# Penwortham Priory Post



## From Paintbrushes to Pastry – A Fond Farewell to Mrs Cowell

After 24 years' service at Priory as an Art teacher and then Food Technology teacher, as well as being Vice Principal, Mrs Cowell is hanging up her paint brushes and apron, and retiring.

"I think you reach a point in your career where you think 'what's next?' and I always think you should leave on a high. Having just had the latest Ofsted inspection and maintaining our 'Good' rating I'm leaving on that high. The judgement reflects the hard work of everyone at Priory and it's testament to the fantastic staff, a team I've been instrumental in forming and guiding, making Priory as amazing as it is.

"We have created a challenging and strong curriculum and achieved such a lot in the 24 years I have been here. Now I think it's time for someone else to take the teaching and learning reins to take the next steps."

Mrs Cowell said she loved Art at school which also, quite unusually, led to a passion for baking.

"Baking is something I have done since I was a child. I had an amazing art teacher in a chap called Mr Taylor. When I was around 14 he set a task to 'make a cake that's not a cake.' I made a tortoise and it has sparked a passion in me. It wasn't just the baking, although what's inside is important, but it was about the sculpture too.

"I went on to study Fine Art, specialising in Sculpture, at university which is why I became an art teacher first.

continued next page...



## **Key Dates**

Did you know that the term dates for the academic year are available to view and download from our website?

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/termdates

**Thurs, 17 July** Sports Day

Friday, 18 July
House colours nonuniform day
End of Summer Term
(Early lunch followed by
school closure at 1.10pm)

Thurs, 21 August 11am-12 noon GCSE Results Day

**Tuesday, 2 September** Start of academic year

Mon, 22 September Learning for Life Day 1 (Early lunch followed by school closure at 1.10pm)

Tuesday, 23 September INSET Day (school closed) Open Evening 4pm-8pm

25 & 26 September Open Days 9am-2pm (pre-booking essential) continued from front page...

"Then around five years ago, I made the transition to Food Technology teacher after Ms Lewis-Lavender retired. It was a great opportunity and I have learnt so much from doing it and loved sharing my passion for cooking and baking with the pupils."

Before becoming a teacher, Mrs Cowell worked for five years at a psychiatric hospital before going into teaching in her late 20s.

"Some people said it was good grounding! I enjoyed it and I have some unusual stories from my time there. I actually have a British Amateur Weight-Lifting certificate as I had to train to take patients into the gym!

"I was thinking about the ambulance service or occupational therapy before taking that job in occupational therapy, but a number of people in my family were teachers – my mum and grandma were teachers – so I decided to take that route and I guess I have never looked back."

After three years as an Art teacher in Colne, Mrs Cowell came to Priory as Head of Art in September 2001. In 2014, she was appointed Vice Principal and more recently she has become a Food Technology teacher as well. Anyone who has seen and tasted Mrs Cowell's creations knows how talented she is at this!

"I have never been overly ambitious," said Mrs Cowell.

"I came to Priory and became Head of Art but I never had a big ambition to be a head teacher or anything like that, I have just seized opportunities which have come my way.

"I have done such a lot since I have been at Priory. I have taught art, I was part of the teacher training





process as a professional mentor for trainee teachers. I've been a Head of House and an Assistant Head – I think I have only missed out Head of Year!

"I have always been dedicated to teaching since I came into the profession – it's always been about what is best for the pupils."

Mrs Cowell has looked into becoming a Youth Leader in September but is still considering her future.

"I won't miss the traffic from Blackburn! I will, of course, miss the staff and the pupils though, and teaching Food Technology.

"I have so many funny stories I could tell about the pupils but I won't embarrass anyone. Teenagers are hilarious and a lot of fun to work with! There have been so many positive memories and I have made friends for life. It's been a big part of my life and I'm honoured that I have had the opportunity to play my part in making Priory the brilliant school it is."

Mrs Cowell has donated an olive tree which will be planted by gardener Mr Faron in Priory's gardens symbolising knowledge and giving a nod to her Greek heritage and her passion for food teaching. Who knows, it might grow big enough for pupils to sit under and draw too!

