



# Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

## **Value of the Month: Positivity**

### **Dear Parents and Friends,**

This term has certainly begun with a busy mix of activities in school – two residential visits, two bank holidays, teacher strike days, a music concert and a King’s Coronation! Throughout all of that, continuing to prepare the children for their end of year assessments and providing our all-important quality first teaching. As I write this, I have just attended the most wonderful Music Concert (more about that later), with children across Key Stage 2 before going home to pack for an overnight stay at Caldecotte (note to self - must remember to go in the loft to retrieve my sleeping bag!) with the Year 4 children.

Whilst the summer term is always the busiest time of year for us in school, with so very much taking place across all year groups, I am always so very proud of the variety of activities that take place and the many enrichment opportunities that the children clearly enjoy and benefit from.

### **Friends of Priory Rise Update**

Our Friends of Priory Rise are excited to reveal that the Easter Discos were a huge success and your generosity meant we raised an unexpected £450!

It was such a pleasure to hold the discos for all the year groups and it was lovely to see so many happy, smiling faces.

We are now busy planning this year's 'P Fest' and the early planning stages are underway for the event to take place on Friday 23 June. Make sure you save the date!



If you'd like to volunteer on the day, please let us know as even just an hour of your time on the day will help us immensely. If you are able to help, please email [friendsofprioryrise@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofprioryrise@gmail.com)

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We have also installed our new noticeboard which is located on the exterior wall of the library at the front of school. We will keep the board updated with all things 'Friends' related so do keep an eye on it!

*Kerry Shepherd – Chair of the Friends of Priory Rise*

## Showcasing Music at Priory Rise



We love music at Priory Rise, and we love to inspire our children to take up learning instruments and sharing music in many forms. Members of Milton Keynes Music Hub visited school to share their very impressive talents and to perform a variety of pieces as part of their music roadshow. The musicians shared each of their musical journeys and how they came to play their particular instruments, sharing some excellent musical Disney classics to boot!

On Wednesday of last week, our children showcased their musical talents with their families who came to support them and share in the delights of their musical prowess. Many thanks to all the children who took part and were brave enough to perform, and to our fabulous Mrs Horwood and the wonderful peripatetic teachers who work with these children every week. This is always one of my very favourite events of the school year and this year was certainly no disappointment. Thank you and congratulations to all who took part.



## Year 6 SATs this week

We are extremely proud that our Year 6 children returned to school from the Easter holidays and approached their revision sessions in school with great focus, determination and resilience. All the children have demonstrated these Priory Rise values in the lead up to the tests and we could not be more proud of them. They have continued to work hard – both in school and at home - and we are

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sure that the children will do themselves proud as they take their SATs this week. We wish them every success as they approach these assessments with the greatest positivity and determination.

Thanks also to all of you at home for supporting your young people through this time. We look forward to the remainder of the term and all the exciting opportunities that are in the pipeline for our Year 6 young people, preparing for their transitions to secondary school.

## King's Coronation Celebrations in School

I do hope that all our families enjoyed the King's Coronation celebrations with loved ones across the Bank Holiday weekend. Of course, we could not let such a momentous occasion in history pass by without celebrating this in some special way at Priory Rise



As you all know, on Thursday last week we all dressed in red, white and blue - or in our 'best dressed for a coronation' and participated in a special King's Coronation Assembly, learning about the history and significance of a coronation – actually re-creating the coronation in our own special Priory Rise way - and singing the special 'Sing for the King' song that we had learnt especially for this occasion, alongside a special coronation quiz.

In the afternoon, children enjoyed coronation party games with their classmates and Mrs Atkinson and her team provided special coronation cakes for all the children across the school to enjoy. It was certainly a day to remember.

I do hope that everyone has enjoyed a wonderful special weekend, despite the typical British weather!



## Year Group Showcase Assemblies

We are delighted to report that later this term we will be sharing year group showcase assemblies with families to highlight the wonderful learning that has been taking place in school. Please see the dates for these presentations in the 'Dates for Your Diaries' section below.

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## Focus on our Values - Positivity

This month we are focusing on the value of 'positivity' – the practice of being or tendency to be positive or optimistic in attitude. Our display this month shows that our Foundation children have really thought about ways in which we can spread positivity and they have come up with great ideas such as:

- Smile
- Dance with your mummy
- Say thank you
- Behave well
- Do your best
- Sing.



Just wonderful! Thank you to our fabulous Foundation children for their "positivi-TEA" contributions!

## A reminder about Ruby's Fundraising Event



Most of our Priory Rise family are aware that Mrs Saffron Deeks, one of our highly valued members of staff, lost her beloved daughter, Ruby, last April in a road traffic accident and that it is now just over a year since this tragic event.

Mrs Deeks is taking part in an important fundraising event on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month. All monies raised are for Ronald McDonald House Charities, Oxford House and the information is detailed in the JustGiving link attached here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/Ruby-Deeks>

Any donations to this worthy charity will be gratefully received and will be used to support other families in crisis when their lives are turned upside down in the blink of an eye. Many thanks in advance of your support for this very worthy charity.

