



Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 22nd December 2023

Value of the Month: Peace

Dear Parents/Friends,

After a flurry of Christmas events and celebrations, the end of term is finally here.

We have enjoyed an enormously successful Christmas season with the children involving a huge number of festive celebrations. Well done to all the children for their super participation and for their endless energy and enthusiasm!

As the term draws to a close, it has been particularly evident throughout the festivities in school, that whilst the world may seem full of troubles and darkness, our children are shining beacons of hope and joy for the future. Their boundless optimism and light are certainly a lesson to us all.



I would like to thank our school staff for their incredible dedication to providing the best for our children across the term. Our amazing team – be they teachers, support staff, premises, catering, lunchtime or office staff – have worked so hard to support the children and each other in ensuring the smooth running of our school. It is a privilege to work with such quality and highly committed members of our school community. Many thanks to everyone.

Christmas Parties and Lunch



Our children (and staff) looked fabulous in their Christmas jumpers and festive outfits yesterday and we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas 'sing-a-long' where Santa visited and gave out presents to all the classes across the school. In addition, children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas lunch and parties.

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Thank you to our wonderful catering team who 'pulled out all the stops' to ensure that we all enjoyed a truly delicious Christmas lunch – despite some significant staff absence in the school kitchen. Truly amazing!

Year 2 Nativity – 'Born in a Barn!'

Congratulations to our Year 2 children who took part in our hugely successful nativity performance of 'Born in a Barn' on Thursday last week. This was a truly magical production, showcasing a huge array of talents. Well done to our fabulous Year 2 children.



Once again, many thanks to our amazing staff team, who supported our children in enabling them to shine so brightly when sharing the Christmas story together.

Many thanks to all our families for coming into school to support our children in all of their Christmas performance in the lead up to the end of term – Nursery, Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2. Your support and encouragement to all that we do with your wonderful children at Priory Rise is invaluable. Thank you all.

Attendance



Well done to all the children who have achieved 100% attendance this term. We shall be awarding certificates to all these children in January. The expectation is for children to have a minimum of 95% attendance in school. Children with attendance lower than 90% are considered to be persistently absent. **Please remember that holidays of any kind will not be authorised, and holiday leave taken without authorisation, may result in a fixed penalty notice.**

There is a very real link between low attendance and poor attainment. If children are absent from school, they are missing crucial learning and gaps in learning appear. Please work with us in ensuring that children attend school as much as is possible, to ensure that they make optimum progress throughout the school year.

Update from our Chair of Governors



This term the Priory Rise Governors have met twice, with presentations on data and curriculum from the senior team. These have proved invaluable in our understanding and work with the school. I have continued to meet with Ms Seagar regularly to discuss the daily life of school and keep abreast of any successes and challenges as they arise.

I have also attended two Trust Board meetings and a Trust Effectiveness Committee meeting; Mrs de Fraine has attended the Trust FRAR meeting

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for this term. Within these meetings we help to ensure that Priory Rise is represented and supported on a Trust level.

On Friday 15th December, Mrs de Fraine and Mrs Coogan held a Governor Tea Party with some of the children in school, talking to them about what they love about school, things they would like to change and their aspirations for the future. This is always a popular event as the children enjoy a treat and talking to the governors about their school life.

The Governors would like to express our deep thanks to Mrs Julia Strong who is leaving Priory Rise at the end of term to take up a post within the Trust. Mrs Strong has provided invaluable support and insight to the Governing board in her role as School Business Manager and will be greatly missed.

The Governors of Priory Rise would like to wish all the children, staff and families within the school community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Maria Minett – December 2023

Carols Assemblies Today



Today we are holding two wonderful Christmas themed end of term assemblies – one for our Foundation children this morning and one for our children across Key Stages 1 and 2 this afternoon. These are particularly special assemblies, where we share and explore the values and of love and peace with the children as part

of the Christmas theme.

In both assemblies, we will be heartily singing Christmas songs together and sharing special Christmas wishes from the children.

Calling All Parents

To support our wish to broaden children's knowledge about the wide range of career opportunities that are available for when children come of an age for them to enter the working world, we would like your help.

We are hoping to enlist the support of anyone in our school community who works in an interesting job role who would be happy to come into school and talk to the children about this. This could be in the form of an assembly or a talk to a year group. If anyone is able to support us with this, please let us know either by emailing the school office to share your interest.



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Safeguarding Snippet - safety on the railways



Over 20 million students, parents, and teachers from across the UK have already watched these videos around keeping children safe around the railways, which has led to a significant decrease in the number of fatalities and injuries in their area. Please check out these videos and share the key safety messages with your children.

NEW Primary school version: Suitable for KS1 children: <https://learnliveuk.com/ks1-primary-school-safety-talk/>

NEW Primary school version: Suitable for KS2 children: <https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-primary-school-safety-talk>

Staffing News



As mentioned in a previous newsletter, today we say a very sad farewell to Mrs Julia Strong, who has worked at Priory Rise for the past 5 years in the roles of Business Manager and more recently as the Primary Central Services Lead for the 5 Dimensions Trust. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Strong for her truly incredible work at Priory Rise, supporting in so many ways and delivering such excellent professional service in every aspect of her work at Priory Rise. She is truly wonderful and will be very missed in her work here. We are delighted that she will still be working alongside us all in her new role as Chief Operating Officer for the 5D Trust. Good luck in your new role Julia – we know that you will be amazing in your new job.

In addition, Mrs Esther Hughes is relinquishing her role as part of the catering team. Many thanks for her hard work and service as part of this team. However, it is not 'goodbye' to her, as we will continue to benefit from her excellent work as part of our premises team. She will be replaced by Mrs Nidhi Singh, moving from her role as a lunchtime supervisor and will be moving back to work with the catering team in the school kitchen. In the New Year we are delighted to welcome Mrs Maria Soler into the lunchtime team. Wonderful!

And finally...

I would like to thank all our friends and families for your wonderful support to our lovely school. We truly believe that we have a fabulous school community: pupils, staff, parents, friends, and everyone who gets involved.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful and joyful festive holiday and we all look forward to welcoming all our children back on **Monday 8th January** and seeing you all again in 2024!



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Seagar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'R' and a long, sweeping 'S'.

Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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