



## Value of the Month: Courage

Dear Parents/Friends,

### Staffing News

It is with mixed emotions that I begin this newsletter, informing everyone in our school community that Miss Charlotte Cooper - Year 5 teacher, Year 5 Leader and senior teacher at Priory Rise - has been successful in gaining a new Assistant Head position in another local school in Milton Keynes, and that this role is planned to begin after the Easter break.

Miss Cooper is a well-loved and experienced member of our staff team, who has been at the school for 9 years and has taught hundreds of our wonderful children across the years, ably supporting them on their learning journey. However, whilst we are sad to lose her from our lovely school, we know that this is an exciting opportunity for her and that she will be sharing her Priory Rise magic with children and staff in her new school setting. We wish her the absolute best in this new role and know that she will continue to thrive and shine.



From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April and for the rest of the academic school year, we have appointed a new teacher to Priory Rise, Miss Asha Raval, who will be taking responsibility for the teaching of Rowling Class when Miss Cooper leaves. Miss Raval is an experienced teacher who will be sharing her wealth of knowledge and expertise with the children in Rowling Class, and we look forward to welcoming her onto the staff team and into our school community. In addition, for the summer term, Mrs Dobson – our Deputy Head – will be taking on the responsibility of Year Leader for Year 5.

### Bikeability



Our Year 5 children have once again benefitted from Bikeability Training last week, where they learnt how to keep a 'health check' on their bicycles as well as the correct and safe procedures for riding on the road. Children went out and about in the local area, with trained 'Bikeability' professionals and were trained how to make specific manoeuvres and safe choices when riding their bikes.

Well done to all our Year 5 children who participated in this course and achieved their Level 1 or Level 2 badges. Great work Year 5.

## Priory Rise 'Sing Off'

There is an exciting buzz of singing happening across the school as all classes are working on their entries for our whole school singing competition that will be taking place in school on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Classes have now chosen their song entries and are busy practising and refining their performances. We are all looking forward to this reintroduced and exciting event that will raise the profile of singing for everyone and provide lots of end of term fun.



## Wonderful World Book Day 2023

This year we celebrated World Book Day in a different way and we certainly felt that children across the school were caught up in the 'reading bug' and sharing their love of reading.



Everywhere we looked we saw children immersed in either reading stories and books, writing about stories or books or talking about stories or books.



Children across the whole school were introduced to the book 'Tuesday' by David Weisner and were immersed in planned related activities. Children brought books into school to share and were encouraged to share their special favourites. School staff shared their favourite books and stories as well as children across the school taking part in book walks, book talks, book trails and book detective activities.

Staff across the school told stories and read a wealth of stories together with their children. In the afternoon, we shared a wonderful World Book Day assembly, where children took part in a special 'bookie' quiz. It was a wonderful day of celebrating reading and books together.



## Coffee Morning's Are Back and All Are Welcome!



This term we have re-introduced our weekly coffee mornings in school, where parents and younger siblings are invited to come along. These are held every Friday in our Art Room (accessed via the back of the school using Gate 8) between 9.00am and 10.00am.

This is an opportunity to meet and chat to other parents, have a coffee/tea and to speak with our school Learning Mentors – Mrs Pocock and Miss Ashby - about your child, their well-being and any

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other queries or concerns – or merely to have a break and enjoy refreshments in a warm and nurturing environment.

## Parent Consultation Evening Success



We enjoyed hosting and welcoming families into school this week for the face-to-face Parent Consultation Evenings for Nursery, Beetles, Honeybees, Fireflies and Wilson Classes.

Many thanks to all our families who came to share information about their children in school. Teachers have reported an excellent response from families attending and that it has been such a pleasure sharing information about their children's progress.

## Latest update from Mrs Maria Minett – Chair of our Local Governing Board

The Governing Board at Priory Rise school is made up of 10 volunteers from various backgrounds, including teachers and parents at the school and people from outside the immediate school community. We help to provide a wide and varied perspective to the senior leadership team.



We as a Governing Board aim to support and challenge senior leaders at the school and within the 5 Dimensions Trust. This is to ensure that the strategic aims and operations of the school are held to the highest standards and provide the best possible education and environment possible for the children and staff within school.

This term the Governing Board have held our first official meeting as a 'Local Governing Board' under the trust and worked extensively with the trust to incorporate the school into their systems. We have also welcomed two new parent governors to the Board, David Smith and Carl Ruocco and also recently welcomed a new co-opted governor, Barry Smith.

Members of the Governing Board also sit on the 5 Dimension Trust committees ensuring the Priory Rise will continue to have a voice going forward within the Trust. Governors have also taken part in a number of visits into school to focus on particular areas of school life such as SEND and the teaching of Mathematics.

## Premier Camp

Premier Education will again be holding a holiday club here at Priory Rise School during the Easter holidays from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. For further details or to make bookings, go to [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com).



