

Personal Development Newsletter

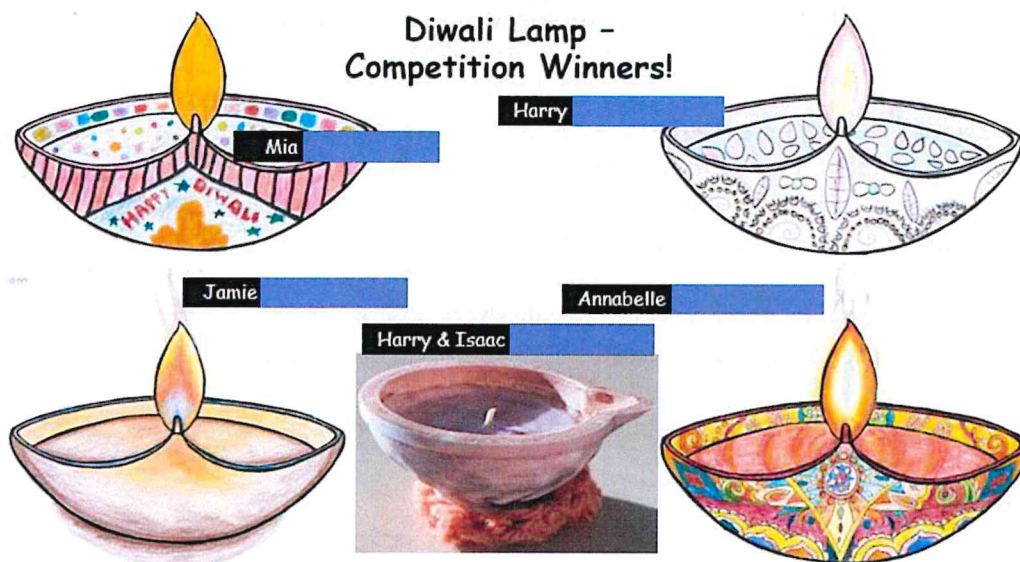
Dear Parent/ Carer,

Equality & Diversity

As part of our Personal Development curriculum this week, students will be receiving presentations from a number of guest visitors. These cultural themed workshops will cover topics ranging from antiracism, to disability awareness, cultural food, religious themes, cultural musical and dancing, to name but a few. This is mainly for students in KS3 (Years 7-9), but Year 11 will also have an opportunity on Friday to experience the 'Roots for Food' cultural cooking extravaganza.

Diwali Lamp Winners

As part of our commitment to embody Modern British Values our students have been learning about Diwali – Festival of Light. Diwali is a festival of new beginnings, and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. Mrs Otar and Miss Lee (Religious Studies) have been running a Diwali lamp competition, as the light symbolises prosperity, knowledge, wisdom and enlightenment. I am pleased to announce our Diwali winners:



Headteacher: Mr L S Newton

The Priory Belvoir Academy, Barkestone Lane, Bottesford, Nottingham NG13 0AX

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The Priory Belvoir Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW **Telephone:** 01522 889977

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Breathe Day (Thursday 30th November)

Given that we are in the midst of a lengthy nine week term, we have taken the decision to give students and staff a breathe themed day on Thursday and Friday of this week (30th Nov & 1st Dec).

Alongside the presentations above, students will be allowed to attend school in their **own clothes (non-uniform day) on Thursday 30th November** (see guidance below).

This will be for all year groups and we are requesting a donation to the Grantham Foodbank, instead of monetary donations!

I have attached a **mental health leaflet** that has been designed as a useful signpost for students and parents alike. Please can I also refer you to the email sent by Mr Colton last week, inviting parents/carers to a number of supportive events.

McMillan Cake Sale (Thursday 30th November)

As has become tradition, we will also be organising a **McMillan Coffee (cake) Morning on Thursday 30th November** too. We are asking children to bake, or donate cake that will be sold at scheduled times throughout the course of the day.

Please ensure that a list of ingredients are attached (allergies) please.

Grantham Foodbank – Reverse Advent Calendar Christmas Appeal 2023

As Christmas fast approaches we are kindly requesting donations for our '**Reverse Advent Calendar**' appeal, on behalf of the Grantham Foodbank, and encouraging individuals, families and groups to take part.

Traditionally, Advent Calendars are used in the run up to Christmas and generally provide chocolate or a small treat behind a window for each day during Advent. By reversing the calendar, we are asking that instead of taking from the calendar, you put in, (a box or bag), the items listed on the attached 'Reverse Advent Calendar' and donate to the school collection.

