



'Celebrating Creativity, Imagination and Belief'

Annual Report to Parents 2024



Dear Parents and carers,

Firstly, thank you for allowing us at Priory School to care for your children and help them to grow. They are incredible and they inspire us all each and every day.

This report sets out the progress the school has made over the last year. Despite significant challenges the school is moving forward, delivering excellent teaching and learning opportunities for the community.

I am proud of the many achievements the school and the school community has made in the last year which include significant fundraising efforts, the development of the book vending machine scheme which was delivered in partnership with the Green Man Trust, and the roll out of the iron on school badges to help cut the cost of school uniform. The school has also opened its doors during the school holiday period to host Brecon's School Uniform Swop Shop which ensures good quality uniform items do not go to landfill.

The school continues to support families and we are now hosting the locality family liaison officer at the school. I'm proud of our community focus and the excellent staff we have at Priory are focussed on delivering the best outcomes for the children and the local area.

We continue to develop our sense of Cynefin and listening to the young people helps us develop and shape our priorities for the school. It has been wonderful to see the success of the Walking Bus which is helping get children to school via an active travel route.

The coming year will see new challenges, but I know that when we all work together there isn't anything that we can't achieve.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Matthew Dorrance
Chair of Governors

About the Annual Report

The Annual Report to Parents is a document that Governors provide to parents each year outlining events and developments at the school over the last 12 months. There are a number of statutory elements that we have included; we add to this to illustrate a fuller picture of school life over the academic year September 2022 - July 2023



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School Governing Body

Cllr. Matthew Dorrance (Chair) - LA Governor

Mrs Kim Woods (Vice-Chair) - Foundation Governor

Father Mark Clavier – Ex-Officio Governor

Cllr. Chris Walsh – Community Governor

Mr Barry Jones – Parent Governor

Mrs Cat Stockdale – Parent MOD Governor

Mr Stephen Power – Foundation Governor

Ms Rebecca Griffith – Foundation Governor

Miss Claire Pugh – Acting Headteacher

Mrs Lisa Preece – Teacher Governor

Mrs Christina Resch - Ancillary Staff Governor

Clerk to the Governing Body – Mrs Diane Workman

The Chair of the Governing Body can be contacted at the school office: (01874) 623549

New regulations regarding Governors’ meetings with parents state that the annual meeting for parents no longer has to take place. However, parents have the right to request a meeting with the Governing Body on issues which concern them, up to three times a year.

There are no actions as a result of resolutions passed at the last meeting.



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Governor's
areas of
responsibility

Areas of Responsibilities and support for Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) in the New Curriculum for Wales

Governor	Responsibilities / AoLEs
Cllr. Matthew Dorrance	Safeguarding / Child Protection Health and Well-being
Cat Stockdale	Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality Child looked after Enfys Fach Mathematics and Numeracy Language, Literacy and Communication
Barry Jones	Health & Safety Science and Technology
Father Mark Clavier	Church Links Humanities
Cllr. Chris Walsh	Health & Safety Mathematical and Numeracy
Rebecca Griffith	Attendance and Well-being Humanities
Mrs Anne Sweeting	Senior Leadership Team. Language, Literacy & Communication Science and Technology
Mrs Kim Woods	Attendance and Well-being Expressive Arts
Mrs Lisa Preece	Additional Learning Needs Science and Technology
Mrs Christina Resch	Health and Well-being
Mr Stephen Power	Senior Leadership Team Expressive Arts
Miss Claire Pugh	Pupil progress Designated Safeguarding Officer



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School Organisation

Priory Church in Wales School hours are: -

9:00 am – 12:15 pm (Reception, Year 1 & 2 pupils) Morning Session

9:00 am – 12:30 pm (Years 3,4,5 & 6 pupils) Morning Session

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Afternoon Session

During the academic year 2023-2024 the school resumed its traditional drop off and pick up times with visitors being welcomed back into the school including external professionals, volunteers and parents. During the academic year 2023-2024 there were a maximum of 159 pupils on roll, the children were organised into seven mainstream classes:

Progression Step 1

Reception: Ms Janet Davies (teacher) Mrs Ann-Marie Wilson (LSA) Miss Hannah Weaver (LSA))

Progression Step 2

Year 1: Mrs Angela Howell (teacher) Mrs Christina Resch (ELSA/LSA)

Year 2: Miss Jeanette Blain (teacher) Ms Abigail Gibbs (teacher) Ms Natalie Nickless (LSA)

Year 3: Mrs Shelley Hughes (Teacher), Mrs Elizabeth Williams

Progression Step 3

Year 4: Miss Amanda Bates (teacher), Mrs Andrea James (ELSA/LSA)

Year 5: Mrs Annie Thomas and Miss Claire Pugh (teachers), Mrs Elizabeth Davies-Jones (LSA)

Year 6: Mrs Lisa Preece (teacher), Mrs Charlotte Belcher (LSA)

Nurture group assistants: Mrs Mandi Orton, Mrs Charlotte Belcher

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA): Mrs Mandi Orton, Mrs Liz Davies-Jones.

