



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023

Our latest news on ...

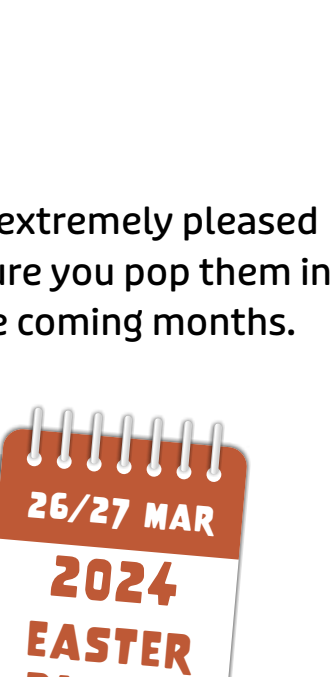
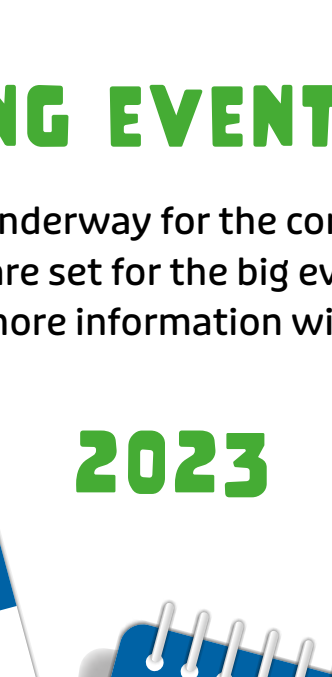
FIREWORKS

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS • DONATIONS
UPCOMING EVENTS • FUNDING
AND MUCH MORE**

COMMITTEE NEWS

A new school year is upon us! Welcome back to all our families and a very warm hello to all those new families who have joined us this year. We are Friends of Priory Rise (FoPR), a team of volunteers who fundraise for our wonderful school.

Following our AGM on Wednesday 20 September, the four main roles of the committee were voted on and we are pleased to announce that the following members remain in post for a second year:



We have also welcomed four extra volunteers to the core team as we needed extra support this year. So a huge thanks goes to Sarela, Raj, Emma and Deepshikha for stepping up to join us. You hopefully received the details of our AGM report but if you haven't and would like to know more, please contact us on friendsofprioryrise@gmail.com

THANK YOU SEAN!

We sadly said farewell to one of our longest standing volunteers and former committee member, Sean DeFraigne. Sean has been a member of FoPR for 8 years and his contributions have been key in shaping Friends. Thank you for everything and we wish you well Sean – and we hope you enjoy attending the events as just a parent!

UPCOMING EVENTS

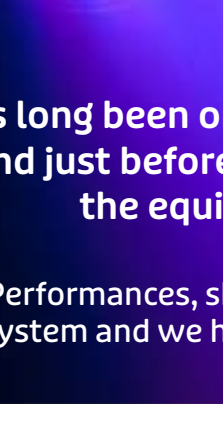
Plans are already underway for the coming year and we are extremely pleased to announce dates are set for the big events already! Make sure you pop them in your diaries and more information will be released over the coming months.



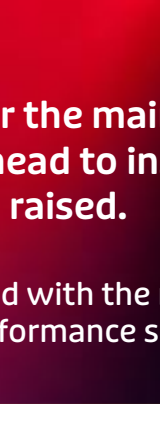
FIREWORKS

Our next event is fast approaching and tickets are now on sale for our fantastic fireworks spectacular! Tickets are £3.50 each with under 4s going free. We will have food and drinks inside on the bottom playground, an accessible area for

those less able or require seating, and you will be treated to (in our opinion of course!) the best fireworks display in town! Gates open from 5pm on Thursday 2 November with the display starting at approximately 6.15pm.