On Wednesday, 9 July after school, staff and special guests gathered for a valedictory celebration in the Priory Garden where they enjoyed coffee and cake. Our MaBaL (Music at Break and Lunch) during the week was also entirely chosen by Mrs Cowell and included such classics as Aretha Franklin's 'Respect', DJ Jazzy Jeff & The French Prince's 'Summertime' and Nora Jones' 'Come Away with Me'.

# Penwortham Youth Club

The Youth Clubs at Penwortham Community Centre are expanding over the summer holidays. Here's the summer timetable -

Monday: 18:00-20:00 (7-12 year olds)
Tuesday: 17:00-20:00 (7-12 year olds)
Thursday: 17:00-20:00 (13-15 year olds)
Friday: 18:00-21:00 (13-15 year olds)
Saturday: 17:00-20:00 (7-12 year olds)



No need to book just turn up!

Kingsfold Drive, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EQ





## **Prom Photos Published**

The Lancashire Post has kindly let us know in advance that the Year 11 Prom photos will be published in today's paper (16 July).

Penwortham Priory Academy

This will be a fantastic keepsake, both for families and the students, seeing themselves in all their finest attire saying goodbye to their friends, teachers and our school.

The publication has organised for additional copies to be available in retailers close to our school.

In addition, the story was featured online over w/c 7 July>>

www.lep.co.uk/ education/45-epic-photosfrom-penworthampriory-academys-2025prom-5214733



www.lep.co.uk/education/41-more-fab-photos-from-penwortham-priory-academys-2025-prom-5215873

# Chili Challenge Winners

Week ending 11 July winners -

Year 7 Joshua S (Mrs Lockwood) Calder

Year 8 Riley M (Mr Eccles) Ribble Year 9 Kayden R (Mr Mo) Douglas

Now that we have a kiosk system, winners should take their Chilli token to Mrs Cookson in the Business & Finance Office and she will credit their catering accounts with an allowance to claim a free breaktime snack from the dining room.

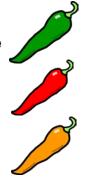


Pick up your challenge sheet from the top of the post boxes in your dining areas. When you've had a

go at them, pop your answers in your year group post box.

The leaderboard remains like this.

Douglas1stRibble2ndCalder3rdHodder4th





HOUSE PENALTY SHOOTOUT

SIGN UP USING THE MICROSOFT FORM ON TEAMS

# Year 10 Business & Enterprise Pupils' Fundraising Week

Our Year 10 Business & Enterprise pupils are taking part in the Derian House £50 Junior Business Challenge and during this week the group has organised a range of fundraising activities, with all proceeds going directly to the charity.

With some events still on-going, here's what they have been up to so far.

Thank you to all our parents and local businesses who have supported them along the way!

Wednesday lunchtime's staff v students penalty shoot-out.





### Staff Car Wash

Well done to Dev, Charlie, Ciello and Zain, and their helpers, who have worked tirelessly washing staff's - and some visitors' - cars throughout the week.

A particular thank you goes to Halfords for donating the car shampoo, sponges and other essential resources.







# Year 10 Business & Enterprise Pupils' Fundraising Week





### Bake Sale

And they all sold like hot cakes too!















### Raffle

Local businesses have been tremendously generous and have donated some smashing prizes for our raffle.



Tickets are still available via SCOPay for parents to purchase up until 2pm on Thursday (17th). £1 per strip.

The winners of the raffle, sweet jar and guess the name of the teddy will be announced at the end of Thursday.



## **House Colours Non Uniform Day Last Day of Term 18 July**

Pupils who choose to take part will not be required to wear their school uniform on this day but should wear a top or bottoms in their house colours alongside their own clothes. A hair bobble, wrist band, socks etc on its own will not suffice and garments worn must be sensible and appropriate for the school environment. We look forward to your support with this from home.

### Those not wishing to participate should wear their uniform as normal.

For non-uniform, we would ask for a donation of £1 from each pupil. There is an option to donate more if you wish via the donations section on SCOPay. Using SCOPay would be our preferred method of donating, however, donations can be made in cash on the day to form tutors or the school office.

Over the past week, pupils have learnt about the vital work Derian House undertakes for providing respite and end-of-life care to babies, children and young people across the North West, so they become more informed about this charity prior to donating.













Do you want to learn what to do when someone is suffering a mental health crisis?

Learn how to support yourself and others with a FREE 2-day MHFA course.