Please see the attached advert, to allow you to easily share it with friends and relatives. All support with food donations helps to keep pace with the additional demand during the winter months.

Please see attached full details for the reverse advent calendar collection.

Breakfast with the Headteacher

I would like to congratulate all students that have recently received invitations for breakfast with the Headteacher, Mr Newton. Students with the highest achievement points in their year group, and our 'Literacy Legends' have received the accolade. Our next invites will be going out this week, for students who have achieved the most academic progress so far this year!

Friends of Belvoir - Cycle Shelter Project

Our parent/carer PTA (Friends of Belvoir) are running a Christmas raffle for the Cycle Shelter Project, the main prize is a whopping 4.5kg of Toblerone, modelled by our student leader Clem Beardmore.

If anyone would like to donate directly to the Cycle Shelter Project you can follow the hyperlink below.

[Crowdfunding to help fund safe and secure bike shelters at school on JustGiving](#)



Pre Loved Uniform

The second hand Pre Loved uniform shop is open on Tuesday 19th December from 3.15pm. If anyone would like stock putting to one side please email - friendsofbelvoir@prioryacademies.co.uk.

Children in Need - £400!!!

A huge thank you for all those that donated money for Children in Need. The school raised over £400 for Children in Need and £100 (cake sale) for our Friends of Belvoir PTA. We certainly had some jazzy ties and socks worn on the day – including Mr Quinn, who had a cracking pair of Pudsey socks!

RSE (Relationships Sex Education) Consultation

As part of our school's wider Personal, Social and Health Education programme (Personal Development), your child receives lessons on relationships, sexual health and personal safety.

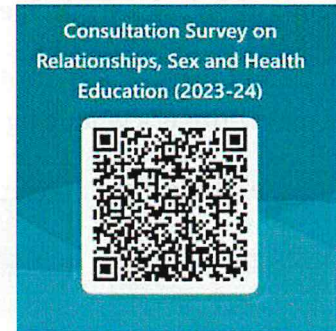
Schools are required to regularly consult with parents/carers when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will help to inform our academy's decisions on when and how certain content is covered.

I have uploaded our latest PSHE topics and curriculum (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) on the website and would be grateful for any feedback using the survey here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/ZnXFFtTB5c>

The deadline for any feedback is Friday April 5th 2024.

The purpose of the upcoming curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive relationships throughout their lifetime, and in turn to thrive in modern Britain.



Copies of the lesson content (Schemes of Learning) are available on the Priory Belvoir Academy website:

[Belvoir - A Priory Academy - Personal Development \(belvoiracademy.co.uk\)](http://belvoiracademy.co.uk)

You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

The Department for Education (DfE) have also created short parent guides and parent FAQs, which take you through statutory changes.

You are welcome to contact me to discuss the programme further.

