



# Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Value of the Month: Self Confidence

**Dear Parents/Friends,**

Happy New Year to everyone in our school community!

I do hope that all our families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed special times together with loved ones. We have enjoyed a happy, calm and settled start to the term with the children this week – fabulous!

### Vision and Values

We are delighted to start 2024 with the important value of self-confidence. Throughout the whole of January, the children will be learning and reinforcing the importance of believing in themselves and developing the appropriate tools to operate confidently in any given situation. We will be exploring this value through assemblies, stories, and in our Personal, Social and Health sessions across the whole school.



### 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 by emailing the school office to share your interest.

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## 100% Attendance Success and Leave of Absence Requests



In assembly this morning, the children who had achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn Term were issued with their certificates. Well done to all these children on excellent attendance for last term. Look out for certificates coming home. Wonderful!

In addition, we have recently noticed an increase in requests for families to take children out of school to travel overseas, or to take holidays. May I remind everyone that we have a duty to ensure that children are in school for as much as possible, so that they can benefit from the excellent provision that is on offer in school during the school term. Every lesson counts! Children's learning builds on what has gone before and there is a direct correlation between children's attendance and their outcomes. It is so very important.

Please can I urge families to take their holidays in the 13 weeks when school is not open for the children.

To be clear, unless children are poorly or there are extremely extenuating circumstances, leave of absence will not be authorised for holidays and there may be a fixed penalty notice in place. In addition, to support in the decision-making process, we require families to provide documented evidence to support their requests for leave of absence.

## Egyptian Enrichment Day – Year 5



Year 5 have kickstarted their history topic for this term with an Ancient Egyptian enrichment day on Wednesday of this week. Throughout the day, the children rotated across the year group to take part in a range of different related

activities, including mummifying oranges, Pharaoh research and learning about the Ancient Egyptian writing system, hieroglyphics.

The children will use their knowledge of mummifying oranges to write a set of instructions, as well as their understanding of Pharaohs and hieroglyphics to enhance their narrative writing later in the term. We were also fortunate to have one of our pupils share their parents' marriage certificate, which was written on papyrus paper.



What an excellent way to ignite children's curiosity.

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## Eventbrite Success

Many thanks to all our families for working with us so positively in the use of Eventbrite for all of the children's performances that took place before Christmas. The use of this facility has ensured much more efficient use of time, resource and helped us in our quest to ensure that we are compliant to fire and safety regulations. Many thanks for your support.



In addition, please can we remind families that due to our adherence to the stringent fire and safety regulations, we ask families to leave baby buggies outside. We have a buggy park at the front of school – or, alternatively they can be left securely in the school courtyard. Many thanks once again for the support of our families in this matter.

## Keeping warm in January



As everyone knows, temperatures across the country have dipped in recent days and in the light of this it is advisable for children to ensure that they are wrapped up to keep warm at school – perhaps a base layer of thermals, a vest, or T-shirt to ensure that children are toasty warm, and a warm outdoor coat.

Please ensure that all children have their school uniform top layer of jumper, fleece or cardigan available in school at all times.

## 1 Minute Maths – helping children develop their math fluency skills

To support children with their maths confidence and fluency, White Rose Maths have produced a '1-Minute Maths' app that we are encouraging families to download for children to engage with. The app is free to download onto a phone, iPad or Kindle from Google Play or the Apple Store. The first version is aimed at EYFS and KS1 but covers many of the rapid recall skills required in Lower KS2.

7 top reasons for using 1-Minute Maths:

1. Excellent practice – and no distractions.
2. A clear, intuitive process that children pick up straight away.
3. No login or internet access needed. Just download and play.
4. Enjoyable and motivating... How many can they get correct in one minute?
5. Helpful hints match those used in class.
6. Brilliant for building number fluency and confidence.
7. The mobile app is completely FREE!



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## 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 events, P-Fest and fireworks are just two of the huge successful events that take place in school and have, over the years 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.



## Are you eligible for Free School Meals

### Why pay for something that you are entitled to?

If you are in receipt of one of the below benefits you should be eligible for free school meals for your child/children.

- Income Support
- Employment & Support Allowance – Income related
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (**not Contribution Based JSA**)
- Child Tax Credit only (with a combined family income of less than £16,190 per annum as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs) **Please note, anyone receiving Working Tax Credit, regardless of income, will not qualify for free school meals.**
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you receive)
- National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- Guaranteed Element of Pension Tax Credit

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the particular phase of schooling (primary or secondary) that they are currently in.

If you think you are eligible for Free School Meals for your child/children, please apply, It's quick and easy using the online form. **Please click [here](#) to complete.**

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## Spring holiday activity and food programme



The Milton Keynes spring activity and food programme, aimed at children in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals (FSM), will run for 4 days over 1 week (8 - 11 April 2024). This programme offers a diverse range of events to meet the local interests and needs of children, young people, and their families. Please visit the following webpage for more information:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2024>

## Term Dates for the Academic Year 2024-25

	Open on the morning of:	Close at the end of the afternoon session on:
<b>Autumn Term 2024</b>	Thursday 5th September	Friday 25th October
	Tuesday 5th November	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring Term 2025</b>	Tuesday 7th January	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Summer Term 2025</b>	Tuesday 22nd April	Friday 23rd May
	Tuesday 3rd June	Wednesday 23rd July

School will also be closed on Monday 5th May 2025 – for May Bank Holiday.

**INSET days will be:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4th September 2024, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.

## Head Lice

It has come to our attention that we have had a number of extra uninvited visitors at Priory Rise across the school in the form of head lice. Whilst we do alert families of the classes and year groups where this problem has come to light, we welcome the support of parents in conducting regular head checks at home – and to re-check a few days later.



The advice from the school nurse is to use the 'bug-busting' method to eradicate this problem:

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- Wash the hair with ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner.
- Use an ordinary, wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.
- Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, move to using the 'nit comb' to comb the whole head of hair from the roots to the ends
- Repeat every few days for 2 weeks

It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb shorthair and 20 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair.

Remember to apply this method to the whole family to ensure complete eradication!

If you would like more information about detection and 'bug busting' head lice, please go to:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Happy bug busting!

### **Safeguarding Snippet – cycling in and around the school site**

Please can all parents and carers remind children that cycling on the school premises and on footpaths around the school site is not permitted. Whilst we do encourage children (and adults) to cycle to school as part of our keeping healthy agenda, we have been informed that a number of our children have been cycling on the school playground and on the pavements around the school at 'pick up' and 'drop off' times, causing danger to other children and families. We will be talking to our children and reminding them to walk with their bikes until they are away from the busy school site. We would welcome your support in encouraging our children to cycle safely in this way. Many thanks.



### **Dates for your Diary**

Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> January – Beetles Class 'Come Dine With Us'

Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Honeybees Class 'Come Dine With Us'

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Year 3 go to Great Linford – Geology Rocks Workshops

Week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> January – Fireflies Class 'Come Dine With Us'

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Number Day in school

Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> February – Children's Mental Health Week in school

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February - 'Wear Something Yellow' – to recognise the start of Children's Mental Health Week



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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February- Chinese New Year in School – wear something red – or traditional Chinese dress

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Dress Down Day – in aid of Friends of Priory Rise

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – children break for the half term break

**And finally...**

Many thanks to our wonderful school community for your continued support.

Here's to making this 2024 our best ever at Priory Rise yet!

Best regards as always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Seagar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'S' at the end.

Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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