

Newsletter – September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope your child has settled into their new class and is enjoying the start of the academic year. Thank you to all who joined me on Monday for the 'Meet the Headteacher' briefing. If you couldn't join, you will find the key information within this newsletter.

Last week, our Year 5 and 6 children went on a trip to London. They visited the Houses of Parliament, took part in a workshop and went to the Tate Britain art gallery. It was particularly special to see original artwork by Hockney, Hepworth and Turner – three of our school houses. The children's behaviour was impeccable and they represented our school beautifully – well done! We are so proud of you all. A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their time to make it possible too.

Next week, the children will be having their individual and sibling school photographs taken by Matt Curtis. The plan has been revised slightly and is as follows:

Tuesday 26th September – The Hive, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6

Wednesday 27th September – Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

Sibling shots will take place systematically across the two days. **We ask that you send your child to school in their full uniform on both days to allow for this.** If your child has PE or swimming, they will need to bring their kit to change into. We will help with any tricky buttons but please make sure that, as usual, everything is named.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mrs. Lindsey is expecting her second baby. This is wonderful news and she will begin her maternity leave after Christmas. We will be appointing a full-time maternity cover teacher for the Year 5 class in the weeks ahead. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mrs. Lindsey and her husband all the best as they prepare to welcome their new addition.

Best wishes,



Mrs. Gemma Pierson

Headteacher

PRIORITIES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24

‘Culture eats strategy for breakfast’ (Peter Drucker)

We pride ourselves on having a great culture in the school. Respect, consistency and calm helps to create this. It doesn't happen by accident – we appoint good people and pay attention to fine detail. We are all accountable for the school we want to create; everyone works together in the same direction with the same shared goals.

Current Reflections		
Strengths	Areas to Develop	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culture - Curriculum - Early Years practice - Relationships - Behaviour - Rising number on roll - Our wonderful team! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcomes in KS1 and KS2 are not yet consistently good, despite good teaching and good work in children's books. - The number of children achieving greater depth needs to increase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing our 2-year- old provision, Bumpletots. - Developing subject leadership. - Continuing to be informed by research and evidence. - OFSTED are due a visit!

THE PRINCECROFT ASPIRATIONS

WHERE ARE WE GOING?



These are our long-term aspirations for the next three years, written by the governing body. We have recently written a new vision statement, which will be circulated to you separately.

Our School Development Priorities 2023-24

- To accelerate children's learning at all levels so that more reach the expected standard and greater depth.
- To fully embed outstanding behaviour.
- To improve our offer to nurture children's personal development.
- To develop and refine our approach to subject leadership.
- To embed good practice across the Early Years, including our new Bumbleblossoms provision.
- To continue to be informed by evidence-based practice and educational research.

New/Recent Initiatives



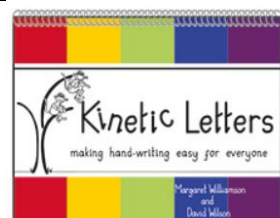
We have just opened our 2-year old provision. We are keen to start making a difference earlier, ensuring our children get off to the best possible start.



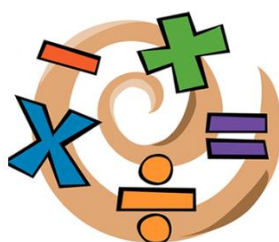
Not a new strategy: 11 things that we want all of our children to experience by the age of 11. We are refining this offer to include a live sporting event, visits to places of worship and charitable work.



We continue to be a Sounds-Write training school. Early reading is the single most important skill for children to master. We welcome teachers from other schools to share good practice in our phonics teaching.



Our new handwriting scheme, Kinetic Letters is having great impact. Children will work on gross and fine motor skills alongside formation, spacing, grounding and fluency.



Maths fluency is an area we are looking to develop across the school. As well as times tables, we want children to have a thorough understanding of number. This includes concepts such as doubling, halving, rounding and adjusting, number bonds and place value.