If you are interested please email daniel@penworthamtowncouncil.gov.uk







### FAMILY HUB SUMMER PARENTICARER CONSULTATION APPOINTMENT

Who Are Compass Bloom?

We offer a free & confidential service supporting children & young people, aged 5-18, with mild to moderate emotional health & wellbeing needs. We work in 85 schools & colleges throughout Chorley, South Ribble, Preston & West Lancs.

Are you the parent/carer of a young person who is experiencing mild to moderate anxiety or low mood? This could look like













worried

Struggling to

Withdrawal from family, friends and/or usual activities

Struggling to

If any of the above sounds like your child/young person we can help!

note: Consultations are just for students at our partner schools. - Check our (website) to see if yours is on the list

#### How to Book

We've got 30-minute appointments available in-person or over the phone.

Wednesdays & Thursdays | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM from 23rd July - 28th August

Book via the link below or scan our QR code: bit.ly/CompassBloomBooking

Pick your place, pick your date! - search for your chosen venue and select a date to see what times are available.

Can't see any appointments available? Don't worry - just give us a call on 01772 280123 and we'll do our best to help!











## Reaching New Heights: House Rewards Climbing Wall Experience









Pupils from Douglas House – this year's House winners – were treated to a thrilling climbing wall experience as a reward for their outstanding contribution through a series of competitions, challenges and other House events, in addition to demonstrating good behaviour and attitude to learning throughout the year.

The mobile climbing wall was set up in the school yard, offering a fun and challenging activity for pupils to enjoy with their peers. With some extra spaces available, the opportunity was also extended to pupils from other Houses who have made a positive impact across the school.



Organiser and Calder House Leader, Mrs Massey, said "The pupils' behaviour and effort was excellent. It was great to see pupils trying something new and showing great resiliance to beat the wall, trying different routes. The service provider commented on the great behaviour, politeness and enthusiasm of Priory pupils".



It was a fantastic way to celebrate the team contribution and to end the year on a high – quite literally!







# Class of 2001 Priory Uniform

Look what turned up during a recent loft clear-out - original Priory uniform and those infamous planners from 2001!

One of our lovely teachers (and proud alumna) brought it in to school after it was rediscovered amongst her late mum's keepsakes. We're thrilled to add it to our growing archive of school history and we're sure it'll spark a few memories (and maybe a few fashion flashbacks!) for some of our alumni parents.

If you've got any old photos, uniform items, or other Priory treasures gathering dust, we'd love to give them a good home. We promise to look after them forever - no PE kit left behind!

Contact Mrs Yates by email at j.yates@priory.lancs.sch.uk or pop into Reception during school hours. We'd love to see what you've got!





## Walking For A Cause: Lois' Charity Challenge

Year 7, Lois, is taking on an inspiring challenge this July by walking 127km in memory of her dad and to raise awareness of a charity that supports bereaved children. The distance represents the 127 children in the UK who lose a parent each day.

Lois is turning a personally difficult month into something positive by fundraising for Child Bereavement UK. We'll be sharing more about Lois's story and her fundraising efforts after the summer break, but in the meantime, anyone who would like to support her can visit Lois's fundraising page at >>

https://socialsync.app/fundraiser/cr-xjvkp0yrwp8v7?fbclid=IwY2xjawLbrl9leHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHk7OKLAzXJ1CD-HjsEx7muaukKk7v0oFfOc641XSPbZhP5AjAn1gDwVzXkiY\_aem\_8xeclfDIRd\_33W0zMxwmzA

## iDea Award Progress

The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, inspired by the Duke of Edinburgh Award, is offered here at



iDEA is an international award winning programme that helps to develop digital, enterprise and employability skills through our series of online challenges.



## Top 10 KS3 students – making progress on their iDEA Bronze Award (July)

### Year 7

- Charlotte C
- Ouinn S
- Darcie W
- Luna C
- Jess WZach F
- Oliver H
- Niall M
- Lewis B

### Year 8

- Zain P
- Oliver C
- Freya C
- Evie S
- Tyler J-WSam K
- Ada McM
- Thomas A
- Leon W
- Lucas R

### Year 9

- Reese L
- Sammy H
- Maya R
   Phoebe P
- Oliver C
- Yusuf AAiden M
- Alfie C
- David FBen K



## **Summer Arts Festival 2025**

Pupils took to the floor in our Auditorio last Tuesday evening where our audience was once again treated to some outstanding performances.