**TOUCH HERE
TO BUY**



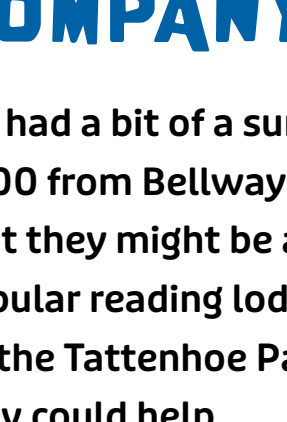
To be able to run Friends, we rely heavily on our army of fantastic volunteers who offer up time to assist us either side of an event and/or on the day itself. Without these incredible people, we would not be able to put on these events for our school community. We have sadly come very close to having to pull the plug on some occasions and we never want to get to that point and let our children down.

Volunteering can take many forms – whether you can spare an hour to help write a letter, set up for an event or your company supports you to volunteer for a day at an event, we need you! If you work for a company that does offer volunteering days (we know Santander do this) we are a registered charity and can provide

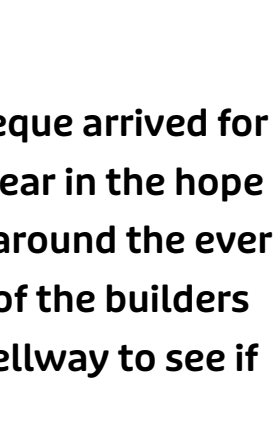
all details to you to explore this option. Our biggest events this year will be Fireworks and Easter Discos, with P-Fest being our largest event of all and the one we need the most volunteers for, for most of the day. If you can help, we would love to hear from you. Please email us on friendsofprioryrise@gmail.com

LATEST FOPR FUND ALLOCATIONS

HIGH-LIGHTS!



**£3,000
Donated**



It's long been on the school wish list for a lighting system for the main hall and just before the summer we were able to give the go-ahead to install the equipment by donating £3,000 of funds we have raised.

Performances, shows, demonstrations, assemblies will all be enhanced with the new system and we hope parents will see get to see them working at a performance soon!

FUNDRAISING NEWS

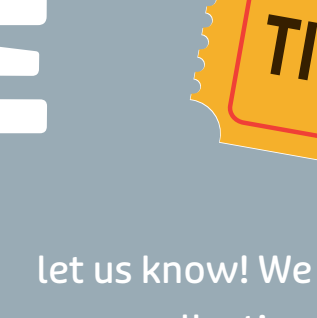
MATCHED FUNDING

Alongside volunteering, matched funding is another avenue we hope to explore this coming year. We have some big requests on the school wishlist and we would love to be able to support these but will need to secure matched funding from firms in and around MK to do this.

If you are an employee of a business that offers matched funding in return for your donation of volunteering time, please reach out to those you work with.

THANK YOU

A recent example of this is a donation of £500 that came in from HSBC in return for volunteering hours submitted to them by a parent who works for them.