To increase the rigour of our internal assessment and tracking systems, we have introduced an assessment system from Y2-6 with a baseline assessment in the summer term of Y1. This will allow us to analyse children's gaps in knowledge more effectively.



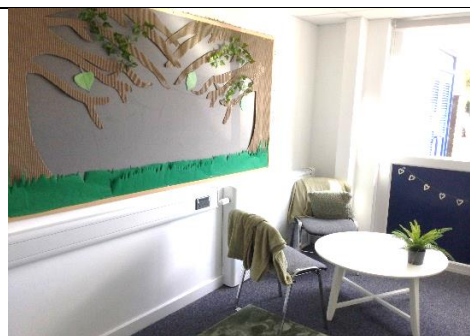
Our Shine programme, linked to the NTS Assessments, helps us to provide targeted interventions for small groups of children. They are short, pacey catch up sessions, meaning children do not miss lots of classroom time.



Our training room is now known as 'Shine' and has been set up with 3 timetabled work stations for targeted group work.



A whole-school approach, Thrive aims to fill gaps in children's emotional and social development. Children are profiled and we deliver whole-class sessions, group sessions and where necessary, 1:1 sessions.



Our 'Thrive' room is a lovely, calm and nurturing space to help children work on their resilience, confidence and emotional wellbeing.



In year 1, the learning looks a little less formal than it has in previous years – that's not to say the children are 'just playing!' Continuous provision means there are open-ended opportunities for children to deepen and consolidate their learning. Teaching is still whole-class, but with teacher focus groups.



The Year 1 classroom has areas with enhancements – directed activities. These will reduce as the year progresses in readiness for Year 2.

As you can see, there is plenty going on to help us work towards our priorities!

Alongside this, we continue to prioritise the development of our staff. Skilled and knowledgeable teachers leads to skilled and knowledgeable teaching! We regularly engage in local and national training, often taking staff to visit inspirational schools and to see key educational figures. As avid readers, our teachers regularly engage with professional reading and discussion. We understand that we can all continue to learn and grow.

Week 2

Monday

Circle the two **nouns** in the sentence below.

The ball rolled down the path and under the bush.

Change the **verb** in the box to the **simple present tense**.

flashed

The lights _____ on the tree.

Tuesday

Circle the **verb** in the sentence below.

The ball rolled down the path and under the bush.

Write an **adjective** in the sentence below.

Sophie had a _____ coat.

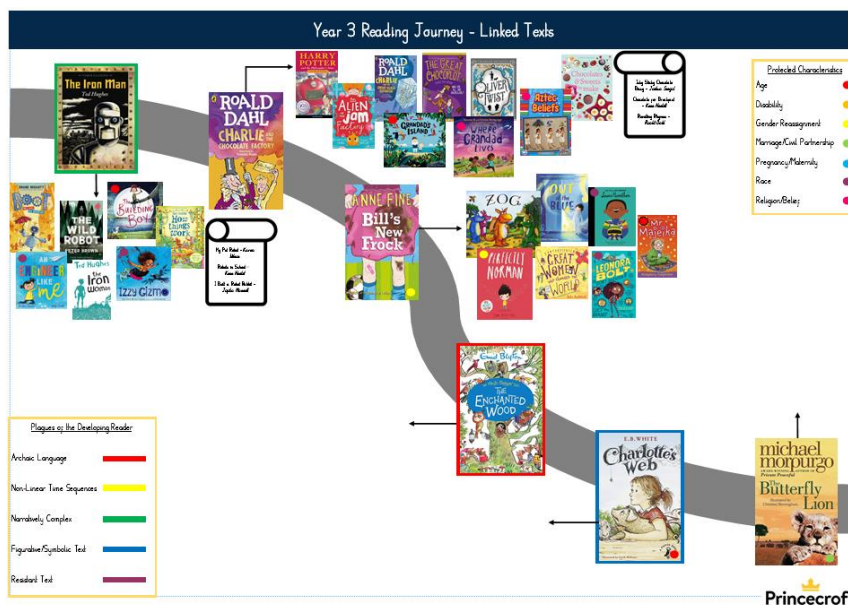
Wednesday

Circle the **conjunction** in the sentence below.

