



# Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Value of the Month: Peace**

**Dear Parents/Friends,**



The Christmas season has truly arrived at Priory Rise!

As I write this newsletter, I can hear the Year 2 children practising their Christmas performance of 'Born in a Barn' in the hall. What an absolute privilege it is to work with your children at this special time of year. Christmas trees are up and decorated; the school is well and truly into the festive season. Our Nursery and Foundation children have performed their Christmas songs to their families and on Friday we hosted our Carols by P-Light for our Key Stage 2 families after school.

On Thursday, our Year 1 children performed their wonderful Christmas 'Ralph the Reindeer' performance for parents to enjoy – and on Thursday this week our Year 2 children will be performing their 'Born in the Barn' nativity for parents and families – at 9am in the morning and after school at 5.30pm. In addition, in the final week of term, week we will be holding our special parties on Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch and carol assemblies.

There is so much festive fun to be had!

However, our value of the month in school is PEACE, and whilst we are enjoying the fun of the season, we have to take time to reflect on this value and how very fortunate we are not to live in a place where there is war and conflict - as is the case in many parts of our world.



Let us wish for everyone to be able to live in peace.

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## 'Wizard Of Oz' Success



Many congratulations to all the children across Key Stage 2 who took part in our performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. This year, our performance was particularly exciting as the children performed in the Shenley Brook End School theatre.

We are delighted to report to everyone that this addition to our provision proved to be extremely successful and that the children performed so brilliantly.



We enjoyed being able to welcome even more families to watch the performances and see the children shine so very brightly.



Congratulations and many thanks to all the adults in school who worked so hard and supported this production – particularly Mrs Horwood and Miss Kent – and, indeed, all the KS2 team, who worked so hard to put the production together with the children. In addition, many thanks to our wonderful families who supported the children in this venture. Another huge Priory Rise community success.

## Christmas Parties

On Thursday 21st December it is Christmas party day in school, where children are encouraged to come to school in their Christmas jumpers or festive outfits to take part in all the exciting events of the day.



Our catering team will be serving up a delicious Christmas lunch and there may even be a special surprise Christmas visitor! Ho! Ho! Ho!

It's a very exciting time of year for us all in the school community.

## Carols By P-Light



After school on Friday, we hosted our 'Carols by P-Light' event, in the school courtyard for our pupils and families of Key Stage 2. This involved the school choir singing and provided the opportunity for us to come together and spread some Christmas magic. We enjoyed mince pies, sweets and hot chocolate too!

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The Shenley Brook End School Jazz Band also came over to accompany some of the carols and to set the atmosphere for us. Many thanks to this incredibly talented bunch for coming over to support us at this festive event. Wonderful!

## **Eventbrite and Fire and Safety Regulations.**

For those of you who have been to one of our recent school performances, you will know that we are making use of Eventbrite for families to book tickets for events. One of the reasons for using this system is due to the increased fire and safety regulations that are in place in school. We are bound by a certain number of people that we can safely host in the school hall and fire regulations dictate that are unable to go beyond this.



Thank you to all our families in working with us to ensure that only the number of people who have booked tickets for our school events will be allocated a seat. Please ensure that you have booked your tickets in advance as you may be refused entry as we have to keep to these specific numbers. We have ensured that each performance takes place twice, so that we can accommodate everyone. Thank you all.

## **Friends of Priory Rise – WE NEED YOU!**



As you all are aware our Friends of Priory Rise do an incredible job in providing events for families and children to attend and in raising money to support the children in school with resources and equipment. Our wonderful annual P-Fest and our annual fireworks events are just two of the huge successful events that take place in school and over the years has raised significant funds to provide additional resources for children in school.

However, the Friends of Priory Rise team are finding it harder and harder to gain parent support to run events and this really does have an impact on what they are able to provide.

If you are able to support the Friends of Priory Rise in any way possible, please share this with the school office and we can pass this information onto the FoPR committee, who will welcome you onto the 'Friends' team. We are really keen to support new parents onto the committee or to encourage additional support at events that are run by the Friends.

Many thanks for your consideration of this.



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## Student Council News – Books for Charity



Our wonderful Student Council are leading an initiative in school to support a wonderful charity this winter called **The Henry Allen Trust**. This charity supports families with children who are living with cancer and is locally based in Bletchley. We are currently collecting books to donate to families who are in need and are supported by the Henry Allen Trust.

We are proud of the charitable work we do at Priory Rise and want our children to develop empathy and compassion, understanding that there are people who are living in crisis.

The children have been sorting out all the book donations so far that have been received from our school community and by the end of yesterday we had collected an amazing 182 books! We thank you all so much for your generosity.

All donations will go towards enriching the lives of children who are experiencing incredible challenges. Any further donations would be gratefully received.