"Every year we are so impressed with the range of talented pupils we have here," said

Lead Teacher of Music, Mr Taylor. "They never cease to surprise us. It's great to watch how their talents have developed and how they are growing into such confident performers."

There were some very creative, individualistic performances where pupils arranged their own versions of existing material either as a soloist, a duet or a larger ensemble. We also enjoyed a number of Year 11s performing for the very final time as we wish them all the best for the future.

We were pleased to see our Year 7 pupils confidently show their creative talents and confidence in front of a live audience which bodes very well for future productions and concerts.

Miss Howell, Lead Teacher of Drama, added, "The students are excited to be getting on with new ideas already coming in for the next show. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part; it takes determination, dedication, and resilience."

The interval saw the audience able to access the wonderful showcase of GCSE artwork and a mini exhibition of Key Stage

3 2D and 3D designs which made it a truly memorable evening to experience all of the Creative Arts in one place.









PENWORTHAM PRIORY ACADEMY'S































## **Arrangements For Sports Day**



### Sports Day is tomorrow - Thursday, 17 July









- All pupils must come to school in their PE kit including non-competitors
- If you choose to wear t-shirts in your house colour, you must be in full PE kit to compete in so please make sure you have these as well. You will be unable to compete if you do not have PE kit on!
- · Bring a coat/jacket to wear in case it is cool
- Bring your own snacks and drinks there won't be a break!
- The weather is likely to be sunny, however, if it does rain slightly during the day we will continue with the events so please bring a waterproof jacket/umbrella with you so you don't get too wet
- Pupils will be outside all day so we strongly advise pupils apply sun cream, and bring it with them to re-apply throughout the day. A hat/cap for sun protection is also advised.
- Competitors must ensure they have inhalers with them, where appropriate
- Pupils should go to form for registration as normal at the start of the day.
- Form tutors will lead pupils out to the field and direct them to their seating area – pupils will take their bags and chair with them

## Sports Day House Colours Face Painting

SCOPay will remain live to purchase facepainting until 9am on Thursday.

The 50p payment incorporates the permission slip which must be completed by parents if pupils would like their face painted in their House colours on Sports Day.

Money raised will go direct to Derian House.

### Sports Day Lunch Menu

As it's Sports Day on Thursday, there will be a limited menu available at the kiosks and lunch is served at the earlier time of 12.15pm.

Please see poster for hot food options. Sandwiches, chilled pasta, snacks and drinks will be available as normal.

Please note, as usual, there is no break on Sports Day. In addition, our Year 10 Business & Enterprise pupils have organised a tuckshop with drinks and sweet cones as part of their fundraising for Derian House. Pupils may like to bring a small amount of cash for this.





Don't forget ID cards, bus passes and other essential items usually store in blazers.

# Year 7s Lend a Hand at Penwortham Primary Sports Day



A group of our enthusiastic Year 7 pupils stepped up to support Penwortham Primary School with their annual sports day on 8 July.

The pupils helped run events, cheered on the younger children, and represented Priory brilliantly throughout the morning.

PE Teacher, Mrs Bullock, said "It was a fantastic opportunity for them to give back to one of our local primary

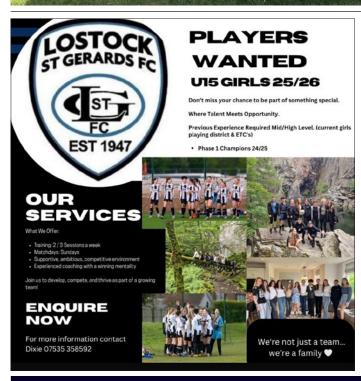
partners and show leadership in action. Well done to everyone involved!"

Well done to Luna C, Avalyn H-V, Amaya M, Charlotte M, Joshua S, Benjamin W, Ellie M, Charlie H, Ava G, Eva B, Charlotte C, Emily G, Freya B, Isla D, Emeli P, Niamh K.











# **Eco Club Returns to Brighten Up Leyland Road**



Last week, four of our dedicated Eco Club members returned to Leyland Road to continue their community gardening project - an initiative they've proudly supported over the past year.

Working alongside South Ribble Borough Council, the team focused on revitalising the planter they've helped maintain through previous visits. With gloves on and tools in hand, four enthusiastic pupils rolled up their sleeves to weed and plant a fresh selection of greenery.