PPA and management/class cover: Ms Abigail Gibbs



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School Vision and Mission Statement

We continue to follow our school vision that we adapted with our School Council and director of Swansea and Brecon Diocese Mr John Meredith which is as follows:

At Priory Church in Wales Primary School, we are dedicated to developing a learning environment that enables God's realise their true potential.

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full' John 10:10

With the care and support of our teachers and friends, we learn to become respectful, responsible, generous and resilient learners. Mantle of the Expert and our Christian beliefs enable us to work together imaginatively and value each other's' strengths and interests.

Language of Education, Curriculum approaches and learning opportunities in 2023-2024

The medium of education throughout the school is English as a first language with Welsh being taught as a second language. The school curriculum follows Curriculum for Wales. We have been fortunate enough to have previously been a pioneer school and Lead Enquiry school which has enabled us to embed the four purposes and the 12 pedagogical principles across the whole school. We refer to our classes as progression steps which is reflected in Curriculum for Wales. Progression Step 1 is our Reception class, Progression Step 2 is Year 1-3 and Progression Step 3 is Years 4-6. Within the new curriculum what we would traditional call subjects have been grouped into Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs). Throughout the academic year we have posted on our closed FACEBOOK group experiences the children have undertaken highlighting AoLEs and Mantle of the Expert practice, skills mornings and celebrations/specific events in our school calendar and how we explore/learn in our school.



The School's main pedagogical approaches are: Mantle of the Expert, a dramatic inquiry-based method of Teaching and Learning and Singapore Maths as a Mastery for Learning Approach in mathematics. We have an ongoing commitment in further research and implementation of a Reggio Emilia approach and ethos across the school through developing skills sessions in Progression Step 1 and 2 class and a skills morning in Progression Step 3 where children learn life skills such as cooking, woodwork skills and practice their cross curricular skills (literacy English and Welsh, numeracy and digital competence skills) across independent tasks.



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We continue to showcase our learning adventures and activities on our closed FACEBOOK group. Alongside this we communicate your child's progression and learning journey with you via parents evening and an end of year report.



We have had a very busy academic year with lots of exciting learning experiences, below is a snapshot of experiences the children have undertaken.

Autumn 2023



We had a wonderful from our Mayor. Michaela came into school and spoke to the children about her role, responsibilities and how she became the Mayor. We are sure it is going to inspire our young people to dream big and support one another in our community.



We also welcome our new setting on the School site, Enfys Fach which was kindly opened by Mark Drakeford, as always school was represented by our wonderful choir. We have welcomed many visitors into school but our Year 5&6 pupils have worked closely with Kirsty from Stump Up for Trees to established a sense of Cynefin, they have used the school grounds to explore nature, specifically trees and researched the uses they have to us as a community.



We are very proud of the change of our timetable where we prompt a well-being hour and our children explore many sports and fitness sessions. Our reception children enjoyed walks around The Groves and our older children enjoy representing our school at county level events such as cross country, netball and football.



We always enjoy support our community and our Year 5 & 6 pupils supported members of our community by bringing some Christmas cheer to them through singing at Morgannwg House to providing £50 worth of Christmas food to the homeless.

Spring Term 2024



This term we have had more professionals coming in to work with us in school, we have had Chris from Project touchline come in and show us how we can explore Christian values through rugby.

Continuing with our Diocese links Ruth and Jenny, from the heritage trust came to work with Year 5 to explore their thoughts of the Cathedral and took on their thoughts and ideas of how we can make it more appealing to young people to entice them to come a explore its history.

Our colleagues from Sinfonia Wales came in and worked with our Year 4 pupils to create a song go with a theatrical performance in Theatr Brycheiniog.



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Spring Term 2024 continued

A sense of Cynefin, belonging is so important to us all, therefore through our Mantles and significant key advents in the welsh calendar have been further explored this year. Our children have enjoyed celebrating St Dwynwen's day through classroom-based activities and our older pupils from Year 3-6 thoroughly enjoyed the St David's Day march through town with our friends and schools across the Brecon Cluster. We have also enjoyed using our local facilities to research into the key events in local history our Year 5 and 6 pupils explored Victorian times in the museum and held a trial in the court room, it was brilliant to see the drama come alive and the children immerse themselves in history.



It is important to us as a whole school community that we are inclusive and share the wider world's values, traditions and celebrations, all the children have enjoyed exploring the lunar year this year and have created wonderful artistic pieces through not only artistic mediums, but through block play. They have also tasted and made delicious food.



