

The Priory Church of England Primary School



Inspiring a generation to learn, flourish and achieve in a caring, Christian community

APPOINTMENT OF PERMANENT CLASS TEACHER

Required for September 2021

The Priory CE VA Primary School

Wick Lane
Christchurch
Dorset

BH23 1HX

Telephone (01202) 484105

Fax (01202) 488702

Email: office@prioryceprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Paul Ruffle



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Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve

Headteacher: Mr P Ruffle

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Email: office@prioryceprimary.co.uk
Website: <https://prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk>

Wednesday 17th March 2021

Dear Colleague,

I would like to thank you for expressing an interest in the post of full time permanent class teacher at our school. I am delighted to send you details of the post along with an application form.

This is an excellent opportunity for a practitioner with high expectations to join our happy and enthusiastic team. The vacancy has arisen to enable our new Deputy Headteacher to be non-class based. Applications are welcome from experienced staff and NQTs.

The Priory Primary School has a very caring ethos and we pride ourselves on the 'family feel' of our school. We are a rapidly improving school and everyone is committed to the development of the whole child. It is an exciting time for us as we support children to move forward from this difficult year and deliver a knowledge-rich and compelling curriculum to enable all children to flourish regardless of their starting point or background.

I hope that the accompanying information will excite and inspire you to apply for the post and I wish you every success with your application. You are warmly encouraged to visit our school or, alternatively do visit our school website at <https://prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk>. In these strange times, all visits may have to be cancelled at short notice and will need to take place after school hours.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office should you wish to receive further information or make a visit to the school.

I look forward to receiving your completed application.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Paul Ruffle
Headteacher



About our School



The Priory Primary School is a voluntary-aided Church of England School catering for children from four to eleven years old, and is maintained by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Authority. The current number on roll is 210 (class size of 30 throughout).

The school was built in 1867 (celebrating 150 years in 2017), although its foundations go back to the Sixteenth Century when a grammar school was established in St

Michael's Loft of the Priory Church. It is situated in the heart of Christchurch with its main entrance in Wick Lane and for generations it has been the sought-after school in the area.

The Priory School has close links with the Priory Church and our core values of love, forgiveness, respect and aspiration underpin all our decision-making.

The Priory School is a one-form entry school, so we pride ourselves on knowing each child and developing their unique gifts. Although on an historic site, we are keen to develop and improve our facilities. We have recently built a traversing wall, sensory hub classroom and installed an eco-garden. We have a library and computer suite built at the start of the millennium and all classes are fully equipped with interactive promethean screens.



Pre-pandemic, there was a variety of extra-curricular opportunities provided by staff, parents and private providers. Here's just a flavour of recent offerings:



- Band club
- Choir
- Individual and small group musical instrument lessons (especially ukulele!)
- Netball & football
- Gardening club
- Cycling Proficiency
- Coding

Mission

Our mission is to inspire a generation to learn, flourish and achieve in a caring, Christian community.

We strive for outstanding outcomes for all our pupils – to be the best that they can be.

Our school is focused on nurturing the children's academic, physical and spiritual development, thereby laying down good foundations for life.

In following a compelling and inclusive curriculum, we aim for our Year 6 leavers to be compassionate and responsible citizens, ready to embrace 'life in all its fullness'.

"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." Martin Luther King



Vision

Our Vision for Children

For every unique and precious child at our school, we will:

- Protect and nurture pupil wellbeing
- Inspire all pupils to achieve their potential and be well-prepared for the next stage of their education.
- Immerse pupils in a compelling and well-taught curriculum; to develop critical thinking, a rich vocabulary and a love of learning.
- Guide and prepare pupils for their future as global and compassionate citizens.