Mrs Massey, who accompanied the group, praised their efforts: "This is a site we've worked on twice before, and the impact of our hard work is really starting to show. The boys worked incredibly hard, and in just two hours, we managed to get all the new plants in. It's made such a difference - the planter is looking fantastic!"



The Eco Club continues to demonstrate

how small acts of care and teamwork can make a big difference in our local environment. Anyone who is interested in joining up with the club should see Science teacher, Mrs

Massey in SC1.

Well done to Year 8 Harley H and Harry W and Year 9 Kenzie S and Alex B.









# **Feathered Guests Prepare for Their Next Journey**



Before the summer term comes to an end, we thought we would update you on our beloved duck family.

The mother duck and her remaining ducklings continue to capture our smiles and are growing stronger each day, thanks to the care of our staff and the peaceful sanctuary they've found in our Mediterranean Garden.

Though we sadly lost three ducklings, the resilience of the rest of the brood has been remarkable. Head of English, Ms Beswick, has become a familiar morning presence by the pond, feeding and chatting with the ducks before lessons begin.

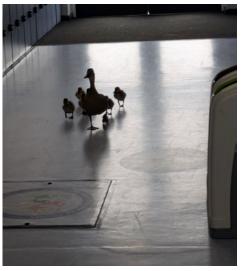
Meanwhile, our gardener Mr Farron has happily become their guide, taking them on early morning walks

through the corridors to prepare them for their upcoming relocation - much to the amusement of staff and pupils! Next week, he will accompany them to their new home at the Ribble estuary, where they'll continue their journey in the wild.

We'll miss our feathered visitors dearly. Safe travels, little ones!











## **Clara's Karting Sponsorship Dreams To Race Ahead**



Year 9 Clara is accelerating toward success both on and off the track.

Over the weekend, Clara took another step in her go-karting journey by attending the Goodwood Festival of Speed, a national motorsport event in Chichester, where she pitched her passion and potential to prospective sponsors. With her sights set on the next level of competition, Clara is seeking support to fuel her ambitions and continue making waves in the world of karting.

Clara spent the day engaging with exhibiting companies, showcasing her achievements and determination in hopes of securing sponsorship that will provide the financial backing needed to progress in the sport.

Her impressive track record includes qualifying for the UK regional championships in the 2024-25 season. Most recently, she was named a 'Trafford Titan' at the prestigious TeamSport venue in Manchester, an accolade that adds to her growing collection of awards.

Clara's confidence and skill behind the wheel continue to flourish, and

she's fast becoming a role model for young girls entering the sport. Her success is helping to raise the profile of female go-karting nationally, inspiring the next generation

of racers.

You can follow Clara's journey on Instagram >>

@cmbkarting













# Priory Take Third Place at Annual South Ribble Athletics Event



On 23 June, we took 44 pupils to Stanley Park in Blackpool to compete in the South Ribble U14s Athletics Competition, which featured athletes from 11 schools across the district.

It was a fantastic day of athletics, with pupils from Years 7, 8, and 9 representing the school across a wide range of track and field events. The competition was fierce, but our students rose to the challenge with determination,

enthusiasm, and great team spirit.

There were outstanding individual performances throughout the day, with many pupils achieving personal bests and placing highly in their events. The support and encouragement among teammates created a positive and motivating atmosphere.

rear Group	Boys 1 osition	Oli 10 Toolton	Overall i osition
Year 7	2nd	4th	2nd
Year 8	7th	3rd	4th
Year 9	6th	5th	5th

Vear Group Roys' Position Girls' Position Overall Position

A special mention goes to Year 8 Hollie L who delivered an exceptional performance in the 200m event, breaking the South Ribble record with a remarkable run. Her achievement was one of the standout moments of the day and a proud highlight for the school.

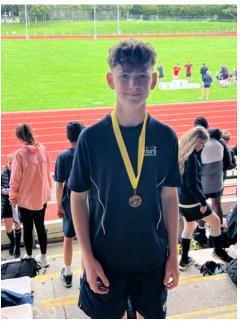
PE Teacher and Head of Year 11, Mrs Bullock, said "We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who took part and represented the school with pride and passion. Finishing third overall out of 11 schools is a fantastic achievement - well done to everyone involved!"



















