Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems unbelievable that we have almost arrived at the end of the Autumn Term. It seems just yesterday we were arriving back from our Summer Holiday ready to embark on the new academic year. With the build up to Christmas gathering pace, this month is always an exciting and busy time for families and it is no different for our Priory learning community. Be sure to read through this newsletter and keep checking your ParentMail for updates and reminders for the various end of term celebrations and festive goings on.

Our learning community has very much been in the ‘shop window’ in the past few weeks. Please read on into the newsletter to find out more and hear about the commendation the school community has received.

It was great to meet so many parents during the Parent Consultation evenings last week. It is evident from your feedback that our structured conversations, modified assessment language and the continued provision of an assessment update were well received.

This week our school has slowly become the home of the Stahlbaum family as every classroom has been transformed into an artist’s studio, filled with invention, exploration and creativity, linked to this year’s Art Week theme of The Nutcracker. Well done to all the children for their efforts, not to mention their teachers and the army of brave parents who have joined in to support this popular week in our school calendar. School will undoubtedly look wonderfully magical with all the art exhibits on display for all the children to see come Monday.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Family Open Morning, where you will have the chance to see the wonderful art work for yourselves along with enjoying some time with your child in school, sharing their learning from this term, not to mention the stunning festive concerts!

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a lovely holiday and for those celebrating, a Merry Christmas and to all our families a Happy New Year! I, and all the staff at Reigate Priory, will look forward to seeing everyone, ready and excited to learn, in January.

Mr O. Moses

Thank you to Hamptons International

We are delighted that Hamptons International Estate Agents are continuing their sponsorship of our school for the coming year. Over the past two years, Hamptons’ support of our FSA events has been invaluable. Hamptons have also increased the amount they will contribute to the school from property sales or lettings. For every property they sell or let for Priory School parents, or family and friends of parents, they will donate to the school:

£750 per completed sale / £250 per completed let

If you are considering selling or renting your property, please contact Hamptons Reigate to arrange a free valuation and don’t forget to mention Reigate Priory School!
FAMILY MORNING - FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER
We look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming Reigate Priory Family Morning on Friday 13 December. This event is open to all family and friends of our children and we hope to be able to see as many parents, carers and grandparents as possible coming to celebrate the children's learning.

You are welcome to spend time with your child in the classroom as well as enjoying our Nutcracker art work around the school. Your child will act as a tour guide and also share their learning with you. Children will also be performing a traditional festive concert in the Gym with the orchestra and choir providing additional entertainment:

| Orchestra & Choir | 08.50am-09.20am |
| Year 3            | 09.30am-10.00am |
| Year 4            | 10.15am-10.45am |
| Year 5            | 11.00am-11.30am |
| Year 6            | 11.45am-12.15pm |

Entry to our Reigate Priory Family Morning MUST be pre-booked through WisePay.

Key Information in the interests of everyone’s safety and welfare:
- Children are NOT permitted to leave the school premises during the school day, including lunchtime.
- Parents/Carers should only take their own child from class to view the art exhibits and tour the school and MUST sign them ‘out’ on the class list before leaving the classroom and ‘in’ when you return.
- Hot drinks can only be consumed in the Dining Room, Holbeing Hall and Gym. Please do not take them into busy classrooms or corridors.
- Please also refer to our ‘Notice to Visitors’ (available on WisePay)

DONATIONS FOR FAMILY MORNING
The FSA will be selling tea, coffee and hot chocolate alongside a range festive treats at our Family Morning so be sure to bring your cash (or card).

To help with this, they are looking for donations of the following:
- Mince pies, Christmas cake slices, chocolate coins, mini marshmallows and cake decoration sprinkles, red table cloths and napkins, large foil trays
- Remember NO nuts please on any food items!