Summer 2024

The summer term allowed us to further explore our natural environment and get outside, our Mantles had an environmental theme and we all also explored our forest school sites, having fun making mud monsters, den building and climbing trees.



Transition links were made with Brecon High School, for our Year 5 and 6 pupils through WOW days where they explored Science and Technology and Expressive arts activities.



We have really enjoyed elements of Hybrid learning as it means that we can meet with professional in the real world, our pupils in Year 3, 6 and reception class have met some Romodels where they have deepened their knowledge about marine biologists and Year 2 met the author Alexis Deacon when they had a Beegu day.



Our military families and their friends worked with other military children and SoFit professionals, this enable us to work with other pupils in our local community and help us develop our Health and Well-being skills through different exercises and games.



We love being together as a family and our school trips enable us to do that over the year our Year 6 children enjoyed and our Year 5 children enjoyed Llangrannog, but as a whole school we had lots of fun at Raglan Farm Park and we named the baby alpaca.



We've had lots of fun learning, exploring and acquiring new skills and extending existing skills, what a year we have had.



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Assessment Data

Due to the implementation of the new curriculum for Wales data was collected from all pupils in Year 2-6 who undertook the national testing, which displayed a snapshot of data in the following areas: reading and comprehension, Mathematical reasoning and Mathematical procedural. However, no end of Progression Step data was collected other than half termly teacher testing assessment through pupil progress meetings and assessment in learning strategies demonstrated in the children's books.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Our Additional Learning Needs Co-Ordinator (ALNCO) is Mrs Shelley Hughes. The ALNCO evaluates provision for pupils with additional learning needs to ensure that resources are used effectively to support pupil's progress. The ALNCO works closely with all teachers and teaching assistants, professional colleagues within the Local Authority and support services to ensure children with ALN achieve their full potential and beyond.

Attendance Data

Attendance information is gathered from the daily register. Authorised absences include being away due to illness, a medical appointment or special circumstances, such as a bereavement in the family.

Unauthorised absences occur when, despite the School's efforts, an absence cannot be explained or the reason for being absent is not one that we are able to authorise.

	Percentage Attendance	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Total Absence
2023-2024	89.77%	8.06%	2.17%	100%

School Improvement

Every academic year the school compiles a School Development Plan that provides the focus for school development that academic year. Below is a summary of the areas that staff and Governors worked on during the academic year 2023-2024, these were based on recommendations from our Core Visit Reports and the Self Evaluation process undertaken in school.

Target 1: To build an effective and challenging Governing Body, working together to strengthen pupil and parent voice to nurture a more informed school community.



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School Improvement continued

Target 2: To create documents to support curriculum design outlining progression of skills through the school in relation to Curriculum for Wales.

Target 3: To develop Curriculum for Wales via effective, sustainable cluster working

Target 4: To further develop, feedback, assessment and monitoring strategies to support learners in acquiring, developing and defining, knowledge, understanding and skills. Evidence of this will be captured through exploration of curriculum for Wales with a high emphasis on Cynefin.

Healthy Living



To encourage 'Healthy and Confident Individuals'; one of the four purposes in the new Curriculum for Wales. We continue to focus on healthy eating with the pupils sharing the messages with parents regarding healthy snacks at snack time as well as ensuring healthy recipes are cooked with the pupils in their class kitchens. Daily fitness take place every morning with pupils choosing the disciplines they wish to explore that week. Respectful debates, on a whole range of subjects through 'Picture News' is an important to the wellbeing of our children, this takes place daily through Philosophy for Children (P4C) sessions. All classes have access to drinking water and water cups/bottles throughout the school day.

Toilet Facilities and Cleaning of Toilets

Every two classes share one set of toilets (Reception & Year 1), (Year 2 & Year 3), (Year 4 & Year 6), (Year 5 have access to the disabled toilet). Toilets are checked every morning and cleaned once a day at the end of the school day. To check the cleanliness checks are made throughout the day by a member of staff.

School Policies

Priory Church in Wales School has extensive policies that cover all area of its' work. Written in consultation with staff and the Governing Body a number of policies are updated each year. During 2023-2024 the following policies were either adopted or updated, a number of which were published on our school website: Child Protection and Safeguarding; Schools Child Looked After (CLA) Policy; Domestic Abuse and the Workplace; Curriculum for Wales Summary, Additional Learning Needs (ALN); Anti-Bullying; Lettings; Lockdown Procedure; Physical intervention; Admissions; Disciplinary -Support staff, Disciplinary -Teachers; Grievance; Inclement weather; Performance Management; e-Safety; Privacy Notice; Complaints; Positive Behaviour; Whistleblowing; Religion Value and Ethics (RVE).



