



PRIORSLEE ACADEMY

Head of School: Mrs J Cooper

Priorslee Avenue, Priorslee, Telford TF2 9RS

Telephone: 01952 387927

School Business Manager: Miss J Hart

e-mail: joanne.hart@taw.org.uk

Executive Principal: Mr S Tilley

19th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a rather unusual one, as I have been working remotely with my 2 year-old helping, but it has made me truly appreciate our wonderful team. Everyone has pulled together and tried to make it feel as normal as possible for our children.

We have had to return to contingency plans again, but luckily the structure we have created for this academic year means that it has little impact on our day-to-day running, other than an increased use of masks.

I have heard wonderful things about how hard our children have been working: about beautiful handwriting in Mrs Emery's class, who also knocked my socks off when counting in German in front of the rest of Upper Key Stage Two! It has also been fabulous seeing photos of our amazing after-school activities, where the children have the opportunity to try something new!

I hope you are all as excited about our Christmas Diary Dates as we are! We are trying to make this year as wonderful as possible for the children!

This week Mrs Monteith, Miss Hutchinson and Miss Burton delivered a fabulous virtual staff meeting on reading, and Miss Burton shared this fascinating fact about reading:

"Here's how many words children would have heard by the time they were 5 years old:

- never read to, 4662 words;
- 1-2 times per week 63,570 words;
- 3-5 times per week 169,520 words;
- daily 296,660 words;
- Five books per day 1,483,300 words."
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What amazes me, is the bank of vocabulary our children could have if they hear an adult read every single day of their lives. I thoroughly enjoy hearing a story being read, and so do all our children. Even children who are 'free readers' need to hear an adult read, which is one of the reasons we have whole class stories. But the impact for children who hear stories at school and share a story at home, could have a truly positive impact!

Please don't forget that we will be starting our new 'head-bump' system on Monday, which I wrote to you about at the beginning of last week. This will hopefully reduce the number of phone calls being made by our administrative staff, but they will obviously ring if needed.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey that I sent out at the beginning of this week. It has been wonderful to read some of the comments, and we have already actioned some of the suggestions given. If you have not yet completed the survey, we would really appreciate your feedback: <https://forms.gle/gQECvoe6uDdbC5EE8>



Remember you can always contact class teachers via email or through booking an appointment:

2 Room: Sarah.Monteith@taw.org.uk	Acorns Evelyn.Rogers@taw.org.uk :	Elm: Caroline.Bagshaw@taw.org.uk	Spruce: Molly.Burton@taw.org.uk
3 Room: Michelle.Harper@taw.org.uk	Chestnuts: Charlotte.Serrell3@taw.org.uk	Ash: Bronte.Baggott1@taw.org.uk	Aspen: Lucy.Brown@taw.org.uk

Birch: Joanna.Mullinder1@taw.org.uk Debbie.Lakes1@taw.org.uk	Beech: Jade.Biddulph@taw.org.uk	Holly: Daniel.Jackson1@taw.org.uk	Oak: Lauren.Jones9@taw.org.uk
Maple: Hayley.Gaskell@taw.org.uk	Cedar: Rosanne.Hutchinson1@taw.org.uk	Sycamore: Jessica.Emery@taw.org.uk	Willow: Rebecca.Brewer@taw.org.uk Vicky.Lees@taw.org.uk

Or myself: Jodie.Cooper@taw.org.uk

Or Mrs Brewer for SEN enquiries: rebecca.brewer@taw.org.uk

Or Miss Hart for any administrative enquiries: Joanne.Hart@taw.org.uk

Next week, we are beginning our book drop-in sessions. We do ask that you wear a mask, and that you maintain social distancing as much as possible. The sessions will be held in the hall, and class teachers will be available to speak to if you wish to ask any questions. Please remember to let us know you are attending by making booking on to your child's year group session via MCAS under the Online Payments section; this is so that we can have your child's books ready.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Many thanks,

Mrs Cooper
Head of School

