



## Value of the Month: Honesty

**Dear Parents/Friends,**

We are already at the end of our first half-term for this academic year. It has been a half-term filled with a whole host of special activities, including school visits, special assemblies and special visitors. We are delighted that the children have settled into their new classes so well and are enjoying working in their new year groups this term. Many congratulations to all the children.

### **Successful Open Evening and Parent Tours for Prospective Parents**

On 4<sup>th</sup> October we were delighted to be able to host our annual open evening for prospective parents face to face again. For this event, we were supported by a wonderful selection of our Year 6 children, who acted as tour guides for visitors, conducting themselves brilliantly and showing off the school to new visitors. Many thanks to our Year 6 tour guides, who were exemplary in their conduct and confident in talking about our wonderful school to our new visitors. Thank you all so much you wonderful Year 6 ambassadors.



In addition, I have also been conducting a number of parent tours for prospective families. These will take place on the following dates and times:

- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - 1.30pm
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November - 1.30pm
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November – 1.30p
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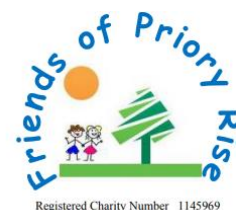
Throughout the duration of these tours, I share our school vision and ethos and am available to answer questions and queries about the workings of our wonderful school.

If you know of any prospective parents who may be interested in attending these tours, please let them know or ask them to call in to the school office for details.

We welcome any new families to come along and see what we are all about.

## Friends of Priory Rise – upcoming Firework Event and new FoPR Committee

A new Friends of Priory Rise committee has been elected following our recent AGM and we are excited to announce that our first event is the return of our renowned fireworks spectacular!



Tickets are available online at [www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofprioryrise](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofprioryrise)

We will have 'cash only' stalls selling food, drinks and glow products. It will be a night to remember so don't miss out!

**Please see the attached flyer, publicising this fireworks event.**

There are many ideas and plans in the pipeline over the coming months including Christmas and Valentines events and of course the return of our hugely successful P-Fest!

However, these events cannot happen without our amazing army of volunteers! If you can spare just a little of your time to help bring our events to life, we would love to hear from you. Without volunteers, we simply cannot run the events we want to. All our events are for our children and raise money for the school which in turn benefits our children. We completely understand time is so precious, but if you might be able to spare us an hour a term, whether that's helping at an event or in the background, we would be so very grateful. Contact us to find out more at [friendsofprioryrise@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofprioryrise@gmail.com)

We hope to see you all on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from 5pm for our fireworks night!

Kerry Shephard (Chair), Angus Atkinson (Deputy Chair), Carl Ruocco (Treasurer), Reka Gencsi (Secretary)

### Restorative leaders

Mrs Kalek, Mrs Pocock and Mrs Dobson have been interviewing and working with a large number of our Year 6 children in their new and exciting roles as Restorative Leaders at the school. We have been overwhelmed with 64 applications from the children who wish to take up these roles and they were all successful in their interview.

Our first group of leaders are pictured here, as they were presented in assembly with their orange lanyards - so that they are easily identifiable on the playground. They will be working with our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children on the playground at lunchtimes to support them with their positive play. Next half term, Mr Smyth and Mr Neal are training them in new games that they can try these out on the playground with the children. Well done to all our Restorative Leaders. We look forward to seeing you all develop in this role.



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2

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## Safeguarding Snippet



Throughout Key Stage 2 this term we have been updating our knowledge of Online Safety. The way that this is delivered across the different year groups is varied, but our core message remains the same and revolves around The SMART Rules, which are:

**S** – Safe – Keep yourself safe on the internet by not giving out your personal information to people or places you don't know.

**M** – Meet – Meeting up with people you have only spoken to on-line can be dangerous, always tell a trusted adult and take them with you.

**A** – Accepting – Be careful accepting files from people or websites you don't know. They can contain viruses, malware or nasty and upsetting content.

**R** – Reliable – Not all information online is reliable. Double check information found on websites by checking other sites, looking in books, etc.

**T** – Tell – Always tell a trusted adult if someone or something upsets you whilst you are online.

If parents would like to reinforce these messages at home, there are a number of useful websites that you can visit with your children which can be found on our dedicated Online Safety website page.



## Successful Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to all of you who attended our Parents' Evening consultations over the last week, via MS Teams. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. It was wonderful to share with so many parents the success of your children since the start of this term.

Parents' Evening consultations for our Nursery and Reception children will take place virtually later in the term, during the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> November.

In February, next term, we will be hosting our parent consultations face to face, where parents will have the opportunity to come into school and see the children's work.

## 'Bunchems' are banned!



Following a particularly tricky incident in school where a number of 'Bunchems' were caught up in one of our children's hair, and it took hours to get them out, we have made the decision that 'Bunchems' are banned at Priory Rise. Please avoid them at all cost with your children as they are a particularly unpleasant product if caught up in children's hair.

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3

## Happy Divali



Today in school we have been celebrating Divali, the Hindu festival of light. Children came to school dressed in bright colours and took part in a wonderful Divali assembly, visited by our own Mrs Satheesh, who shared with the children some of the history of Divali and how she will be celebrating this festival with her family this year.