The tinsel collection trolly will be in the playground at pick up time for you to drop any items off. Any and all support for this is gratefully appreciated.
A POLITE CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE PLEA

We completely admire and recognise the dedication of our pupils to perform at our up and coming Family Event. However, if your child is poorly and not fit or well enough to be in school, please do keep them at home - there will be other chances to perform. This will avoid, sometimes quite dramatic episodes in the performances that ultimately compromise your child’s and others’ health, safety and wellbeing.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are very pleased to share with you the wonderful news that Miss Reid is expecting her first baby! She will be starting her maternity leave at the end of January and is looking forward to being a new mum.

There will be two new teachers starting in January…

Mrs Tutty, who will be taking the reigns of 3CR for the rest of the year, the class becoming 3ST. Passionate about teaching all subjects, but particularly Reading, Mrs Tutty arrives to us with over 18 years of experience teaching across Key Stage 2, both in the UK and abroad in the Netherlands.

Miss Winterton, who will become the new class teacher for 4LY, subsequently known as 4LW. She is also an experience class teacher who has taught across the Primary age range both in Surrey and London schools. An active person, Miss Winterton will undoubtedly add to the school’s PE offer, while also bringing her enthusiasm and expertise in the teaching of Maths.

Mrs Young will join with Mrs Fry in a class share arrangement, the class becoming known as 4FY. The school would like to acknowledge both Mrs Young’s and Mrs Fry’s commitment and hard work which has ultimately led to a more secure start to the academic year for the children in 4LY and 4LF. I know they and their own families particularly, will be pleased to return to a part-time role from January.

In January we will be welcoming back Mrs Lucas into our SEND Team from her one term sabbatical but we say good bye to Miss Dunn, who has stepped in to support the team - we are thankful for her support and hard work over the Autumn Term.

After eight years of dedicated service to Reigate Priory in particular the children supported through SEND provision, Mrs Hillier will be leaving us at the end of term. Another true Priory person who has had three of her own children through the school, Mrs Hillier leaves us to spend more time with them in their adult lives and explore other personal interests and adventures.

YEAR 6
VE DAY TEA

The Year 6 VE Day tea party will be hosted on Thursday 12th December in the Gym, beginning at 1:45pm.

The invite is open to any Year 6 families who may have elderly relatives or friends with experience of World War 2. Please contact Mr Wallington if your friend or relative would like to attend.

The Year 6’s will share their learning about World War 2 and will provide musical and dance entertainment. Any guests who have stories or memories about their experiences will have the opportunity to share these with groups of children over the course of the afternoon.

The tea party will finish at 3:00.
LIBRARY UPDATE

Not only did the recent visit of the Book Fair offer the opportunity for children to purchase books from a fantastic collection of popular choices, for every book that was bought the school received ‘book credits’ to later redeem for new books for the School Library.

Once everything was totalled up, the book credit value reached an amazing £1400!

Library Council along with Miss Reid, who is responsible for Reading Resources at Reigate Priory, have had a wonderful time choosing new books to supplement those already in our Library. Not only have they been able to replace titles that were a little worn out but also purchase additional and new copies of popular books from our Reigate Priory top 50 books and more!

Thank you to all families who bought a book and therefore contributed to this great outcome.

AUTHOR VISIT

As a special Christmas treat we have been fortunate to secure a visit of the acclaimed children’s author Gareth P, Jones on Wednesday 18 December.

Gareth has written a wide range of books aimed at the Primary aged reader including, The Pet Defender Series, The Dragon Detective Agency: The Case of the Missing Cats, which was shortlisted for the Waterstone’s Book Prize, The Thornthwaite Inheritance, that was shortlisted for eleven local book awards and won seven of them and The Considine Curse, winner of the Blue Peter Book of the Year 2012.

Over two assemblies to upper and lower school, Gareth will be sharing his love of writing, telling his story of how he became a author and giving away his top tips to achieving story writing brilliance.

Purchasing Signed Books

Signed copies of Gareth’s Books can be bought online prior to the visit ONLY!