Thank you all so very much!

## Lost Property



Our lost property cupboard has been overflowing with a huge array of items that we have not been able to be return to their owners. This is becoming a problem at the school as we are seeing increased number of items that are unnamed.

During this next week, lost property will be displayed in the courtyard. Please take this opportunity to take a look and sift out any items that you know belong to your children. Anything that is not claimed by the end of term will be disposed of, as we do not have the facilities to store all these items.

Once again, please can I urge parents to ensure that **ALL** your child's uniform items, coats, hats, gloves and water bottles etc are **NAMED** so that these can easily be returned to their owners. Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

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## School Uniform

May I politely remind everyone that we have a very clear school uniform policy that parents agree to adhere to with their children when choosing to send children to Priory Rise. Children should wear black **shoes** for school – and not trainers! Some of our older children like to change into their trainers for break and lunchtimes, which we are very happy to support, however, these must not be worn in school for the rest of the curriculum.



Many thanks in advance for everyone who works with the school to ensure consistency in this.

## Request for Parents to Support the Office Team



Please can we urge families to support children to come into school at the beginning of the school day fully prepared for their day in school. This includes:

- arriving on time for the school day
- arriving at school with all the equipment that is required for their school day – including lunches, water bottles, uniform items and coats etc.

Every time a parent arrives at the school office with something that has to be given to a child during the course of the school day, this interrupts the smooth operation of the school – and interrupts the learning of the children in class. One teacher reported that in one afternoon last week they had 5 interruptions from the school office for various items or messages to be delivered to children in the class.

In addition, we have also noticed a significant increase in families calling into the school office, after lunchtime to share with the office team a change to pick up arrangements for children. Again, this causes a disruption in children's learning and adds hugely to the work of the office team, who may have to seek out where that child is currently located in school to pass on this information as they may not be in their classroom at that part of the day.

Obviously, should there be an emergency, the office team are here to support, however, in everyday arrangements, such as a forgotten water bottle or a change of pick-up arrangements, we really welcome the support from our families to make these arrangements before the children come into school and without having to interrupt the vital work of the school office team.

Many thanks in advance of your understanding and support in this matter.

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## Parking and Driving Safely Around the School Site



I am pleased to report that it has been a while since I have had the need to mention this issue and it is one that I hope not to have to ever refer to – and is about driving and parking around the school site at drop-off and pick-up times. However, it has come to my attention that there have been a few instances of adults, either picking up or dropping off children at school, who have not been demonstrating the greatest of road safety or courtesy in their driving or parking around the school site at these times. Indeed, one report stated that a driver was seen to be deliberately driving towards another adult, whilst shouting and gesticulating.

In school we teach our children about values and appropriate conduct that we hope to see in everyone in our school community. Please can families support us in modelling our school values in and around the school site. Many thanks for your support.

## 5 Dimensions Trust - Reflections from 2023 and Hopes for 2024 – a message from Mr Nelson – CEO



Our Trust exists to “grow a vibrant community of exceptional people” and 2023 has provided us with lots of opportunities to make that vision a reality.

On a practical level, students have been able to access a broader range of opportunities from the national championship winning basketball academy to maths master classes and inspiring literacy work.

Staff have grown through joint training and reviews led by our Secondary and Primary Chief Education Officers, Chris Holmwood and Ruth Seagar in conjunction with Jez Bennett, Principal of our Leadership and Training Centre. The lessons that every child or young person experiences on a daily basis are better due to the way staff work together across our Trust, shaping and sharing best practice.

Working together helps us to provide the best quality back-office support for our schools in areas such as IT, HR, operations, and finance. Our central team led by our Chief Financial Officer, Jeanette Willson-Smyth and our Chief Operating Officer Julia Strong are at the heart of this.

Next year will see several key initiatives which will enrich the experiences of our children and young people. These include the further development of the 5D Baccalaureate, evolving literacy and our curriculum to the next level, while also adapting our SEND support to better meet the needs of our community.

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If you want to find out more about the Trust which supports your child's school, then please visit our website [5 Dimensions Trust - Home](#)

Or if you would like to see some of the ways that the trust has shaped our young people, then why not watch this video [5 Dimensions Trust - Our Schools](#)

Thank you for being part of our vibrant community.

Mr Nelson



## Dates for your diary for this half term

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

- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 1.30pm - Parent tour in school for prospective parents
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Year 2 Christmas performances – 9am and 5.30pm
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch and party afternoon
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – end of term assemblies in school and children break for the Christmas holiday
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – welcoming children back into school for the start of the Spring term.



## And Finally...

As always – thank you all so much for your wonderful support throughout the term and your ongoing commitment to the school.

Best regards as always to you all,



Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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