Happy Divali to everyone who is celebrating this joyous festival this year! Wishing peace and prosperity to everyone!



## Harvest Food Bank Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our wonderful array of donations to support the work of the Milton Keynes Food Bank as part of our Harvest celebrations.



Throughout our assembly, children from Years 1 to 6 presented their own contributions and it was a wonderful, collaborative occasion, where we were able to reflect and be thankful for the incredible provisions that we all enjoy, particularly in these times of financial stretch for everyone. Our Student Council supported in packing all the donated items and preparing them for collection from the volunteers at Milton Keynes Food Bank.

## Black History Month

As detailed in our last newsletter, last week we celebrated Black History Month in school, both in classes and as part of our assemblies and PSHE work, having a particular focus on celebrating the achievements of black men and women both in the past and in the present day.



This work carried out across the school was a resounding success. Our Friday assembly brought together all the key messages that children had learnt about from different inspiring sources and leaders.

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## New PE Kit Sponsor – Taylor Wimpey

You may be aware that our PE team have been looking for a company to sponsor the purchase of new sports kit for the school, to wear when children represent the school in sports fixtures and events across the school year. Our previous T-shirts had become somewhat tired!

Following some investigation, Mr Pry, the husband of our lovely Mrs Pry, expressed that his company – Taylor Wimpey – would be happy to sponsor the purchase of our new sports kit and...here it is!

Thank you, Taylor Wimpey – you are amazing and we are so very grateful for your support. And thank you Mr Pry for organizing this. What a superstar!

Here are some of our Year 4 children 'sporting' our new t-shirts! Wonderful!



## Recommended Reads for Children



We are often asked by parents to recommend books for children at different ages across the school. This can be a difficult task, as it really does depend on the interests of the children. As a school we work with a children's booksellers, who have put together a list of 100 books for every year group across the school from Reception right up to Year 6. The link for these lists can be found here:

<https://peters.co.uk/100-books-for-every-year-group-primary>

Other recommended reading lists for children can be found at:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/key-stage-book-lists>

I fully recommend parents and children taking a look at these lists together and feel sure that you will find some books that will be of interest to your children. Please take a look.

## Years 5 and 6 Production – Beauty and the Beast JR



As mentioned in our last newsletter, our budding thespians in Years 5 and 6 are currently involved in rehearsals and preparation for our upcoming performance of Beauty and the Beast JR, which we are planning to perform on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th November at 6pm – a date for the diary for parents of children who are taking part.

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5

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## Governor News



Following our recent re-elections of roles on our governing board, Mrs Maria Minett has been elected to the role of Chair of Governors for the school. Maria had been Vice Chair of Governors for the past 2 years and has been a valuable member of the board for a number of years. I meet weekly with her to ensure that she is briefed on the life of the school and keep her updated with weekly news and outcomes. She fulfils her role brilliantly in providing an excellent balance of support and challenge.

Many thanks to Mrs Kristy Coogan, who was Chair of Governors for the previous 2 years at the school and who demonstrated excellent governance at Priory Rise for this period. Mrs Coogan has now stepped away from the Chair of Governor role and has been elected as the Vice Chair of the board, where she continues to support the leadership team in driving the direction of the school.

Huge thanks to Mrs Sheila Woodhall, who has been a governor at the school since the school opened in September 2008. She has been a significant support and governor and after 14 years in post has now stepped away from this responsibility. Sheila has interviewed and been part of the process of recruitment for many of the staff at Priory Rise and alongside her role as governor, Sheila was a regular volunteer, who has supported hundreds of children along the way. Many thanks to Sheila for her wonderful service and commitment to the school. We all wish you the very best for the future.

## Sporting Updates

The Years 5 and 6 girls netball team have qualified for the Bucks School County Games. Playing in 2 different tournaments they have learnt new skills and excelled over the tournaments.

Well done!

Squad: Sophie S, Lily, Maisy, Nicole, Anna, Sarah, Leonie, Sammy.

The annual cross-country competition was back up and running this year and was one of our most successful to date. Some great performances from our runners! Many congratulations!

Squad: Ollie E, Muhammad, Grayson, Liam, Evan, Niamh Q, Valeria, Nereah, Vera, Rushil, Brody, Denny, Jonah, Kai, Afqa, Imani, Maya, Mae, Sophie S.



The Years 5 and 6 football league kicked off last week with Priory Rise winning 1, drawing 1 and losing 1 in their first 3 matches. All the matches were very tight, and the children played some great football.

Squad: Jenson, Sophie S, Brody, Finley G, Ollie E, Rio, Jonah, Jeremy, Kwame.

The Years 3 and 4 girls netball teams both came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their netball festivals. Some fantastic netball was played by our girls on the night.

Squad: Rachel, Nereah, Valeria, Rohini, Emma, Maria, Shynade, Betsy

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6

Congratulations to all our young sporting participants and many thanks to Mr Neal and Mr Smyth for their guidance and support for them throughout these events.

**And finally...**

Wishing everyone a truly wonderful half term and we look forward to welcoming all our children back into school on the morning of **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**.

Best regards as always to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Seagar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'R' and 'S'.

Ruth Seagar