



Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 20th October 2023

Value of the Month: Appreciation

Dear Parents/Friends,

We are already at the end of our first half-term for this academic year. It has been a half-term filled with a whole host of special activities, including school visits, special assemblies and events. We are delighted that the children have settled into their new classes so well and are enjoying working in their new year groups this term. Many congratulations to all the children.

Successful Open Evening and Parent Tours for Prospective Parents

On 9th October we were delighted to host our annual open evening for prospective parents. For this event, we were supported by a wonderful selection of our Year 6 children, who



acted as tour guides for visitors, conducting themselves brilliantly and showing off the school to new visitors.

Many thanks to our Year 6 tour guides, who were exemplary in their conduct and confident in talking about our wonderful school to our new visitors. Thank you all so much you wonderful Year 6 ambassadors.

In addition, we have also been conducting a number of parent tours for prospective families, the next of which

will take place on the following dates and times:

- Thursday 2nd November – 9.30 am and 1.30pm
- Wednesday 15th November – 1.30pm
- Tuesday 21st November – 9.30am
- Thursday 23rd November – 1.30pm

Throughout the duration of these tours, we share our school vision and ethos and we are 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.

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Firework Spectacular

Our fantastic fireworks spectacular is back! This event is always hugely popular and last year we sold out, so make sure you get your tickets quickly!

This year's fireworks fun takes place on **Thursday 2 November at 6.15pm** with gates opening from 5pm. All stalls can take cash or card. Tickets cost £3.50 each with under 4s free.

This is a **TICKET ONLY** event - we cannot accept walk-ins on the night - so please make sure you order your tickets online at

www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofprioryrise

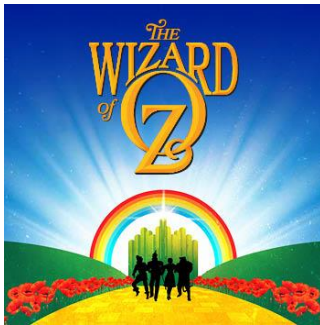
Bring your ticket, either on your phone or as a hard copy, with you on the night to show our volunteers on the gate.

All funds raised at this event goes towards supporting our wonderful school to buy essentials and equipment which in turn gives our children the best opportunities possible.

Let's make this a night to remember! **Friends of Priory Rise**



Music News from Mrs Horwood



We have had lots of exciting things going on in music this term. In Key Stage 2, we have been busy rehearsing for our production of The Wizard of Oz. The rehearsals are going really well, and the production is looking like it will be a huge success! The children are all looking forward to performing at Shenley Brook End Theatre and bringing this story to life in a great venue.

Key Stage 1 have settled into their music lessons really well and have made huge progress since the beginning of term. After half term, as well as curriculum work, we will begin working on Christmas songs, ready for all of our Christmas performances and festivities.

Key dates for music and productions this term:

- Key Stage 2 production - 20th November (Years 3, 5 and 6) and 21st November (Years 4, 5 and 6)
- Foundation Stage Christmas songs - 7th December
- Outdoor Christmas Carols - 8th December

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Successful Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to all of you who attended our Parents' Evening consultations over the last week, via MS Teams. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. It was wonderful to share with so many parents the success of your children since the start of this term.

Parents' Evening consultations for our Nursery and Reception children will take place later in the term, during the week commencing 20th November.

In February, next term, we will be hosting our parent consultations face to face, where parents will have the opportunity to come into school and see the children's work.

Governor News

Following our recent re-elections of roles on our governing board, Mrs Maria Minett has been re-elected to the role of Chair of Governors for the Local Governing Board. Mrs Minett has been a valuable member of the board for a number of years, and this will be her second year in the role as chair. I meet weekly with her to ensure that she is briefed on the life of the school and keep her updated with weekly news and outcomes. She fulfils her role brilliantly in providing an excellent balance of support and challenge. Her key responsibility is for overseeing safeguarding and safer recruitment. Mrs Kristy Coogan has been re-elected as Vice Chair of the board, where she continues to support the leadership team in driving the direction of the school. Her key responsibility is for overseeing mental health and wellbeing, and mathematics.



