



# Newsletter

Priorsford Primary School

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**'Supporting each other to grow and learn together'**

**January 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of January, we are looking forward to Mrs Woodyer's arrival and a busy Spring Term ahead.

## **Staffing**

We have welcomed **Mrs Amanda Johnston** to the school. Mrs Johnston took up her role as Office Administrator at the beginning of January.

In the kitchen, **Mrs Norma Swanson** and **Miss Laura Welsh** have joined the team. Welcome to them.

## **Scots Poetry**

Every year, as part of our celebration of our Scottish culture and to commemorate the life of Robert Burns, we encourage the children to learn a Scots/Burns poem. Each class held their own competition for those who wanted to recite their poem to their class. We will be holding a whole school Scots Assembly on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**, where the poetry competition winners from each class will recite their Scots poem to the school and will be presented with their certificate.

## **School Library - After-School Opening**

The library is open on **Thursdays from 3.30pm - 4.30pm** for ELC - P7 children and their parents/carers. We ask that all ELC - P4 are accompanied by a parent/carer.

## **Primary 7 Camp Teams Meeting**

We will be holding a Dalguise information meeting for the P7 parents and children on **Tues 20<sup>th</sup> February** at 5pm. There will be important information discussed, as well as a chance to ask any questions regarding arrangements.

The link to the Teams meeting will be sent out by Groupcall nearer the time.

## **Thinking Day / Founders Day**

We will be celebrating World Thinking Day for Guides and Founders Day for Scouts on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**. We would be delighted if all girls and boys who attend Brownies, Beavers, Guides, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows etc. could wear their uniforms to school that day. We will take a photo first thing in the morning of the many children who enjoy and benefit from being part of these organisations.

## Please Help your Child with Times Tables

Supporting your child to be fluent with their times tables knowledge is one of the most important things you can do to help your child with numeracy. Knowing your times tables helps build number sense and is critical for multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and percentage calculations and problem solving. Here are some tips and links to help you with this.

You can do simple things like count up in 4s as you climb a set of stairs and count back down in 4s when you descend. Your child should start with reciting times tables, counting up and down and should progress towards finding individual facts e.g.  $4 \times 7 = 28$  without having to count up. If they are stuck, they should think of a strategy such as  $2 \times 7$  is 14 so  $4 \times 7$  will be double that. They should know not only  $4 \times 7 = 28$  but also  $7 \times 4 = 28$  and  $28/7 = 4$  and  $28/4 = 7$ .

The links below are some useful websites where your child can work on their tables.

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/tables.html>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/7-times-table.html>

## Priorsford World of Work fortnight

Mrs Clark is currently organising the timetable for our World of Work event. The event **starts on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March and ends on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. Most activities will be in the afternoon.

Mrs Clark is still looking for volunteers to come into school and talk about your job and your journey into getting that job. If you are able to support this, please email [gw09clarkjune2@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw09clarkjune2@glow.sch.uk)

## Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will be at 7pm on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**.

**Dance Festival-** We will be having our Priorsford Dance Festival on **Thursday 8 March** at 9.30am at The Gytes. All pupils from P1-P7, as well as Miss Adamson's P7 Dance Club, will be presenting dances that they will be creating at PE with Mr Edge. Parents are welcome to come along and watch from the spectator gallery.

## Some Reminders!

### Health Guidance

If your child experiences a bout of sickness or has an upset tummy, please follow NHS Borders health protection advice.

*'Where a child has shown symptoms of diarrhoea or vomiting, he or she should not return to nursery/school until a **48-hour period** has passed, during which time there has been no diarrhoea or vomiting.'*

Please adhere to this advice and keep your child off school until 48 hours after the last episode of sickness, to avoid infection of other children and adults in nursery and school.

## Parking - Can you help?

I would ask that anyone who is coming to school by car, to please park with consideration for the safety of the children, consideration for our neighbours as well as for those needing to use the Disabled parking spaces who need the turning point clear to be able to exit the disabled spaces.

Police Scotland contacted the school regarding this, and they will be carrying out occasional spot checks at drop-off time and will speak to any drivers who are parking without due consideration of others.

Please remember, there is **no parking at all** for parents in the front car park outside the school office or in the back car park next to the nursery. These car parks should only be used for school

visitors and for staff who are travelling from a distance and who need to use their car to get to work.

If you have grandparents or child minders dropping off your children at school or nursery and who do not receive school newsletters, please make sure they are aware of these parking requests.

## Mid-Term Holidays

Please note that school will finish for the mid-term break on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February and return on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. The nursery hub will remain open throughout the school holidays.

**Sportshall Athletics** - our athletics team took part in the Tweeddale round of Sportshall Athletics competition on Wednesday, this week. The team gave a fantastic performance, full of determination, commitment and a great sporting attitude and we are so pleased to report that they won the event. Along with Kingsland Primary who came second, they will now go through to the Borders final on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February in Gala. The team will be continuing to work hard with Mr Edge to improve their performances this week and we wish all the team good luck at the Borders finals. Mr Edge and the children would be delighted for any support from parents - if you can make it to Gala on the 8<sup>th</sup>, they would love to see you there.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any issues or concerns regarding your child's education.

Thank you for all the support you have given me over the past 6 months.

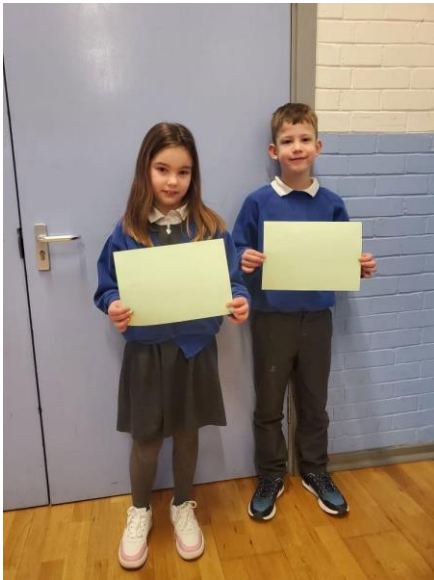
**Keith Russell**  
**Acting Headteacher**

## Dates for your diary - Spring Term

	<b>February</b>
<b>Thu 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Scots Poetry Assembly
	Sport Sportshall Regional Finals in Gala - Good luck team!
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Mid-term break starts - school closes 3.25pm
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup> - Mon 19<sup>th</sup> inclusive</b>	School closed for mid-term holidays (nursery is open)
<b>Tues 20<sup>th</sup></b>	School returns
	Dalguise meeting for P7 parents (5pm on Teams)
<b>Thur 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Thinking Day
	Parent Council meeting 7.00pm in the Staffroom
	<b>March</b>
<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> - Fri 15<sup>th</sup></b>	World of Work
<b>Thur 7<sup>th</sup></b>	World Book Day
<b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> - Fri 15<sup>th</sup></b>	P7 to Dalguise Residential
<b>Thur 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Borders Schools Cross Country competition at Netherdale
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup></b>	P4 Easter Assembly
<b>Tue 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent Consultations 6pm-8.30pm
<b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent Consultations 4pm-6.30pm
<b>Thur 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Dance Festival at the Gytes - 9.30am
	End of term - school closes 3.25pm

**Cont.**

# Star Pupils





## Achievements

### Cycling



### Judo