Year Group	Event	Name	Place
Year 7 Boys	100 Metres	Harvey R	2nd
Year 7 Boys	200 Metres	Reuben P	3rd
Year 7 Boys	Discus	Alegria A-M	1st
Year 7 Boys	Javelin	Keelan S	1st
Year 7 Boys	Relay	Relay Team	3rd
Year 7 Boys	Shot Putt	Riley R	3rd
Year 7 Girls	1500 Metres	Ellie M	3rd
Year 7 Girls	Discus	Emily G	2nd
Year 7 Girls	Javelin	Charlotte C	2nd
Year 7 Girls	Relay	Relay Team	3rd
Year 8 Boys	Triple Jump	Joe W	3rd
Year 8 Girls	200 Metres	Hollie L	1st New Record
Year 8 Girls	300 Metres	Willow P	2nd
Year 8 Girls	Relay	Relay Team	3rd
Year 9 Boys	Discus	Noah W	1st
Year 9 Girls	100 Metres	Millie D	1st

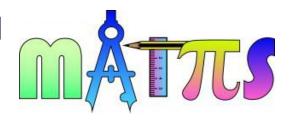








# From Primary to Priory The 2025 Maths Challenge



Penwortham Priory Academy once again opened its doors to some of the brightest young mathematicians in the area for the second annual Priory Maths Challenge, held last week.

The event welcomed Year 5 pupils from six local primary schools, with seven teams competing in a fun-filled day of logic, puzzles, and problem-solving. The challenge was designed to stretch students' thinking and encourage teamwork, as well as featuring some solo challenges. Each round tested different mathematical skills, from

number fluency and reasoning to spatial awareness and lateral thinking. Students collaborated, calculated, and competed with enthusiasm and determination.

Maths Teacher, Mr Evans, who co-ordinated the event said, "After a closely fought contest, Tarleton Community Primary School earned the runner-up spot with a commendable 179 points. But it was Lostock Hall Community Primary School who once again claimed the champion's trophy, defending their title with an impressive 191 points!

The event concluded with a celebratory presentation and plenty of smiles all around. Staff and student helpers were praised for their warm welcome and organisation, and the visiting pupils left inspired and proud of their achievements.

Special mention goes to our Year 9 helpers Emily, Saachi, Zara, Suzie, Alexis, Declan and Tancho.

We can't wait to see what next year's challenge brings!















### Lost and Found: Are These Yours?

It's the end of the academic year and a time we wouldn't normally see such a build up of lost winter coats! We also have lots of shoes and trainers amongst the bags, water bottles and other miscellaneous items.

Lost and found property is located in the Pastoral office with the exception of PE kit which is kept by the PE Department. Please also check with the school office for any items lost that day. Valuables will be stored securely by the Pastoral office (see Mr Shipton) until their owner can be identified.



We do aim to return named items to their owner and so we cannot over-emphasise the importance of marking all property, including ties and stationery, with your child's name,

All unclaimed lost property is added to

the uniform bank, donated to charity or is disposed of after each end of term. The last day for collection of any of these items is Thursday, 17 July.















## **APPS TO SUPPORT YOUR** MENTAL HEALTH



A health app can help you keep well while you wait to be seen by a healthcare professional on the NHS. Scan a QR code below to try out a health app that can support you on your journey to becoming Smoke Free.





Open the camera app on your smartphone.





Point your smartphone at the QR code you want to scan.





Click the link that pops up and then download the app.



## **Autism Parent Support**

**Healthy Living** 



### Description

Autism Parent Support is a social network and support group for parents of kids with autism. Get the emotional support you need from others.



### **Combined Minds Healthy Living**



### Description

Combined Minds provides activities for young people and their family to do together.



### disTRACT **Healthy Living**



### Description

distrACT is an app to help you manage feelings of self-harm or suicide.



### Headspace **Healthy Living**



### Description

Headspace is an app that helps you meditate, focus, sleep well and wake up well. It also provides exercise guides.



### TellMi

**Healthy Living** 



### Description

Tellmi has a chat forum where everyone is anonymous. You can post how you feel and get support.



### **Smiling Mind: Meditation App Healthy Living**



### Description

Smiling Mind works by showing you how to practice mindfulness meditation. You can also view guides on how to sleep well.