The ball rolled down the path and under the bush.

Put the capital letters into the sentence below.

on **f**riday it was cold and windy.



In English, we have worked hard on creating termly retrieval booklets for SPaG – spelling, punctuation and grammar. Children will answer two questions per day at the beginning of their writing lessons – ‘something to spot’ and ‘something to jot’. We are seeing good impact so far in helping the children to know and remember more.

In reading, we are beginning to map out linked texts for the books on our reading spine. As well as the core texts children study in their classes, we will use extracts from other texts with similar themes, characters, settings or authors alongside. In doing so, we aim to broaden our inclusion of diversity and protected characteristics whilst immersing the children in a greater range of literature.

‘What we are today comes from our thoughts of yesterday, and our present thoughts build our life of tomorrow. Our life is the creation of our mind.’ (The Dhammapada)

At Princecroft, we are committed to securing the best education for all. They say it takes a village to raise a child – we are honoured to be on this journey with you, working in partnership to help your child be the best that they can be.

Our Leadership Team

Mrs. Pierson – Headteacher

Mr. Hampson – Deputy Headteacher and acting SENDCo

Mrs. Jones – Inclusion Lead and SENDCo (Maternity Leave)

Mrs. Foyle – Senior Teacher (Maternity Leave)

Mrs. Harley – Senior Teacher (Maternity Leave)

Mrs. Legg-Bagg – Nursery Provision

Mrs. Sutton - Chair of Governors

Some Key Reminders

<p><u>Lunches</u></p> <p>Please book lunches on School Money by the Thursday of the week before requiring them. We have to pre-order meals and need to have accurate numbers. This includes children in receipt of free school meals – you still need to add the meals to your basket and check out, even if you do not pay. Lunchboxes from home should still be a healthy, balanced meal. We are seeing an increase of lunchboxes with multiple sweet treats and we ask that you limit this to one. The NHS website provides some inspiration: Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</p>	<p><u>Snack</u></p> <p>Children in Reception, year 1 and year 2 are automatically provided with a piece of fruit or veg for snack each break time. They do not need to bring anything in.</p> <p>Children in Key Stage 2 may bring a piece of fruit/veg or a cereal bar for morning break. This should not be a chocolate biscuit, crisps or something they take out of their packed lunch. All children need to bring a water bottle with fresh water each day.</p> <p>Thank you for your support with this and if you have any questions, please see your child's class teacher.</p>
<p><u>Clubs</u></p> <p>Our clubs have begun again this week and will run right up until the penultimate week of term 2. We always try to ensure there is a varied club offer, but we do have to rely on staff volunteering their time. This term, there is a great selection! Places in clubs are never guaranteed, so while we hope your child managed to enrol for something they like, we are unable to accommodate any other requests. If you need reliable after school childcare, please see Jackie or Nina from The Acorns After School Club.</p>	<p><u>Trips</u></p> <p>We will again be offering an exciting range of trips this year. We plan visits very carefully to align with curriculum/personal development; it is part of our entitlement for every child. Trips are heavily subsidised by school and FoPS, and we try to keep costs as low as possible. Whilst we ask for voluntary contributions, without sufficient contributions, it is not viable to run trips. Please see the office if you are worried about upcoming trip contributions and we will endeavour to help.</p>
<p><u>Uniform</u></p> <p>The majority of children are looking really smart in their uniforms. Please remember that shirts and ties are compulsory from years 1-6 and trainers should not be worn except on PE days. PE kit is a navy Princecroft T-shirt with navy/black shorts or jogging bottoms. Hoodies are optional. Children can wear plain navy hoodies or their school jumper in colder weather as an alternative.</p>	<p><u>Homework</u></p> <p>Homework is set on a Thursday and is due the following Tuesday. Your child's teacher will have communicated the requirements in their information letters.</p> <p>The most important thing you can do at home is hear your child read at least four times a week. It makes a huge difference to their vocabulary, understanding and fluency in reading – without which, the rest of their learning is hard!</p>
<p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>Unless your child has a sickness bug or a fever, we want them in school every day! Attendance has a huge impact on how well children do in their studies and even missing a day is such a lot to catch up on. Holidiays in term time will not be authorised unless in very exceptional circumstances. Our attendance monitoring is overseen by the Educational Welfare Officer.</p>	<p><u>Car Parking</u></p> <p>Please do not drive into the school car park during school hours. There is very limited space and moving vehicles pose a risk to our children walking to and from school. Help us to keep our school safe by parking outside the gates or on Masfield Road. Thank you.</p>