To make your order…
1) Click on the link below
https://pgbb.co.uk/collections/pre-order-page-for-gareth-p-jones-school-events

2) Choose and click on the book you wish to purchase and have signed.
3) Click on the visit date of Wednesday 18 December.
4) Add the following information:
   School name - Reigate Priory School
   Your child’s class (Year Group number and teacher initials i.e. 4LY)
   Your child’s name
5) Decide on your quantity.
6) Add to your basket and then pay

Deadline for online pre-orders is midnight the night before the event!

Should you purchase and bring your own copies of Gareth’s books, due to time constraints on his visit, there is no guarantee he will be able to sign them.
Arts Week 2019 - The Nutcracker

This year we tried something a little different for Arts Week. Instead of each class creating their own piece of art work we have worked as a whole school community to create the magic of the Nutcracker throughout the school.

Each class has contributed to the decoration of various spaces and places including the Holbein Hall, the Dining Room, School Reception and the Entrance Door. Collectively the aim is to bring the story and inspiration of Tchaikovsky’s music into the building and create a real, Christmas feel of wonder and excitement.

The story of The Nutcracker is one that can be explored in a variety of different ways providing the perfect opportunity to open children’s eyes to different artistic media and techniques to release their imagination and creativity.

It really has been a great effort all round so a big well done and thank you to children, members of staff and the army of parents who have joined us this week to lend a very helpful hand.

Remember school closes early on Friday 6th December at 2pm to allow all this artwork to be hung ready for the great reveal on Monday morning. We look forward to sharing all the magic at our up and coming Family Open Morning on Friday 13th December.
HOLLY RUN
The annual Holly Run, will take place on Sunday 15 December in Priory Park. This one mile cross country race organised by Reigate Priory Running Club is open to ALL children and is a chance to run a race that a young Mo Farah competed in.
Race start times:
Under 11 girls 10:30am
Under 11 boys 10:50am
Although the application window through Reigate Priory School is now closed, children who wish to participate can still register via www.hollyrun.com or on the morning of the event itself.

RUNNING STAR
Congratulations to Morven (3CR) for completing 50 Park Runs, rain or shine, to achieve the coveted ‘Ultra Marathon’ band! True Reigate Priory commitment to a challenge!

GOVERNING BODY UPDATE
The Governors of Reigate Priory School would like to thank all parents who have donated to the Reigate Priory Charity this term.

We would also like to remind parents that the charity can now claim Gift Aid so if you are a taxpayer please ensure you select the Gift Aid box on your wise Pay donation. The Charity Trustees will stay connected with parents via the School Newsletter.

We would like to wish all the staff, children and their families a very happy holiday and every good wish for the New Year.

Mrs P. Hutchinson (Chair of Governors)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Reigate Priory Junior School firmly believes that all children benefit from regular school attendance. A full and uninterrupted presence gives children the opportunity to fulfil their academic, personal and social potential but also contributes significantly to establishing a positive learning and work ethic.

The school recognises the importance of school holidays for children to rest, recuperate and enjoy spending quality time together as a family. However, term time is for learning therefore it is not acceptable for children to miss school.

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child’s attendance at school. During the academic year, pupils are at school for 190 days and at home for 175 days.

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher is also required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

Please complete and submit the ‘Leave of Absence Request’ if you wish the Headteacher to consider your request for your child’s leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. The school may ask for proof to validate your request. The form is available on the school website and at our Reception.

Unauthorised absence of 5 days or more may result in the issue of a Penalty Notice
Penalty Notices are issued by the Local Authority in accordance with Surrey County Council’s Code of Conduct. The Penalty Notice is £60, per child per parent/carer, if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in the Local Authority considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

The Headteacher will consider the reasons for the request carefully and will notify you of the decision. For further information, please refer to our School Attendance Policy.

Should you wish to make an application for a leave of absence for your child, the appropriate form can be downloaded from the school website or collected from the School Reception.
CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone for their donations to Children in Need. It was another fun event in recognition of this valuable cause, especially with all those pirate teachers being put to pirate task by Captain Moses in whole school assembly. Altogether we managed to raise the wonderful sum of £680.

POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who offered their donation to this year’s Poppy Appeal and wore their Remembrance Poppy with pride in the build up to and on Monday 11th November. We have confirmation from Brian Hill, our Local Honorary Organiser that our total sum raised was £150.

YEAR 6 VISIT TO KENT LIFE

Year 6 visited Kent Life on Friday 29th November where we immersed ourselves in the wartime period of the 1940’s. The children and staff dressed in 1940’s style and were greeted by various characters from the period, including an ARP Warden and a member of the Home Guard.

Through a variety of activities we learnt what life was like for people who were at home in Britain during the war. We had to use: empathy skills to imagine what different sections of society would have been feeling; our knowledge of sentence structure and evacuation to write letters home; art and craft skills to create a rag rug and co-operation when working as a team during an air raid.

We really enjoyed the day and it was a great way to finish our topic this term.

YEAR 5 VISIT FROM SPACE TRAVEL UK

On Friday 22nd November as part of their Autumn Term Earth and Beyond Topic, Year 5 welcomed Dean Lee (James 5EA), who works for the UK Space Agency.

Over his visit and presentation the children were able to discover more about life as an astronaut and the exciting possibilities of future space travel.

He also brought with him two real space suits which Dixie (5EA) and Mrs Maestro were fortunate enough to be able to try on.

Mr Lee explained that with current technological progress, the children that will become the first humans to travel to Mars are currently school aged. This inspired the children to wonder whether their space learning could actually be the beginning of their journey to another world.

Thank you to Mr Lee for his time and fascinating presentation.
YEAR GROUP PARTIES
Year Groups will be holding their parties as follows:

Year 3: Wed 18 Dec
Year 4: Mon 16 Dec
Year 5: Tues 17 Dec
Year 6: Thurs 19 Dec

Each year group will inform their children of any requests for contributions of party food (NO nuts please).

Every child will need to come to school in their school uniform and bring appropriate clothing (in a named carrier bag) to change into for a fun and active party.

TEACHER LED AND COMMERCIAL CLUBS
A reminder that ALL clubs have now finished for the term.

Next term’s club information will be circulated shortly.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
We finish school at 1pm on Friday 20 December (there will be no T-Club-6).
School will reopen again at 8.40am on Monday 6 January 2020.

AMAZING FEEDBACK FROM RECENT VISITORS
Our school community has very much been in the ‘shop window’ in the past few weeks. The following are examples of some of the commendation that has been received.

Mrs Mullarkey, Holmesdale Infant School Headteacher regarding Year 6 Ambassadors participation in Holmesdale Infant School’s Friendship Event

“It was great having your Year 6 pupils here and they were marvellous ambassadors for Reigate Priory. I saw lovely interactions between the children and I am sure they all got a lot out of the visit.

Please pass on my thanks to all involved in organising and taking part.”

Prospective Parent

“Best Open Day I have attended in Reigate! Great to meet the staff and really enjoyed seeing and hearing from the Year 6 children. Thank you.”

Prospective Parent

“I thought the school was lovely and the pupils that showed us around were delightful and obviously really love their school”

Prospective Parent

“Great communicative children sharing their love and passion for their school and its ethos. ‘School IS fun’ really came across.”

Mrs Hill, Guest to our Remembrance Service

“Thank you for inviting me to your Remembrance Service. I was honoured and privileged to watch such a deeply meaningful assembly with the children displaying respect and also understanding through their words and actions.”

CHESS CHAMPS
Well done to the children that represented the school in the latest round of the Champions League Chess Tournament recently held in Chipstead.

Competing against other talented chess enthusiasts from across Surrey and East Sussex, our two teams battled their way through individual games in matches against other schools.

Commendation to both the teams for fine final placing but special acknowledgement must go to Rupert (4AP), Jack (6OM), Daniel (4AP) and Indigo (4AP) who by winning four matches and drawing one have qualified for the next round to be held into the new term.
FINAL MEMBERS ELECTED TO SCHOOL COUNCIL...