Our Vision for Staff

Our school will support and encourage our staff to:

- Develop professional excellence through outstanding subject knowledge and pedagogical understanding
- Grow their gifts by inspiring each other, championing each other and learning from each other
- Act with wisdom and compassion

Our Vision for Premises

Our school will be a safe, stimulating and sustainable learning environment which is:

- Well-equipped
- Encourages an active lifestyle
- Accessible for all
- Environmentally friendly

Our Vision for Community

Our school will be outward facing and embrace partnerships with others through:

- Enabling meaningful and constructive parent and pupil engagement
- Caring and Serving our local and global neighbours
- Celebrating diversity
- Developing close church connections

School Organisation

The admission number for entry into the Reception year is 30 and the Governors have currently capped all classes at this number. Pupils are currently taught in seven classes from Year R to Year 6.

We have a heart for inclusion so many parents trust the school to support their child who might be facing difficulties. Historically, this has meant higher than national numbers of children with SEND.

Staffing



We have an incredibly motivated and committed team of staff who all work collaboratively to ensure that all children achieve. There is a real team spirit and staff at all levels are supportive of each other, whilst also positively challenging each other.

We currently have 8 FTE teachers plus the Headteacher. Our structure in September will have a non-class based Deputy Headteacher and a teaching inclusion leader. In addition to teaching staff, teaching assistant support is also provided for pupils according to need. We also have 3 office staff, a part-time Site Manager and a Midday Supervision team who all ensure the smooth running of the school.

Our Governing Body

The school has a very supportive and involved team of governors. As the school is voluntary aided, the Governing Body are the employers of staff. The main work of the Governing Body is carried out by 2 committees – the Standards Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee. There is also a small Performance Management Committee which focuses on reviewing the performance of the school.

Our Chair of Governors is Sue Solly.

External Reports

Ofsted Inspection (March 2018) – We were judged to be Requiring Improvement. This report, coinciding with the arrival of a new Headteacher, has acted as a springboard for change.

Church SIAMS inspection (June 2018) – We were judged to be a Good church school.

Recently we have been recognised as one of the most improved schools in Dorset based on our KS2 outcomes.

Learning and our Curriculum

As a school, we are working hard to develop our curriculum. We follow the National Curriculum, placing an emphasis on the development of knowledge and skills and key vocabulary.

Celebrating other cultures and preparing our children for life in modern Britain is an area we want to improve.



We recognise our responsibilities to educate the heart as well as the mind and so we have a full PSHE programme, using Jigsaw material and HeartSmart. We are working towards the bronze Global Neighbour accreditation.

We follow 5 key principles when developing our integrated projects, based on the acronym 'LOCKS' (lock learning into the long-term memory).

a) Active Learning



Powerful learning takes place when learners are actively involved, not passive. We are mindful of the length of our 'teacher inputs' and keen to develop a healthy pace to our lessons. We recognise that a healthy, active body leads to a healthy, active mind.

The cpa approach in Maths ensures that less able pupils are always able to use concrete resources to support their learning. The school uses **Maths No**

Problem!

In English we have adopted **talk4writing** so younger pupils orally rehearse their own writing and are supported by a model text.

b) A sense of Ownership

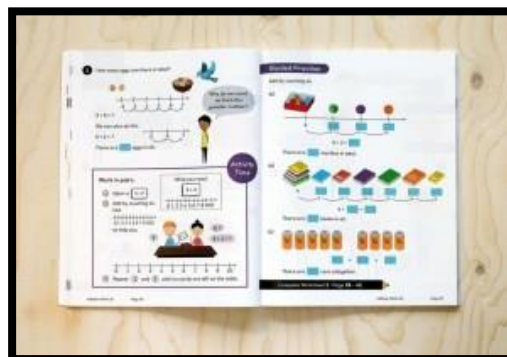
Children share responsibility for their learning with their teachers, parents and carers. Learning is constructed in such a way that, by the end of the primary years, children begin to see and experience the potential for taking responsibility for their own learning and choosing their own level of challenge.

We are developing child friendly **assessment toolkits** in Writing and **journaling** in reading, Maths and spellings. Pupils are able to identify their strengths and where they need to target their own efforts to improve.

c) A sense of Challenge

We believe learning is most powerful when children are challenged and stretched in their thinking.