Important Dates for your Diary

Monday 25 th September	Harvest Festival at 9am in the school hall. Please bring any food donations on Friday 22nd September
Tuesday 26 th September	Individual photos – The Hive, Y1, Y5, Y6 Police visiting Reception and Nursery
Wednesday 27 th September	Individual photos – Reception, Y2, Y3, Y4 The Hive open day 9.30-11.30
Tuesday 10 th October	Y1 trip to the SS Great Britain
Wednesday 11 th October	Y3/4 trip to Stonehenge
Tuesday 17 th October	Parents can join a topic afternoon from 2pm
Wednesday 18 th October	Term ends
HALF TERM	
Monday 30 th October	Term 2 starts
Tuesday 31 st October	Flu nasal vaccinations
Monday 13 th November	Assessment Week begins
Tuesday 14 th November	Book Fair arrives
Monday 20 th November	Y1 parents can come to look at books 2.40pm
Tuesday 21 st November	Y2 parents can come to look at books 2.40pm Reception parents stay and play morning Book Fair collected
Thursday 23 rd November	Y4 parents can come to look at books 2.40pm
Monday 27 th November	Y3 parents can come to look at books 2.40pm
Tuesday 28 th November	Y6 parents can come to look at books 2.40pm
Friday 1 st December	Progress reports out
Monday 4 th December	Y5 parents can come to look at books 2.40pm
Tuesday 5 th December	School Trip to Salisbury Pantomime Parents' evening (plus one more evening TBC)
Monday 11 th December	Nativities and Christmas Productions this week – exact dates and times TBC.
Monday 18 th December	KS2 Carol Concert at 2pm
Tuesday 19 th December	Term ends

Further information and dates for Christmas events will follow in due course.

FoPS

We are always so grateful to the Friends of Princecroft School for their contributions to the school. We really appreciate your goodwill and support. FoPS events for the autumn term include:

- Mufti Day on the 6th October
- Mufti Day on the 1st November
- Disco on Friday 3rd November
- School trip to Salisbury Pantomime on Tuesday 5th December
- The Christmas Fete on the 9th December

If you are interested in joining FoPS, they are always looking for new faces! The next AGM is on Wednesday 27th September at 5pm at school.



OCTOBER HOLIDAY CAMPS

4-14
years

19TH OCTOBER - 27TH OCTOBER

WHERE?

Princecroft Primary,
Warminster (BA12 8NT)

Check out our other South-West venues by
[clicking here.](#)



PH CAMPS PRICES 2023

	DAY	WEEK
Breakfast Club (08:00 - 09:00)	£4.85	£22.05
Day Booking (09:00-15:00)	£26.50	£119.25
Extended Club (15:00 - 16:00)	£4.85	£22.05
Extended Club (16:00 - 17:30)	£10.50	£47.25

Early Bird rate £24.35 - ends Sunday 1st October

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School policies can be viewed on our school website. If you wish to view other policies please contact the school office via email. Photograph consents can be changed at any point; please contact the school office should you wish to do so. We use a lawful basis for collecting certain data, please contact the school office by email if you wish for us to change or remove any of your data.