



# Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

## **Value of the Month: Appreciation**

**Dear Parents/Friends,**

It is wonderful to see all our children settled into our school routines and eager to learn at the start of this new school year – including our newly inducted Foundation Stage and Nursery children alongside a number of new children across the rest of the school.

I would like to thank all our parents, carers and staff for their support in assisting our children in settling into the new school year. This partnership hugely enables our young people to feel safe and happy in their new classes, enabling them to thrive as the school year develops. Thank you all.

## **Open Evening – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October - and Parent Tours for Prospective Parents**



On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, we are holding an Open Evening in school for prospective new families who are exploring whether they would like their children to join our wonderful school community and for any families of new children who have joined the school in September. During the evening, I will be delivering two information presentations in the school hall for prospective families – at 5.15pm and 5.45pm - and there will be tours around the school, conducted by our Year 6 students.

In addition, over the coming weeks, myself, Mrs Dobson and Mrs Benham-Smith will be conducting parent tours for prospective families. These will take place on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October – 1.30pm

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- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October – 1.30pm
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – 9.30am
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – 1.30pm

Throughout the duration of these tours, we will be sharing our school vision, ethos and 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



We are extremely grateful to have such an active 'Friends of Priory Rise' committee, who have organised such a tremendous range of events and have raised much needed funds for our wonderful school across the years.

Our active band of supportive parents and families met together in the school staffroom for their annual AGM on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. We are delighted to report that the committee are well into their preparations for their first event on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, which will be our annual spectacular fireworks evening. Tickets for this event are always hotly sought after, so look out for these when they go on sale.

In addition, the team have mapped out a plan for several other family fundraising events for across the year. Be sure to look out for details of these and join in the fun.

## Lost Property

Already in school, our lost property cupboard is so very full! We work hard to ensure that all items are returned to children who may have misplaced their belongings. However, many items are not named and so it is difficult to find their rightful owners.

With this in mind, please help us to reunite children with any misplaced belongings by ensuring that **ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY**



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**LABELLED.** This really does help us keep down the mound of lost property that we are already seeing in school! Thank you all for your continued support with this.

## Harvest Assembly



On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, we will be celebrating harvest time, in our special harvest assembly in school. Children will learn about the meaning of harvest and why we celebrate harvest at this time of year.

Once again at this time, we are supporting the Milton Keynes Food Bank and we are asking families to send in donations, which will go directly to local families in need. We recognise that in this time of financial hardship for many, this valuable resource will be a welcome support for many in our community. We will be displaying all the donations in the school hall across the week, and at the end of the assembly, these items will be collected by the Milton Keynes Food Bank.

During these particularly tough times, the Food Bank provide food and provisions for many families who are in need of their services and have been particularly busy supporting families in our Milton Keynes community.

Particular items that would be welcomed by The Food Bank at this time are:

- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Fish
- Long Life Milk
- Juice or Squash
- Cooking Oil
- Spreads – Jams, Peanut Butter, or Chocolate Spread
- Tinned Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Fruit
- Dried Rice – 500g
- Tinned Veg
- Dried Pasta
- Tinned Soups
- Savoury Snacks/Cereal Bars
- Toiletries



Thank you to everyone in anticipation of your generous donations.

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## Celebrating Black History Month



**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

Every October, as part of our assemblies and PSHE work at the school, we have a particular focus on Black History Month. This is a time set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of black men and women both in the past and in the present day.

This year, we are having an enhanced focus on this subject during the course of this week, starting the week with a Black History Day, where each year group are studying a particularly prominent figure from the black community – either from the past or present.

This is a positive way to raise the profile of this very important subject and to support our school values of tolerance, equality, kindness, love and respect.

## Safeguarding Snippet – Designated Safeguarding Leads in School

All our staff at Priory Rise have received updated safeguarding training – keeping the culture of vigilance in safeguarding and child protection at the school extremely high and informing everyone of the new changes to ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023’.



At Priory Rise, keeping our children safe from harm is paramount to the work that we do with our children. We use an online system – CPOMS – to support us further in ensuring that our safeguarding systems are as efficient and robust as possible.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) at Priory Rise School are:

- Ms Ruth Seagar (Headteacher) - Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Cath Dobson (Deputy Head) - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Corinne Benham-Smith (Deputy Head) - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Kate Truan (Assistant Head) - Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Julia Strong (Head of Primary Central Services) - Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Emma Pocock (Learning Mentor) - Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Miss Lucy Ashby (Learning Mentor) – Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mr Mark Gibbs (Play Leader for Early Birds and Night Owls) - Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead

## School Uniform

It has been so great to see our children returning to school taking such pride in wearing their school uniform. Many thanks to our families for supporting our children in wearing our school

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uniform so smartly – including the PE uniform. We thank our parents in advance for support in maintaining high standards of school uniform across the school.

Maintaining high standards of uniform reflects the high standards that we have of all our children in all aspects of their work at the school. With that in mind, we do remind children about this if we see standards in our school uniform are not being upheld. We have noticed that a number of our children have taken to wearing their PE kit uniform on days when they are not involved in PE lessons. Please can families support us in keeping our high standards in uniform by encouraging children to wear their proper school uniform on the right days.

In addition, once again, may I remind everyone that our PE uniform consists of wearing black trainers on PE days. Many thanks.



### **Children's use of WhatsApp – Please check the content**



It has come to our attention that some of the children are using WhatsApp groups where there has been some unsuitable content or misuse of this platform by some participant of these groups.

Obviously, these groups are set up outside of school and, technically, are not part of the school remit to monitor. However, on occasions, we are made aware of some of the content of these groups - particularly when there are some unpleasant comments made or unsuitable content that has been added to these groups. In school, we wish to do as much as we can to support our children to demonstrate the appropriate conduct when using online platforms.

It has been reported to us that the majority of the content of the WhatsApp groups is perfectly appropriate, and supports the healthy, positive relationships that we see between the children in school. However, there have been instances of young people not making the best choices online or having access to see very unsuitable content via this platform.

Please can I ask all our parents to support our children who are using platforms such as this, by regularly checking the content of these groups, and to talk to children about their online conduct – and the consequences of them when they do not make the appropriate online choices or have access to unsuitable content.

We regularly revisit this topic in school, reminding children of the SMART rules and the importance of appropriate online behaviours.

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It is also useful to point out that from April 2018, **the minimum age for use of WhatsApp is 16 years old.**

## School Office Newsletter

Our wonderful school office team have put together a newsletter that is sent out together with this newsletter to share some handy snippets of information that will assist families in working together with the school as the year progresses. Please take a look.



## Dates for your diary for this half term

Please see below the dates in your diaries for this term:

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – 5pm onwards – Open Evening for prospective new families and an opportunity for all families to come and see the school.
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Assembly – with donations to Milton Keynes Food Bank
- 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October – Parent Consultations – remotely – for parents of children in Years 1 – 6
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Children break up for October half term.
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Inset Day
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Children are welcomed back into school.
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Friends of Priory Rise Fireworks Spectacular event

## And finally...

We have already hit the ground running with a busy start to the term. School is so settled and calm, with an atmosphere of a purposeful working buzz. Wonderful.

Many thanks to all our families in supporting such an excellent start to the school year.

Best regards as always to you all,

Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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