We are developing a mastery approach to Maths, using Maths No Problem! where children move through each lesson from fluency to problem solving and reasoning. We will be developing hot and cold tasks, particularly in writing and Science so progress can be clearly demonstrated.



d) A sense of clarity (Knowledge)

We believe learning is most powerful when it is clear to children what they are learning and what 'good' looks like. We use consistent language across our school for learning intentions and success criteria. We are developing toolkits in writing to support our learning.

Lessons are linked to National Curriculum expectations and our own progression of skills.

e) A sense of Significance

We believe learning is most powerful when children see its relevance and importance. It has to matter to them.

As such learning is based around *meaningful real life contexts*. Where possible we use hooks (or brilliant beginnings) to engage the children in the subject they are studying. There is a coherence across subjects, with in many cases a golden thread running through the half-term project.



Community links

A group of dedicated volunteers regularly help in school with activities such as reading, swimming and gardening.

The school has a thriving fundraising group of parents called the 'Friends of Priory School'. Funds raised through a variety of events (such as Summer Fairs) have gone towards improving the outdoor space around school and providing lockers for the children.

The majority of our pupils (over 90%) currently proceed on to Twynham Secondary School, but a number each year also go to the Bournemouth Grammar schools, St. Peter's, The Grange and Highcliffe School.

School Improvement Priorities

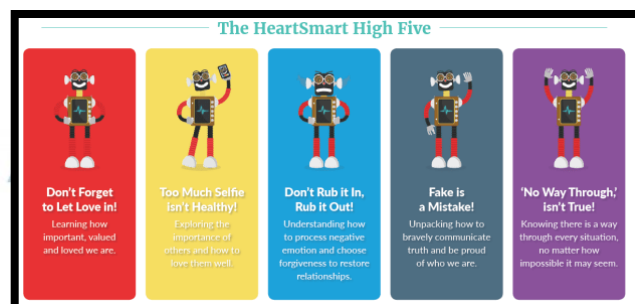
High Quality Teaching and Learning

1. Improve rates of Progress in Writing
2. Improve rates of Progress in Maths
3. Improve rates of Progress in Reading
4. Ensure a rich, balanced and compelling curriculum to engage and inspire all pupils
5. Develop high quality remote learning provision



Foundations for Life

6. Ensure pupils who are Ready, Respectful and Safe



7. Through a focus on Global Neighbours, develop the values of compassion and tolerance
8. Head, Heart and Body Smart teaching through high quality PE, PSHE and interactive class worship

Building Partnerships

9. Improve children's learning by building strong partnerships, including:
 - Parents
 - Priory Church
 - School Partnership Programme

Professional Excellence in Leadership & Management

10. Build leadership and governance capacity in order to develop high quality teaching and learning across the school and robust management systems to keep children safe.

Application Procedure

For full details of the vacancy and an application form you can visit our website <http://www.prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk>

Please apply either through Dorsetforyou.com, by post or email:
office@prioryceprimary.co.uk

Candidates should complete the application form in full and return it (online or by post) so that it is received no later than midnight on **Monday 19th April**.

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An incomplete application form or form containing gaps may be returned for completion before it can be considered. You should provide a full statement in support of your application but do not restate factual details already given elsewhere. When you complete the enclosed application form, please let us know about

- The particular strengths you have to offer our school, and how you anticipate being able to use these.
- Personal interests and skills which enrich your life and work.

Selection Procedure



Short listing will take place on **Tuesday 20th April** and candidates selected for interview will be telephoned and emailed. If you have not heard from the school by **noon on Wednesday 21st April** please assume that on this occasion your application has been unsuccessful.

Interviews will take place on Friday 23rd April.

Please note: Keeping Children Safe

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, therefore the interview process will include an assessment of the person's suitability to work with children. Please find enclosed the school's Child Protection Policy.

Before the interview, references of short listed candidates will be called for. Referees listed should be your current employer and the last contact at the last post working with children.

If an applicant is short listed, any discrepancies or anomalies in the information provided or issues arising from references will be taken up at interview.