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Global, National and Community Links



We have placed a huge emphasis this year on our community links to celebrate talents and skills in our local and school community. Our FACEBOOK group displays our learning experiences and how we have supported charities such as Jeans for Genes, Child in Need and Red Nose Day.

A huge highlight for us this year is reopening our doors and inviting professionals, volunteers and visitors into our school. We have learnt a lot from them to further explore our heritage and a sense of Cynefin. We have continued to carry out Priory Acts of Kindness. We have raised money for members of our local community through Year 6's Café Cymraeg and made parcels for the homeless.

We have visits from PC Viv to remind us how to stay safe within and community and be a good role model to all. We have worked with the Fire Service gained further knowledge in how to keep ourselves and our families safe through exploration of prevention.

School Sport and extra – Curricular Activities



We have continued to resume swimming lessons this academic year and all pupils from Year 1-6 had half a terms worth of swimming sessions to build up their confidence in water safety and swimming skills.

We have been fortunate to work with Chris from Project touch line who teaches our children Rugby skills through a faith/Christian ethos reminding of sportsmanship and encompassing Christian values throughout warm up games, progress of rugby skills and mini rugby matches.

We have taken part in many community sporting activities; our children in Year 3-6 took part in many cross-country events and some of our pupils went on to represent us in the national rounds in BUILT Wells. Da iawn bawb! Our Years 3-6 pupils have taken part in cricket and tennis games at cluster level. Throughout all events that our children have competed in, they have always represented the school well by being polite and showing amazing sportsmanship. We are very proud of them.

We have been further establishing extra-curricular links and clubs within the local community such as inviting colleagues into the school to share with the children what clubs are available in the community such as clubs held at Y Gaer such as the reading challenge.

We continue to develop after school clubs to support all pupils across our school over the academic year.



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**Budget
Summary
April 2023-
March 2024**


Delegated School Budget	
Delegated Budget	£659,912
ALN delegated funding	£26,028
ALN band led funding	£2,333
Formula Teaching Assistant Funding	-
Transition Adjustment	-
In-year pupil transfer funding	-
Total Delegated Funds	£707,350

Expenditure	
Expenditure Salaries (teachers, support assistants, midday supervisors etc.)	£693,881
Premises (repairs, cleaning, electricity, water, rates, gas etc.)	£104,274
Supplies (paper, pencils, paint, photocopier)	£39,918
Total Expenditure	£838,073

Other Income	£102,118
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Net Expenditure	£735,815
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**2024-
2025
Term
Dates**



2024 – 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR ¹

Autumn Term 2024	Non-Pupil Days	No of School Days
Monday 2 September to Friday 25 October	Monday 2 September ²	40 days
Half Term – Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November		
Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December		35 days
Spring Term 2025	Non-Pupil Days	No of School Days
Monday 6 January to Friday 21 February	Monday 6 January ²	35 days
Half Term – Monday 24 February to Friday 28 February		
Monday 3 March to Friday 11 April		30 days
Summer Term 2025	Non-Pupil Days	No of School Days
Monday 28 April to Friday 23 May		20 days
Half Term – Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May		
Monday 2 June to Monday 21 July		36 days

Good Friday:	Friday 18 April 2025
Easter Monday:	Monday 21 April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday:	Monday 5 May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday:	Monday 26 May 2025
Royal Welsh Show:	Monday 21 July to Thursday 24 July 2025

¹ This calendar is subject to any changes that may arise as a result of Welsh Government policy decisions. Powys County Council does not accept liability for any losses incurred in respect of altered holiday arrangements following such changes.

² Although Powys identifies non-pupil days for all of its schools, schools are able to vary these on a catchment basis. It is therefore recommended that in addition to consulting the Authority's school calendar, you also check the school calendar published by your local school as this will include any local variations.


Cluster INSET Days 2024-25

Please see below for **autumn term** cluster INSET days:

- 16 and 17 September 2024
Crickhowell and Gwernymed Clusters
- 19 and 20 September 2024
Calon Cymru Cluster
- 23 and 24 September 2024
Caereinion and Machynlleth Clusters
- 26 and 27 September 2024
Brecon Cluster
- 30 September and 1 October 2024
Welshpool and Llanfyllin Clusters
- 3 and 4 October 2024
Newtown and Presteigne Clusters
- 7 and 8 October 2024
Llanidloes and Ystradgynlais Clusters

Please see below for **summer term** cluster INSET days:

- 23 June 2025
Crickhowell and Gwernymed Clusters
- 27 June 2025
Calon Cymru Cluster
- 30 June 2025
Caereinion and Machynlleth Clusters
- 4 July 2025
Brecon Cluster
- 7 July 2025
Welshpool and Llanfyllin Clusters
- 11 July 2025
Newtown and Presteigne Clusters
- 14 July 2025
Llanidloes and Ystradgynlais Clusters