Two children from each of the Year Three classes were successfully voted by their peers to take part in the next round of the School Council election process. All these potential candidates confidently delivered their speech as to why they should be voted onto the Council. The children were extremely convincing as to why they should be voted for which left their peers across all five classes the tricky job of deciding who would be the best to represent them on this year’s School Council. With every child casting a vote, the successful candidates are…

James 3JE
Imogen 3VS

Congratulations to them and well done to all the children who put themselves forward.

A PRIORY PET ELECTION

Election fever has struck Reigate Priory. The Liberal Democrats, the Labark Party and the Hamstervatives, are currently going whisker to whisker in 20 ‘class-stituecues’, in search of at least 11 seats to be first past the post and take pet political power. Every child will be heading to the polls on the 12 December to cast their vote to who should be the nation’s top dog, cat or even hamster party.

Whether it is the Hamstervatives, ‘Giving Little a BIG Voice!’ and offering to ‘Eat Greens So Children Don't Have To!’ or Labark promising to be ‘Always By Your Side’ and advocating a ‘an outdoor lifestyle, to the Liberal Democrats, ‘Pract’cat’lly Purrfect in Everyway’ pledging extra nap time, all the ‘petdidates’ have impressive manifestos.

PRIORY ON FESTIVE TOUR

The build up to Christmas is always a busy time for our talented choirs. Since performing in ‘Let’s Sing Together’ last month, our singers have impressed audiences at an arthritis care group at the Woodhatch Centre, braved the chilly air on their vocal chords to sing beautifully at last Saturday’s Christmas Open Day in Reigate, stood strong together to sing ‘Stand by Me’ for three captivated groups of Prospective Parents AND this week, spellbound those lucky enough to be present at the ‘Festival of Carols’ at St Joseph’s Church in Redhill, with perfectly magical (and complicated) festive songs. Well done all and thankyou to Mrs Burns, other members of staff and the many supporting parents that have helped make these appearances happen.

CHRISTMAS POST BOX

From Monday 9 December, our Christmas Post Box will be in Reception.

Should your child wish to send any cards to their friends, please make sure that they are all clearly labelled with the recipient’s FULL name and class.

ALTERNATIVELY

Save time
AND
Reduce waste to help the planet by...

Writing ONE Christmas Card to all the children and staff at Reigate Priory School that will be put up on display for all to share and enjoy.

OR EVEN

Take the money used to spend on Christmas Cards and donate it to a good cause or charity of your choosing.
Before we all head off for Christmas, we just wanted to say a massive thanks to all of you who have volunteered for and supported your FSA events this term. Without pulling together we really could not raise the money we do to help our children at school.

Last month’s film night raised around £900, so a very big shout of thanks goes to Kelly Kennedy, Vicky Bamforth, Y6 teachers and parent helpers for making it such a huge success!

Thanks also to Mrs Blay for adding the Christmas wreath making event to our programme, enjoyed by all and raising around £200.

At time of writing, the 4.15pm performance for The Wizard of Oz is almost sold out but there are plenty of tickets for the 6.30pm show, so please get some friends together and enjoy this Christmas favourite for a fiver on Wednesday 11 December.

Hopefully you all have our Donate while you shop / ‘Save the dates’ flyer home by now, so whether you’re buying something from Easy Fundraising’s partner shops, Amazon Smile or Stamptastic, please do consider signing up Reigate Priory FSA as your charity of choice, at least for a time.

Make sure you highlight the morning of Friday 13 December in your diary for the end of term Reigate Priory Family Event. Once again, to make this a special and festive occasion, we will run be running refreshments stalls in the Holbein Hall throughout the morning. We are really grateful to Jo Pettipher and her team for volunteering to coordinate the drinks and treats on offer—please see the request for support at the beginning of the newsletter.

Finally, raffle tickets for the magnificent hampers and generous £250 cash prize from Hamptons were in book bags this week. We are sure all these prizes will come in very handy at this time of year, so please buy what you can and give back any tickets you do not use by Thursday 12 December so that we can sell any leftover tickets at the Family Morning.