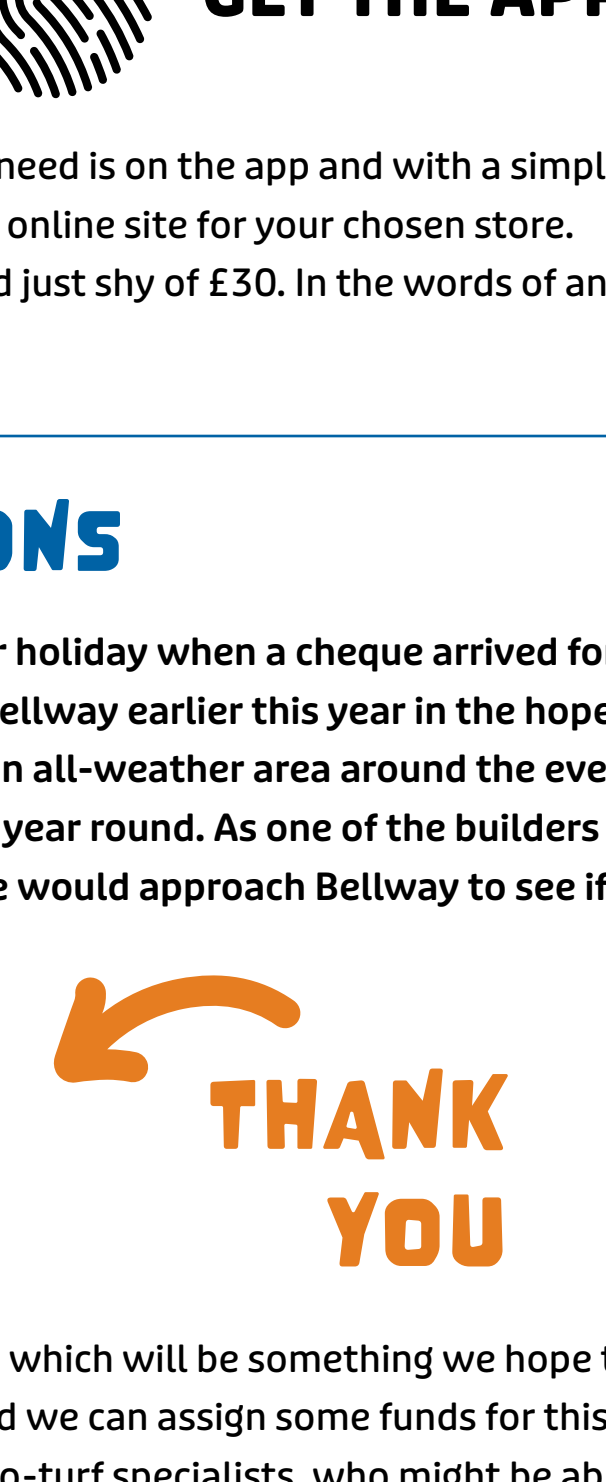
HSBC

It's these opportunities that we really need to tap into, so again, please ask at your place of work if this is something they support and let us know how we can support your application.

EASY FUNDRAISING APP

With Christmas just around the corner, you might be thinking of getting your gift shopping underway. How about if we told you that you could do your shopping online AND raise money for Priory Rise School at the same time?

Well it really is that easy! If you use online shops regularly, then download the app **easy fundraising** and once you've registered and inputted Priory Rise School as your chosen charity, you can start to raise funds for us. There are hundreds of retailers on there from online supermarkets, travel outlets, home & car insurance, beauty and sport.



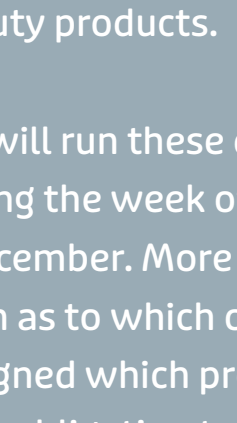
GET THE APP

So before you buy, check if the retailer you need is on the app and with a simple click you will be taken through to the usual online site for your chosen store. So far we have 9 users of the app and raised just shy of £30. In the words of an online supermarket, every little helps!

COMPANY DONATIONS

We had a bit of a surprise over the summer holiday when a cheque arrived for £500 from Bellway Homes. We wrote to Bellway earlier this year in the hope that they might be able to help us create an all-weather area around the ever popular reading lodge so it can be used all year round. As one of the builders on the Tattenhoe Park site, we thought we would approach Bellway to see if they could help.

