



Value of the Month: Trust

Dear Parents/Friends,



The Christmas season has truly arrived at Priory Rise!

As I write this newsletter, I can hear the Year 2 children practising their Christmas performance of 'Born in a Barn' in the hall. What an absolute privilege it is to work with your children at this special time of year. Christmas trees are up, and the school is well and truly into the festive season. Our Nursery and Foundation children have performed their Christmas songs to their families, and today we are looking forward to hosting our Carols by P-Light for our Key Stage 2 families after school.

On Wednesday this week, our Year 1 children performed their wonderful Christmas 'Ralph the Reindeer' showcase assembly for parents to enjoy – and on Wednesday next week our Year 2 children will be performing their 'Born in a Barn' nativity for parents and families – at 9.10am in the morning and after school at 5.30pm. In addition, next week we will be holding our special parties on Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch and carol assemblies. There is so much festive fun to be had!

Christmas Parties

Next Thursday 15th December is Christmas party day, where children are encouraged to come to school in their Christmas jumpers or festive outfits to take part in all the exciting events of the day.

Our catering team will be serving up a delicious Christmas lunch and there may even be a special surprise Christmas visitor! Ho! Ho! Ho!



It's a very exciting time of year for us all in the school community – especially after having the previous couple of years where we were not able to celebrate in the same way. Just wonderful!

Friends of Priory Rise - Christmas Raffle

The 'Friends of Priory Rise' are once again facilitating our fantastic Christmas raffle!

We already have a plethora of prizes donated including a family ticket to Woburn Safari Park as well as beauty and treatment vouchers. We will also have a top cash prize of 10% of the funds we make on ticket sales, so the more sales we make, the more the top prize will be!



Tickets are £1 and can be purchased online through www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofprioryrise

and are still available from now until the end of ... TODAY!

The Christmas hampers have been made up and are ready and waiting in my office. They really are wonderful prizes that I am sure that everyone would be happy to win.

Carols By P-Light – after school today for our KS2 families

After school today – from 3.30pm - we are hosting our 'Carols by P-Light' event, on the back, bottom playground for our Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) pupils and families. This will involve both our school choirs singing and will provide the opportunity for us to come together and spread some Christmas magic. We will have mince pies, cookies and hot chocolate for you to enjoy and you will be able to make your last-minute raffle ticket purchases!



We look forward to welcoming all our KS2 families to this event. The Shenley Brook End School Jazz Band are coming over to accompany some of the carols and to set the atmosphere for the event.

Make sure to wrap up warm – it is set to be quite nippy!

Coffee Mornings are coming back!



After Christmas, we are re-introducing our weekly coffee mornings in school and we would like to invite parents to come along. These will be held every Friday in our Art Room (accessed via the back of the school using Gate 8) between 9.00am and 10.00am. Younger siblings are welcome.

These coffee mornings are an opportunity to meet and chat to other parents, have a coffee and to speak with our school Learning Mentors – Mrs Pocock and Miss Ashby - about your child, their well-being and any other queries or concerns.

Coffee mornings are fun and informal and give parents the chance to chat and be part of the school community. We are excited to re-introduce this weekly event and look forward to welcoming our families.

Environmental Health – 5 stars!

We had a recent spot inspection of our catering facilities by environmental health – and we are delighted to report that the school kitchen has retained their 5 star hygiene rating. Whoop! Whoop!



Well done to our amazing catering team for this brilliant work. Fantastic and huge congratulations – but nothing less than we know from our wonderful team.

Lost Property



Our lost property cupboard has been overflowing with a huge array of items that we have not been able to be return to their owners. This is becoming a problem at the school as we are seeing increased number of items that are unnamed.

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During this next week, lost property will be displayed in the courtyard. Please take this opportunity to take a look and sift out any items that you know belong to your children. Anything that is not claimed by the end of term will be disposed of, as we do not have the facilities to store all these items.

Once again, please can I urge parents to ensure that **ALL** your child's uniform items, coats, hats, gloves and water bottles etc are **NAMED** so that these can easily be returned to their owners. Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

School Uniform

May I politely remind everyone that we have a very clear school uniform policy that parents agree to adhere to with their children when choosing to send children to Priory Rise. Children should wear black **shoes** for school – and not trainers! Some of our older children like to change into their trainers for break and lunchtimes, which we are very happy to support, however, these must not be worn in school for the rest of the curriculum.



Many thanks in advance for everyone who works with the school to ensure consistency in this.

Student Council – Messages of Hope

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, our student council once again took part in the 'Message of Hope' initiative with the Milton Keynes Food Bank. This involved the children decorating labels with their own 'messages of hope' to be hung on a tree at the food bank, sending positive messages for families who will be making use of this very important service at this time of year.



Representatives from our Student Council really enjoyed taking the labels to decorate the trees at the food bank.



What a wonderful initiative that fits so very well with our school values of kindness, hope and care.

Safeguarding Snippet - Advice for parents and carers re: Scarlet Fever

Symptoms of scarlet fever and when to see a GP

Scarlet fever is a contagious bacterial infection that mostly affects young children. It is easily treated with antibiotics. The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms, including high temperature, a sore throat and swollen neck glands (a large lump on the side of your neck).

