



PRIORSLEE ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have noticed the very large hole which has appeared next to the Year 6 demountable block! This is being dug by a team of builders who have started work on our Year Six toilet block. Once finished, there will be six cubicles and a disability access toilet for our pupils to use. Our two- and three-year-olds have been watching diggers in fascination (as has most of the school!) The building work does mean that we will have to adapt what we are doing for the next few months: the pathway to nursery is currently only accessible for staff due to health and safety reasons. We cannot wait to show you the finished building once it is finally complete. (I think this could be worse than looking at someone else's holiday photos).

On Monday, our school celebrated the Lunar/Chinese New Year. It was fabulous - I adored talking to the children about how they celebrate at home. Many of the children had researched which year their family members were born in and been able to link this to a particular animal. The children all looked amazing, especially the children who came dressed in traditional celebratory outfits. Nancy in Year Two, was phenomenally brave, standing in front of all of the Key Stage One children to show the special items related to her celebrations at home. It was so nice to see so many of our children remember the order of the animals in the Great Race, and facts about Chinese New Year celebrations around the world. Mrs Brewer was particularly impressed by the children in her class, who confidently shared with their friends how they celebrate with their families.

Our three-year-olds had a Chinese New Year inspired Forest School session with Mrs Ratcliffe. The children made their own chopsticks which looked fantastic! They all had a very messy, but engaging, session and looked as though they were thoroughly enjoying themselves. The children in our Hub also enjoyed their Forest School session with Mrs Richens. We are so lucky to have so much outdoor space and for our children to access it on a regular basis.



When lockdown initially started and we were limited on leaving the house, we realised how important that time was for our mental health, and ironically now that lockdown has ended, very few of us have the opportunity to spend any time outdoors.

This week, Miss Burton proudly showed me lots of amazing examples of writing produced by our Reception children. The Little Wandle scheme is truly having a very positive impact on our children's confidence when they are tackling reading and writing. Thank you so much to Miss Burton and all the Early Years and Key Stage One staff, who are working so hard to develop the children's phonics.

Don't forget, next Friday, we have NSPCC Number Day, where children need to come dressed as a number or a problem (non-uniform). This can be an item of clothing with a number, or anything related to numbers.

We have also sent out our communication about strike action taking place on the 1st February, 1st, 15th and 16th of March. Thank you to everyone who sent in their application for a Critical or Vulnerable pupil place. We have now contacted all the families who have a confirmed place and can attend school on the strike days. Unfortunately, due to strike action, no remote learning will be set, but children may wish to complete a book review, which they can bring to me in exchange for a small prize. I am looking for beautifully presented work, with details about why the children would recommend that book. I will be creating a display of book reviews in the main hall.

We hope you have a fabulous weekend.

Many thanks,

Mrs Cooper
Head of School