Bellway



**THANK
YOU**

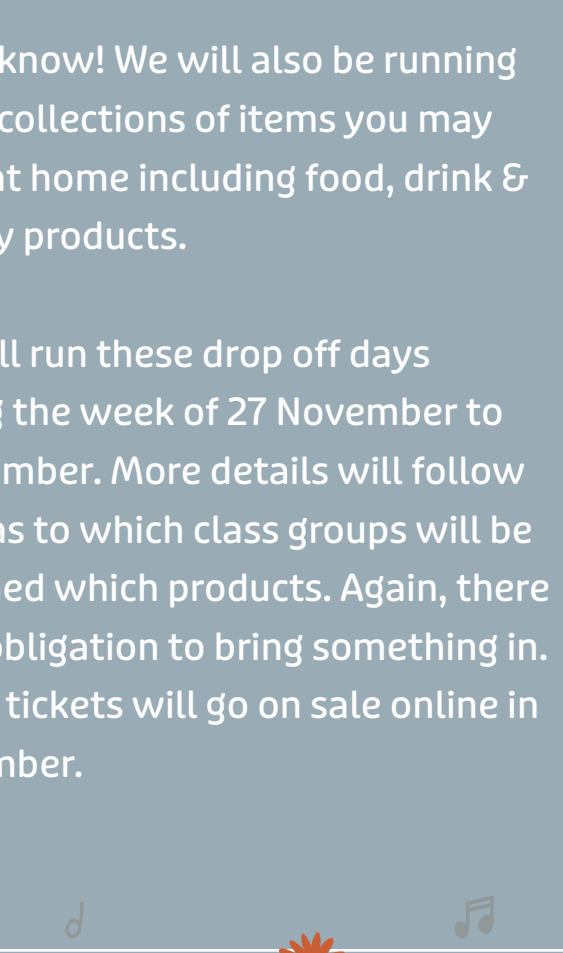
The £500 will be ringfenced for this project which will be something we hope to get costed up over the next few months and we can assign some funds for this. If you know any gardeners, specifically astro-turf specialists, who might be able to help with this project, please let us know!



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year we have reinstated the very popular Christmas card project with the children (aided by the fabulous teachers) already having submitted their individual designs. You will receive very soon the blueprint for your child's design and be able to purchase a range of items, including Christmas cards, imprinted with their design and their name.



It is a lovely gift to send to family and friends and Friends receives a proportion of all the sales. There is no obligation to purchase at all, but we know this project was so well supported in the past and we have been asked many times if it would be coming back, so we hope you enjoy seeing your child's creations! FoPR will also make our annual donation to school which is used by the teachers to buy Christmas presents for each class.

RAFFLE



Another Christmas fundraising tradition is our annual raffle. This is the year's biggest raffle event and we usually have some incredible prizes up for grabs. In the past we have had keyboards, huge, luxury beauty hampers, drinks hampers, beautiful stationery bundles and much more.

This year we hope to repeat previous successes and will be approaching local companies for their support. If you know of a company that would be willing to make a donation, please

let us know! We will also be running some collections of items you may have at home including food, drink & beauty products.

We will run these drop off days during the week of 27 November to 1 December. More details will follow soon as to which class groups will be assigned which products. Again, there is no obligation to bring something in. Raffle tickets will go on sale online in November.



CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Last year we hosted the first Christmas Carol concert for our KS2 families. Members of our wonderful school choirs led by Mrs Horwood, were joined by the fantastic Shenley Brook End School orchestra and the event was very well attended.

FoPR volunteers were on hand with hot chocolate and brownies, while Morrisons kindly donated mince pies. We realised very quickly that we could open the event up to the whole school so this year everyone is invited!

We are hosting the concert on the bottom playground on Friday 8 December – weather dependent – and it is free to attend. Definitely wrap up warm and come and join us to get into the festive spirit. Arrive from 3.30pm.

AND FINALLY...

A huge thank you again for all your support to FoPR over the past year and we hope you will continue to get behind us for this coming year. It is a jam-packed term and with so much going on, we are always grateful for all your contributions.

It is an absolute pleasure to be able to put on these 'fun'draising events for the children and we really hope this year will be no exception. We love seeing the children enjoying themselves and the biggest smiles on their faces. It makes what we do so worthwhile.

We will keep you all posted with details of the events and also how the funds raised will be spent in school.

Kerry Shephard – Chair of FoPR

www.facebook.com/friendsofprioryrise

friendsofprioryrise@gmail.com

THANK YOU FROM THE TEAM!

Charity number 1145969