events. The school is very grateful for the extra funds raised by the PTA which allow us to purchase additional resources that we might not be able to afford otherwise.



## Polite Reminder

Please can we ask that car engines are switched off if families are stationary, sitting in their vehicles before drop off and pick up times. It is important that we reduce the air pollution around our school caused by the harmful emissions from vehicles. Your co-operation would be much appreciated.



## Grants/Funding

If any parents/carers know of any local grants or matched funding that the school could be benefit from please let us know. We would be willing to apply for these to support our garden, library, school clubs and other areas within our school.

## Volunteering



Often companies/businesses allocate hours/days for employees to support their local community. We would be grateful for anyone wishing to give their time to the school.

Please contact the school office if you are able to help with any of the above.

## Parent Council

I held my first Parent Council meeting on Thursday 22nd February. I reported on my first few weeks in post and highlighted many of the achievements reported in this newsletter. I also outlined some of the priorities over the next six months.

Anyone wishing to be part of the Parent Council please come along to our next meeting on Thursday 23rd May at 7pm in the school staffroom. Or please contact the joint Chairs; Nicola McLellan or Stephen Crombie by emailing

[pcpriorsfordprimaryschool@scottishbordersnpfs.org.uk](mailto:pcpriorsfordprimaryschool@scottishbordersnpfs.org.uk)



## Our School Garden

As we approaching the growing season and hopefully the weather improves, we are starting to prepare our polytunnel and raised beds for the planting and growing season.

Mrs Davidson has plans to give classes different jobs in the garden area to give different experiences to keep our garden growing, tidy and sustainable.

The children love this aspect of their school and it allows children to develop a keen interest in nature and love for the outdoors.

Any parents/carers/grandparents who have a keen interest in gardening would be welcome to support the ongoing work. This can be helping and working with the children or there are other opportunities to maintain and tidy our garden area, not just in the school day but at other times during the week, even for just half an hour.

Please contact the school office to let us know your availability and Mrs Davidson will be in touch to arrange days and times that suit you.



## World of Work Fortnight

We are looking forward to welcoming people from a variety of occupational backgrounds to speak to the children about their job. Mrs Clark has organised an exciting timetable over the two weeks to ensure all classes to get a flavour of the job opportunities in our local area as well as further afield.

The children will hear all about the person's job and the type of tasks they undertake. The children will have the chance to ask questions. They might have an activity related to the profession. We hope these insights give them some ideas as to which pathway they may wish to pursue in the future. Thank you to the parents/carers that have volunteered to be part of this bi-annual event.





## Star Pupils



## Pupil Achievements



Judo

## Badminton



Gymnastics



Dancing