Attendance

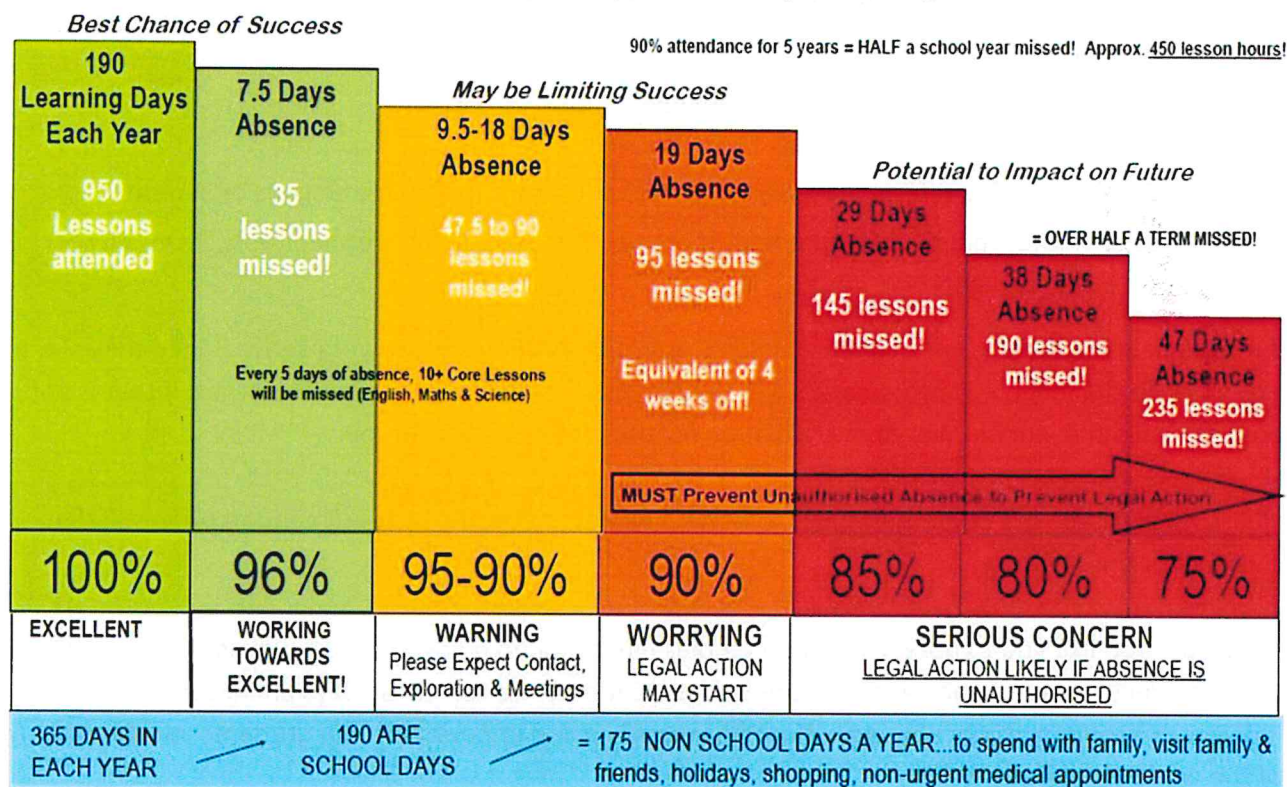
Attendance and Leave of Absence Attendance is one of the school's main performance indicators. The school receives external pressure to ensure that our attendance rate is as high as possible and to challenge poor attendance.

Historically our attendance has been really strong, and in general this remains the case. The only real blot on our record is the amount of time that pupils have off school when on holiday, and in recent times this has started to become quite an issue. I am well aware of the temptations of term time breaks, in particular the financial savings that they bring, but they do have a detrimental impact on attendance. All holidays in term time are classed as unauthorised, and none are approved.

I thought that you might find this table from our Attendance Policy a useful guide as to what impact a week or fortnights holiday could have on your child's attendance:

ATTENDANCE & LEARNING MATTERS!

Please note: This Demonstration is in Respect of Absence Where Learning Provision is NOT in Place.



Can I please encourage all parents and carers to avoid booking holidays during term time.

An important note for parents/carers regarding Non-Uniform Days

Whilst non-uniform days allow students the opportunity to express themselves as individuals, it must be done so in an appropriate way. It is particularly important that students recognise that the school is still a working environment.

This applies to all students on designated non-uniform days. The Academy reserves the right to advise students when it considers that their appearance is unacceptable.

Students should wear clothing of a modest nature, suitable for a learning and work environment and should therefore not be revealing or too short. Any student is free to wear normal school uniform.

Parents/carers have asked us for guidance of appropriateness of non-uniform clothing and we have endeavoured to pull together the list below with some examples of 'what not to wear'.

We realise that this list is not exhaustive, but we hope that by including it, parents/carers can advise their child and avoid being 'caught in the middle' of any potential disagreement.

Examples of inappropriate clothing:

- See-through clothing.
- Shorts and miniskirts that are revealing in nature.
- Gang-related attire.
- Inappropriately ripped and/or torn clothing.
- Low cut shirts revealing in nature.
- Clothing displaying offensive logos, drug, alcohol or tobacco-related slogans or statements.
- Tops or clothes that show a bare midriff or reveal underwear eg cropped tops. □ Onesies or other forms of nightwear.

If a student is in clothing that is in our opinion inappropriate for a school/work setting, then they should expect to be challenged. Parents/carers will be contacted to bring in a change of clothes. If that is not possible, then the student will go into isolation for the remainder of the day.

Please note that if your student has a PE lesson scheduled on Friday, they will need to bring suitable clothing for this lesson.

We would also like you to note, that some schools have banned non-uniform, which is not something that we would like to happen at the Priory Belvoir Academy; we feel these days and awareness of individuals/groups that are not so privileged as ourselves are important to our students' understanding of the world around them.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year – when it arrives!

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Miller
Deputy Headteacher