In addition, the other roles on the governing board are:

Mrs Jo de Fraine – who takes responsibility for overseeing Early Years

Mr Barry Smith – who takes responsibility for overseeing SEND at school

Mr Carl Ruocco – who takes responsibility for overseeing the curriculum work at the school

Mrs Zara Peskett – who takes a responsibility for overseeing English, teaching and learning and careers

Mr David Smith – who takes responsibility for overseeing the health and safety work at the school

Thank you so much to everyone on the governing board. Your commitment to these roles and supporting the continual drive for excellence at Priory Rise is truly wonderful and a vital role in providing challenge and support in equal measure. Thank you.

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Food Bank Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our wonderful array of donations to support the work of the Milton Keynes Food Bank as part of our Harvest celebrations.

Our assembly was a wonderful occasion, where we were able to sing, pause, reflect and be thankful for the incredible provisions that we all enjoy, particularly in these times of financial stretch for everyone. This event fitted well with our work across the school on our value of the month: appreciation.

Our Student Council supported in packing all the donated items and preparing them for collection from the volunteers at Milton Keynes Food Bank and actually taking these items, accompanied by Mrs Benham-Smith, to deliver these to the Milton Keynes Food Bank and for them to see the very important work of this organisation.



Black History Month



Every October, as part of our assemblies and PSHE work at the school, we have a particular focus on Black History.

As detailed in our last newsletter, we celebrated Black History Month in school, both in classes and as part of our assemblies and PSHE work, having a particular focus on celebrating the achievements of black men and women both in the past and in the present day. This work carried out across the school was a resounding success. Our assemblies brought together all the key messages that children had learnt about from different inspiring sources and leaders.

Enrichment Opportunities in School



Throughout the term the children across the school have participated in a wide range of enrichment opportunities, to support their learning both in class and in a wider context. I do hope that you have all signed up to our Facebook Parent Portal, where photos of these events are regularly posted. These are a number of events that have taken place across the term:

- 5th – 9th September – Bear Week for Years 1 – 6
- Tuesday 11th October – Ava Lovelace Day across the school
- Monday 16th October – Toy Workshop for Year 1

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- Wednesday 18th October – Bear Day for Nursery and Foundation Children
- Friday 20th October – Mexico Day for Year 6
- Friday 20th October – Roman Day for Year 3

These immersive enrichment days are a valuable opportunity to consolidate their learning in class, and for children to learn in a different way. Children benefit hugely from learning in this way and we have lots more opportunities planned like this for the coming year. Watch this space!



Safeguarding Snippet – Online Safety

Throughout Key Stage 2 this term we have been updating our knowledge of Online Safety. The way that this is delivered across the different year groups is varied, but our core message remains the same and revolves around The SMART Rules, which are:



S – Safe – Keep yourself safe on the internet by not giving out your personal information to people or places you don't know.

M – Meet – Meeting up with people you have only spoken to on-line can be dangerous, always tell a trusted adult and take them with you.

A – Accepting – Be careful accepting files from people or websites you don't know. They can contain viruses, malware, or nasty and upsetting content.

R – Reliable – Not all information online is reliable. Double check information found on websites by checking other sites, looking in books, etc.

T – Tell – Always tell a trusted adult if someone or something upsets you whilst you are online.



If parents would like to reinforce these messages at home, there are a number of useful websites that you can visit with your children which can be found on our dedicated Online Safety website page.

Nut Free School

Please can we remind everyone that we are a nut-free school. We have a number of children and adults in school who have nut allergies and in order to keep everyone safe we ask that we do not have nuts in school at all. This includes when families are sending sweets and chocolates into school for children's birthdays – please do not send in Celebrations or Quality Street



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chocolates, as these do have nut content. Many thanks in advance for your support in keeping us all safe.

