

Belong. Believe. Be Proud.

The King Alfred School *An Academy*

Burnham Road,
Highbridge,
Somerset,
TA9 3EE

T: 01278 784881

F: 01278 782344

E: info@tkasa.theplt.org.uk

W: www.tkasa.org.uk

X @_TKASA

Principal: Mr Dan Milford



Ref:DM/SAH

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Term 2 of this academic year, we are fast approaching the end of the year and there is so much happening in and around school so I thought I would update you on a few things.

Reverse Advent

I am thrilled to inform you that we shall be doing our reverse advent again this year. I know there has been a lot in the press about the increased use of foodbanks and with Christmas approaching, it would be good for us as a school to support our charity in this way. Every morning from 1st December onwards until we break for the Christmas holidays, we will have trolleys located at the gates at the start of the school day, and we will be collecting any items of food or toiletries that we can then donate to the foodbank. If you feel you would be able to donate an item to the foodbank on any of these days, then please send your child in with their item and they will be able to place it in the trolley at the start of the day. Our local foodbank is the Highbridge Foodbank. They are in need of Instant packet ready meals, long life milk, microwave rice, tinned carrots, toilet rolls, toiletries.

Parents' Forum

Thank you to those of you who have contacted us about Parent Forums, it is great to hear from parents keen to join us in discussions about the school. The next Parent Forum takes place in January and if you would like to come along, please email parentsforum@tkasa.theplt.org.uk for more details.

Remembrance

We held our annual Remembrance service in school last week and we were also part of the main Remembrance parade in Burnham on Sea on Sunday, where our Student Leaders read the names of the fallen. Both events were lovely, poignant gatherings and made us all proud to be part of community events such as these. Our relationship with The Royal British Legion is really strong and it is great to meet up with them during the year.

Breakfast

We are pleased to announce that there is **free toast available to all students** in the canteen before tutor time each day. Please let your child know this so that they can access this daily offer throughout the winter months.

Last Day of Term – Wednesday 20th December

Please note that school finishes at 3.10 pm on Wednesday 20th December. That day is also Christmas Jumper Day and your child is welcome to wear a Christmas jumper along with their school uniform. If your child wishes to wear a Christmas Jumper, then if they could donate an item to the foodbank in lieu of monies, that would be appreciated.

Christmas Tree Light Switch On

The Mayor of Burnham and Highbridge, Cllr Lesley Millard, will switch on our lights as usual again this year. This is a lovely event to come along to sing carols around the tree and 'kick off' the Christmas activities. This will take place at **5 pm on Thursday 30th November 2023** and parents and students are more than welcome to join staff and other visitors in front of A block for this event.

Christmas Concert

We are pleased to let you know that this is happening on Tuesday 19th December in the main hall. Information about this event will be communicated by our Music department nearer the time.

Rotary Club Competitions

This year we continue our connection with the B-o-S Rotary Club. Last week, we held the first round of the Young Chef Competition with a group of our students displaying their fantastic cooking and presentation skills.

The Priory Learning Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with company number 07698707.
Registered office address: Priory Community School, Queensway, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS22 6BP



We are also shortly holding an Art and Photography exhibition of all the competition entries, so that winners can be judged and selected to go onto district and regional competitions.

Staff Car Park

Can I remind all parents that the two car parks near A block and C block as you come into the IN drive are **for staff only**. We are seeing increasing numbers of parents using that car park to wait and drop off their children at the start and the end of the day, and this is proving hazardous, as it is blocking the one-way system, both into the school and the car park itself. If you are dropping off your child at the beginning of the school day or picking up your child at the end of the school day, **please use the drop off area by main reception. For pick ups and drop offs outside of these times, the staff car park is accessible with two dedicated visitor spaces as it leads to the student services gate.**

Attendance

Student attendance is a real focus for us this year. Whilst we realise that there are times when your child may be unwell or unable to come to school, I thought it would be useful to see the table below which shows you the impact of non-attendance even for short periods of time. Even with 95% attendance, your child would miss 28 weeks of school over the five years. Research has shown that increased attendance is one of the key factors in good outcomes and as a school, we want our students to achieve the best possible exam results and reach their potential, so I am sure you will support the school as we continue to focus on this area.

Ensuring your child is in school every day has a massive positive impact on how they progress academically, as well as socially. Working together with the school to focus on high school attendance will, in the long run, benefit your child for future life. Thank you for your support with this.

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approximately this many weeks absent	Over whole school life, this equals
95%	9 days	2 weeks	28 weeks, approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a school year
90%	19 days	4 weeks	56 weeks, approx. $1\frac{1}{2}$ school years
85%	29 days	6 weeks	84 weeks, approx. $2\frac{1}{4}$ school years

Before we break up for the Christmas holidays, you will all receive our termly newsletter which will be packed with pages of information about the school from Terms 1 and 2. Until then, once again, thank you for your support to our school as always, and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via the usual channels.

Yours faithfully



Dan Milford
Principal