A rash appears 12 to 48 hours later. It looks like small, raised bumps and starts on the chest and tummy, then spreads. The rash makes your skin feel rough, like sandpaper. On white skin the rash looks pink or red. It may be harder to see on brown and black skin, but you can still feel it. A white coating also appears on the tongue. This peels, leaving the tongue red, swollen and covered in little bumps (called "strawberry tongue"). The rash does not appear on the face, but the cheeks can look red. The redness may be harder to see on brown and black skin.



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Contact a GP if your child:

- Has scarlet fever symptoms
- Does not get better in a week (after seeing a GP)
- Has scarlet fever and chickenpox at the same time
- Is ill again, weeks after scarlet fever got better – this can be a sign of a complication, such as [rheumatic fever](#)
- Is feeling unwell and has been in contact with someone who has scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is very easily spread. Check with a GP before you go in. They may suggest a phone consultation.

What to do if you feel your child seems seriously unwell

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other [signs of dehydration](#)
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's [skin, tongue or lips are blue](#)
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

Staffing News – Mrs Dean s returning to Priory Rise

As you may all know, Mrs Dobson has been teaching part-time alongside Mrs Truan in Rosen Class for the duration of this term. However, from 25th January 2023, she will be relinquishing this responsibility, as our wonderful Mrs Emily Dean will be returning from her maternity leave and will be working alongside Mrs Truan to teach in Rosen Class. Whilst Mrs Dobson is very sad to be leaving this role in teaching Rosen Class, we know that Mrs Dean will bring her wonderful wealth of experience, care and nurture to this role and Mrs Dobson will be able to return to her other responsibilities in school.

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Sporting Updates



The Years 3 and 4 basketball team came in silver medal position in their basketball festival. They won 4, drew 1 and lost 1 of their 6 matches. Wonderful work!

Squad: Ariel, Jacob S, Matthew, Yazaan, Valeria, Nereah and Runo.

The Years 5 and 6 basketball team came really close to winning the basketball championships, just falling short and picking up silver medals. A fantastic performance on the night, scoring some great baskets and not conceding any.

Congratulations to Jonah, Kai, Brody, Francesco, Sarah, Sophie and Anna.

The Year 5 and 6 boys football team picked up 2 valuable wins to put us into 5th in the league table. A 6-0 win was followed up with a 7-0 win, before narrowly losing 3-2 in our final game of the night.



Well done to our team of Jonah, Brody, Rio, Jeremy, Kwame, Olly E and Sophie.

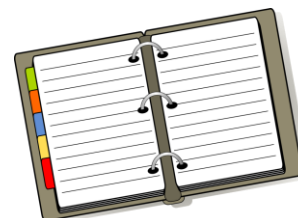
And finally the Years 3 and 4 football team played out a cracking game of football, narrowly losing by the odd goal. Some extremely good performances were played by the boys and 2 absolute cracker goals scores by Jamilio. Fabulous work!

Squad: Matthew, Charlie B, Dexter, Blake, Ahmet, Ariel, Jacob S, Samuel D, Jamilio, Grayson, Joshua.

Dates for Your Diary

Please see below a number of key dates for the rest of this term and the start of the New Year:

- Wednesday 14th December – 9am – Year 2 Nativity
- Wednesday 14th December – 5.30pm – Year 2 Nativity
- Thursday 15th December – Christmas Jumper Day – Christmas Lunch and party afternoon
- Friday 16th December – Children break for Christmas holidays
- Tuesday 3rd January – Staff INSET day
- Wednesday 4th January – Children return to school for the start of the Spring Term



5 Dimensions Trust Update

As you all know, throughout the previous academic year, the school has been investigating joining the 5 Dimensions Trust, which currently consists of The Hazeley Academy and Shenley Brook End School. Our application to join the trust was accepted in August and throughout this term, we have been working even closer alongside the leaders of the 5 Dimensions Trust and the Local Authority to finalise details for joining. Here is a short message to all our families from the leaders of the three schools.



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Growing Together

We have been fortunate enough to work together as leaders for almost 10 years, striving to best serve our wonderful local communities, doing all we can to help our young people and staff to grow into the best versions of themselves, and importantly enjoy that journey.

As you know over the past 18 months we have worked more closely together, supporting and challenging each other, collaborating to help create curriculum, pastoral care, teaching and support systems that will ultimately flow from nursery to sixth form and beyond. Now we are tapping into the very best of Priory Rise and combining it with the best from the existing 5D schools of The Hazeley Academy and Shenley Brook End School.

From the 1st January 2023, Priory Rise will officially join the 5 Dimensions Trust, cementing the continuation of this journey, with our shared mission of “**growing a vibrant community of exceptional people**”, through our 5 Dimensions of:

- Collaborating to ensure truly **holistic education**
- Rising together to the rigour of **academic challenge**
- Sharing to create a positive, high performing environment for **staff**
- Creating a supportive partnership with parents, carers and **families**
- Crafting a meaningful partnership with our **wider community**.



We hope you are as excited as we are about this! One thing is for certain we will be stronger, more creative and secure together.

Ms Ruth Seagar - Headteacher

Mr Tony Nelson - CEO – 5 Dimensions Trust

Mr Chris Holmwood - 5D Chief Education Officer

And finally...

As always – thank you all so much for your wonderful support throughout the term and ongoing commitment to the school.

Best regards as always to you all as always,



Ruth Seagar

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