Recommended Reads for Children



We are often asked by parents to recommend books for children at different ages across the school. This can be a difficult task, as it really does depend on the interests of the children. As a school we work with a children's booksellers, who have put together a list of 100 books for every year group across the school from Reception right up to Year 6. The link for these lists can be found here:

<https://peters.co.uk/100-books-for-every-year-group-primary>

Other recommended reading lists for children can be found at:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/key-stage-book-lists>

I fully recommend parents and children taking a look at these lists together and feel sure that you will find some books that will be of interest to your children. Please take a look.

Value of the Month – Appreciation



The value of this month has been appreciation and we certainly have had lots to be thankful for! Children have been thinking about aspects in their own lives as well as at school and in the local community that they appreciate and exploring this with their classes. In our

assemblies we have used stories and real examples of situations where we have been able to say thank you or demonstrate our appreciation of others. Children have enjoyed writing postcards of appreciation to each other or to family members to share their appreciation. Just wonderful!



Sporting Updates

Here are the latest sporting updates from Mr Smyth and Mr Neal:

The Years 5 and 6 Netball team won 3 matches, drew 1 and lost 1 in a recent netball tournament. The girls worked brilliantly together and showed a vast improvement as the tournament went on. Wonderful!

Well done to the squad of: Hope, Ellie, Amy, Vicky W, Julia, Nereah and Rachel

The Years 5 and 6 Boys Football team kicked off their league campaign with 3 winning matches out of 3. Amazing! They won 2-1, 6-0 and 8-3 along the way. Some fantastic football

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was played by the boys. Many congratulations to our squad of: Dexter, Ariel, Grayson, Ollie E, Evan, Finley G, Kailen and Mason.

Another set of Year 5 and 6 boys also represented the school in a series of friendly football matches against Caroline Haslett and Oxley Park. The team won 1 and lost 1.

Well done to: James B, Raess, Rishi S, Oliver S, Remy, Logan, Sanjith, Blake.



We also recently ran a Years 5 and 6 Intra school football tournament, where over 80 children attended. The children had a brilliant time, and it was great to see all the children working hard for their teams and having fun together! Fabulous!

Many thanks to Mr Neal and Mr Smyth for providing such excellent sporting opportunities for our children.

Dates for your diary for the next half term

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

- Monday 30th October – Inset Day
- Tuesday 31st October – Children are welcomed back into school
- Thursday 2nd November – Parent tours in school for prospective parents – 9.30 am and 1.30pm
- Thursday 2nd November – Friends of Priory Rise Fireworks Spectacular event
- Tuesday 7th November – individual and sibling photos across the school
- Friday 10th November – Divali celebrations in school – children to dress in traditional dress or bright colours
- Monday 13th November – Odd Socks Day – start of Anti-Bullying Week in school
- Wednesday 15th November – 1.30pm – Parent tour in school for prospective parents
- Friday 17th November – Children in Need Day
- Monday 20th November - Key Stage 2 production of 'The Wizard of Oz' (Years 3, 5 and 6) at Shenley Brook End School Theatre
- Tuesday 21st November – 9.30am - Parent tour in school for prospective parents
- Tuesday 21st November - Key Stage 2 production of 'The Wizard of Oz' (Years 4, 5 and 6) at Shenley Brook End School Theatre
- Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd November – Nursery and Reception parent consultations
- Thursday 23rd November – 1.30pm - Parent tour in school for prospective parents
- Friday 1st December – Nursery Christmas Songs – Small Hall – 9.15am and 2.30pm
- Wednesday 6th December - FS Christmas songs - 8.50am and 2.30pm – Large Hall
- Thursday 7th December - Year 1 Christmas performance - 2.15pm Large Hall
- Friday 8th December - Outdoor Christmas Carols – after school
- Thursday 14th December – Year 2 Christmas performance - 5.30pm
- Thursday 21st December – Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch and party afternoon

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- Friday 22nd December – Children break for the Christmas holiday

Phew! Another busy half term planned.

And finally...

Wishing everyone a truly wonderful half term together with your loved ones and we look forward to welcoming all our children back into school on the morning of **Tuesday 31st October.**

Best regards as always to you all,



Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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