Please do come along to our next FSA meeting on Weds 15 January at 9am, it will be great to see you.

Have a wonderful Christmas with your friends and families and see you in 2020.

With very best wishes from Alice, Ben, Jane, Jennifer, Kate, Madeleine and Simon - Your FSA team
**FSA News**

**FSA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

The FSA Christmas raffle will be held at the Family Morning on **Friday 13 December**. Please return your raffle stubs and money to school - Mrs Blay is collecting at School Reception. **The star prize is £250 cash, kindly donated by Hamptons International. Other lucky winners will take home one of the luxury hampers generously created by Year 5 and Year 6 classes.**

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**The Wizard of Oz**

Cat’s Grin Theatre Company  
**Wednesday 11 December**  
**Performances at 4.15 & 6.30pm in the School Gym**

A fantastic pre-Christmas treat for family and friends, and incredible value at just £5 a ticket. Join Dorothy and her travelling companions as they skip along the Yellow Brick Road in this well-known tale…

**Tickets:** Must be bought in advance on WisePay – **on sale now at £5 each.**

Our wonderful coordinators Debbie Pelekani and Clare Harvey will need 32 helpers (that’s less than 2 per class!) for the event. Please let them know if you can help (online rota to sign up also coming to you soon…)

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<td>2.30-3.30</td>
<td>Help set up (6 helpers)</td>
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<td>3.30-5.45</td>
<td>Sell drinks and tuck at Show 1 (10 helpers)</td>
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<td>6.00-8.15</td>
<td>Sell drinks and tuck at Show 2 (10 helpers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.15-9pm</td>
<td>Help clear up (6 helpers)</td>
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**Raise Funds for:**

**REIGATE PRIORY SCHOOL FSA**

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/reigateprioryfsa/](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/reigateprioryfsa/)

You don’t need to shop any more than you already do, just use the ‘fundraiser reminder’ to divert the

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**Stampastic**

Stamptastic make personalised stamps usable on most fabrics, metal, wood and even some plastics. No more sewing or ironing on labels. Now you can just stamp everything!

Reigate Priory FSA has registered as an affiliate member and will receive the commission! This means you can make school life easier and help support the FSA at the same time!

Just click [HERE](#) to link to our page

The FSA code is RH2 7RL but if you use the link you don’t need the code!
SAVE THE DATE

FSA-run social events:
- The Wizard of Oz (family): Wed 11 Dec
- Film Night (kids): Fri 31 Jan - Y3 helpers
- The Big Quiz (adults): Fri 13 Mar
- Film Night (kids): Fri 24 Apr - Y4 helpers
- Summer soirée (adults): Fri 12 Jun
- Priory Rocks festival (family): Sat 4 Jul

YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

Here are just some of the ways your support for FSA events will help our children this year:
- Materials for the triumph that is Arts Week
- Cooking in HealthyKidz sessions
- Installing interactive whiteboards into more classrooms
- Getting children to and from sports matches and school trips

We’ve made a great start to the year so please help us to stay on track and meet this year’s fundraising target of £23,000.
Thank you!

Creativity

‘Displaying creativity and flair’

Proud to be Priory!
Help us continue to support
Reigate Priory School
hamptons.co.uk

Hamptons Reigate is proud to continue
to support Reigate Priory School.

We are always aware of the ever growing need for schools to generate additional funds to cover increasing costs. We are offering you the possibility of helping us generate that much needed assistance.

For every property that we sell or let for the parents or family and friends of parents of a child at Reigate Priory School, we will donate £750 per completed sale or £250 per completed let to the school. *

To qualify, present this flyer when you instruct Hamptons Reigate to be sole selling or lettings agent for your home. The donation to the school is to be made upon completion. For more information please contact us.

* The promotion runs from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2020. For full terms & conditions ask in branch or visit hamptons.co.uk/terms-conditions.