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## Calling All Parents



Once again, we would like to ask any of our parents to support us in developing children's knowledge about the wide range of career opportunities that are available out in the working world. We are hoping to enlist the support of anyone in our school community who works in interesting or varied job roles and would be happy to come into school and talk to the children about your roles. This could be in the form of an assembly, or a talk to a year group. If anyone is able to support us with this, please let us know either by emailing the school office to share your interest.

## Recruitment

As we head towards the summer term, we enter a busy time for recruitment. Recruitment is very challenging for schools at the moment, your continuing support and sharing of our adverts is invaluable to us; word of mouth is always the best form of advertising. Our vacancies can be found on our website at <https://www.prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=19> or on the 5 Dimensions Trust recruitment page at <https://www.5dimensionstrust.com/page/?title=Job+Vacancies&pid=1014> or via the My New Term online platform. We will also post them on our Facebook Portal. Every bit of help in promoting and sharing adverts out to the wider community is really appreciated! Thank you.

## Dates for your Diary

Please see below a number of dates in your diaries after the half term holiday:

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Science Week in school
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief does St Patrick's Day – Wear **green** to school – with any additional crazy comic relief additions!
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March – after school - Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea – school hall
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March – after school - Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea – school hall
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Easter themed disco - KS1 – 4.15 – 5.15
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Easter themed disco – Years 5 and 6 – 5.30 – 7pm
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6 World War 2 Day
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Easter themed disco – Years 3 and 4 – 4.30 – 6pm
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Easter bonnet or egg decorating competition
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – School 'Sing Off' Competitions
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5 residential visit- Irthlingborough
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Bank Holiday
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – 5.30 onwards – Music Concert
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Year 4 residential Visit – Caldecotte
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May – King's Coronation additional Bank Holiday



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- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Year 3 Sleepover in school

## Safeguarding Snippet – Dangers of the online gaming platform Roblox



It has come to our attention that a number of children are using the online platform Roblox and a number of our staff have shared their concerns about use of this platform. With this in mind we share this information from the NSPCC website about this popular gaming platform.

### Is Roblox safe for my child? Information to help you decide if Roblox is suitable for your child



Roblox is a gaming platform where players can create and publish their own games. The platform can be a great educational tool to help teach children new skills like coding. However, there are also some risks.

Roblox allows players to build and publish their own games. This means that other users could build games that contain adult or inappropriate themes that your child might see.

Players can use the communication features of Roblox to talk to one other while they are playing. This means that there is a risk of cyberbullying or unwanted contact.

Roblox does have Community Standards that outline what behaviour is and isn't acceptable on the platform. They also have moderators who review and remove inappropriate content. They also have a range of parental controls and safety settings that can help keep your child safer on the platform.

Here are some tips that can help keep them safe on the platform.

#### ***Six tips to help keep your child safe on Roblox***

- **Sign up with the correct age**  
Make sure your child creates an account using the correct age. On Roblox, certain safety settings and parental controls are enabled by default for children under 13. However, you should still review the settings to ensure they've been set up correctly.
- **Build a list of age-appropriate games**  
Not all games on Roblox will be appropriate for your child. The platform has a setting that lets parents and carers limit what their child can play by allowing them to build lists of age-appropriate games. You can also switch off in-app spending or set them monthly limits.

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- **Explore communication settings**

You can manage who your child can speak to by disabling chat completely or limiting it to friends only. You can also switch off their inbox to stop them receiving direct messages.

## Sporting News

Here is the latest round up for sporting news from this half term so far:



The Years 3 and 4 football team have started their league campaigning in fine style by winning 5 matches and drawing 1 so far. The goals scored along the way were by Grayson, Jamillio, Freddie, Charlie and Miami. Fabulous!

A special mention must go to Ariel who has been significant in defence and Dexter who has been amazing in goal. Well done to all our Years 3 and 4

A team of year 5 and 6 girls competed in the MKSSP gymnastics competition. The standard of the event was extremely high, and the girls showcased some brilliant routines. Congratulations to our team which consisted of Emma B, Maisy B, Maya, Zara, Eliana, Shreya. Great work girls.



## Strike Action in School

May I take this opportunity to thank all our families for working with us in managing the various days of teacher strike action that have been taking place over the past month and that are planned for this coming Wednesday and Thursday. As I have explained in previous communications, teachers are not required to let us know whether they are striking in advance of the days of action – although many do choose to tell us in advance. In addition, where there is already planned cover for your child’s class, we are keen to support families in keeping classes open for that period – even if this means children are in school for a morning or an afternoon of a day. We consider that this may be helpful for families in some way.

Please know that as soon as we are informed if your child’s class is affected, we will inform you straight away. If you do not receive a letter from us explaining that your child’s class is closed, that means that your child’s class is unaffected by the strike action and that the children are welcomed into school as usual.

## And finally...

That’s about all the news and updates so far in this half term. Once again, thank you so much for your wonderful support and continued commitment to the school.

With warmest regards,

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