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## Year 5 Residential Visit to Irthlingborough

A couple of weeks ago, the children in Year 5 enjoyed an incredibly exciting few days at Irthlingborough Frontier Centre. As a year group, every child represented the school incredibly well and took part in a range of new and sometimes even scary activities! These activities included abseiling, canoeing, mountain biking and climbing on the high ropes 12 metres in the air!



This residential visit provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to mix across all three classes, and it was wonderful to see the start of new friendships and seeing the children have so much fun together. All the adults could not have been prouder of each and every child - for their bravery and efforts that enabled them to overcome their fears and achieve new goals. It was a fabulous few days away together.



## Year 4 Residential Visit to Caldecotte

Last week the Year 4 children made their visit to The Caldecotte Xperience, where they stayed overnight – either in the bunk rooms in the main building, or in the outside yurts. The children took part in a huge variety of activities, including raft-building, archery, paddleboarding, rounders – to name but a few. They enjoyed eating together, before taking part in a ‘Beetle Drive’ and a quiz before bedtime.



The great British weather was not as kind to us as in previous years, however the children conducted themselves in the absolute best manner, demonstrating the perfect balance between excitement and fun, displaying the best manners, helpfulness and courtesy. We were all so incredibly proud of the children – particularly considering that many children have never been away from home before. A wonderful time was had by all!

## Staffing News

Today, Miss Megan Fenables has returned from her maternity leave and is currently supporting teaching in Year 6. I am sure that everyone will join with me in welcoming her back into school.



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## School Shoes and PE Trainers

Once again, may I take this opportunity to remind everyone that we have high expectations for all our children in adhering to wearing our school uniform. Please can I remind families that the uniform policy clearly states that children should wear **black shoes** as part of their uniform and **black trainers** for PE days. Our policy for uniform stays the same as children move through the school. We welcome your support with this and avoids any uncomfortable conversations as we remind children and families about this as part of our dress code. Many thanks to everyone for supporting us in this.



## Safeguarding Snippet – Capture Video from the Financial Times

Please can I alert all our families to a recently published video by Financial Times Films, which gives an important insight to the impact of social media on our children and our family life. The video is well worth a watch, and it has been reported that families have been shocked by the information shared. As a result, some families have reconsidered how they talk to their children about their social media use. The video can be found on YouTube at the following link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UY2HOpuTlk>

## Sporting News



Our Years 5 and 6 girls football team won all 4 of their games in our opening league matches. On Thursday last week they also won 2 more matches with 4-1 and 5-1 wins! Amazing!

Mr Neal and Mr Smyth report that the girls have gelled very quickly and were very impressive in each match.

Huge congratulations to the squad of Sarah, Sophie, Anna, Brianna, Emma, Lily, Mae, Amber.

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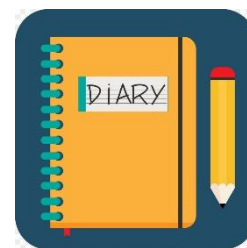
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## Dates for your Diary

Please see below a number of dates in your diaries for this term:

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs week
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May – National Numeracy Day
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Year 3 Sleepover in school
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Class Photos
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May – 9am – Foundation Stage Showcase Assembly
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 Robin Hood Day
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – School breaks up for half term
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Inset Day
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Children return to school after half term break
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Year 2 visit to Waddesdon
- Week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June – Year 1 phonics screening
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 residential visit to Derbyshire
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June – 5pm – Nursery Induction meeting for new parents
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 2.30pm – Year 5 Showcase Assembly
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 5pm – Foundation Stage Induction meeting for new parents
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – 3.30 onwards – P FEST
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June – am – Nursery Sports
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June – 2.20pm – Year 2 Showcase Assembly
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Shenley Brook End School and The Hazeley Academy Transition Days for Year 6 children
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July – 2.30pm – Year 4 Showcase Assembly
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July – am – Years 1 and 2 Sports
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July – pm – Years 5 and 6 Sports
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July – am – Foundation Stage Sports
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July – pm – Years 3 and 4 Sports
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Nursery and Foundation Stage reports sent out to parents
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Years 1, 2 and 3 reports sent out to parents
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Years 4, 5 and 6 reports sent out to parents
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July – 9am – Year 1 Showcase Assembly
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July – 4.30 – 6pm – Open Evening
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July – 2.30pm – Year 3 Showcase Assembly
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Class Swap morning for Years 1 – 6
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July – am - Awards Assemblies
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July – 9am – Year 6 Showcase and Leavers' Assembly
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July – 5.30 – 7.30pm – Year 6 Leavers' Pizza Party
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Last day of summer term



**Phew!**

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## **And finally...**

May I take this opportunity to thank all our families for working with us as we have moved over to using our new management information system – Arbor. This is a new system for everyone and we thank all our families in working with us in supporting the migration over to using this new platform so quickly. We are proud to report that we already have 99% who are engaged with this new system. Many thanks to everyone for engaging with this and for your patience and understanding as we have transferred over. This is such a brilliant response from all our families – as always!

Best regards as always,

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

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