



Priory Rise School

Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



5 DIMENSIONS
TRUST

Friday 2nd February 2024

Value of the Month: Loyalty

Dear Parents/Friends,

Great News – Local Authority Annual Evaluation Outcome



Once again, we are delighted to share the news that in December, we were visited by a School Improvement Partner from the Local Authority who carried out our Annual School Evaluation. This involved scrutiny of our curriculum, systems, structures and safeguarding procedures and meetings with teachers and children across the school and, for this year, a particular focus was on the subjects of PE and Music.

I am delighted to report to everyone, that as a result of this monitoring visit, the Local Authority have deemed Priory Rise School to be a 'Green Plus' school (the categories are Red, Amber, Green and Green-Plus) and that this has now been officially verified at a recent moderation meeting with all the School Improvement Partners across the city.

We are delighted that this evaluation process has once again recognized the strength in the provision of our wonderful school. Huge congratulations to everyone.

Reading, Reading, Reading

Did you know that a recent survey of 71,400 children and young people by the National Literacy Trust early in 2023 has revealed that fewer than one in three children (28%) aged eight to 18 read daily for enjoyment. When this survey was conducted in 2005, the figure stood at 38%, marking a 26% fall in those who read daily.

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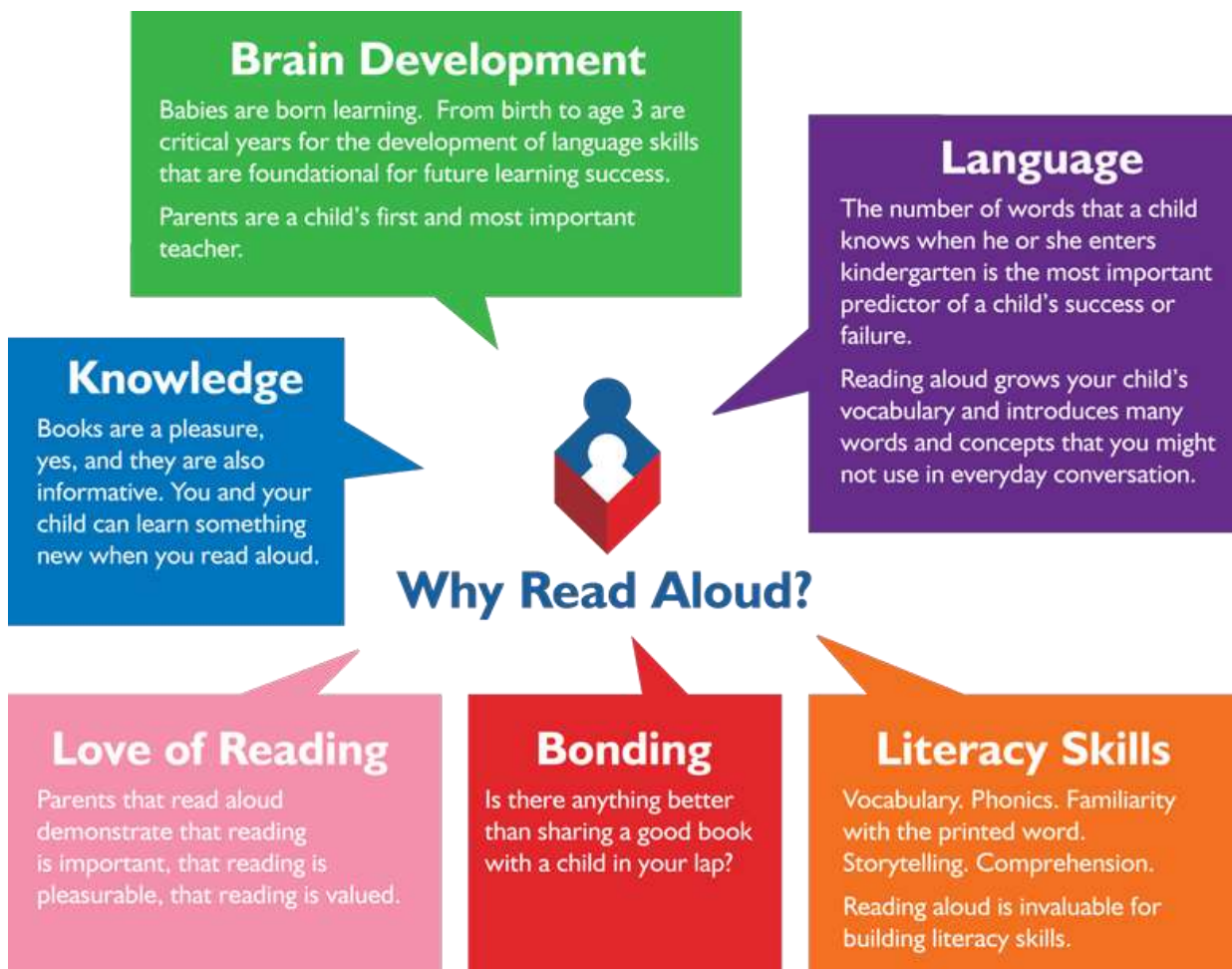
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Reading from an early age and securing phonics

- Reading from an early age is important as research shows that if children are not secure and fluent readers by Year 2, it is very difficult to then develop a love of reading going forward.
- In order to get children fluent in reading, their phonic knowledge must be embedded within EYFS and KS1.
- Read to children from day zero!



Three ways you can help build fluency at home...

1. **Read and follow** – the adult reads the text and the child follows along with their finger. This helps the child with word recognition and models to them how they should read with fluency.
2. **My turn, your turn** – take turns reading a page or a paragraph. Here you are modelling how to read with fluency, flow and expression.

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- Echo Reading** – as you read, the child copies. It is important here to pace yourself and read at a rate that your child can keep up with.

Please can ***we encourage everyone to read with your children at home*** as the impact of this is huge. The information here shares the impact of reading for different lengths of time every day with your children:

Amount of reading	20 mins	5 mins	1 min
Number of minutes per year	3600	900	180
Number of words per year	1.8 Million	282,000	8000
Hours read by the end of primary school	851	212	42
Performance on tests	90%	50%	10%

Year 6 SATs meeting

We were delighted to see so many parents attending our Year 6 SATs meeting last week in school. In this meeting we were able to share our plans and strategies for preparing our young people for these tests. If any parents were unable to attend these meetings, please visit the Year 6 page on the school website, to find the presentations for your perusal in your own time.

Children’s Mental Health Week – next week

On Monday next week, 5th February, we will be to raising awareness of Children’s Mental Health Week by wearing something yellow. Children will continue to wear the normal school uniform but will have a little extra yellow something, for example a hairband, a ribbon, a badge, a bracelet, socks, underwear, a shoelace etc.



During the day, classes will be talking about the importance of positive mental health and how to support this.

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Lost Property – please name ALL items!



We have noticed that there has been a huge amount of lost property accumulated in school. We have been putting trolleys with this huge mountain of lost property displayed at the front of school every morning and after school. If you notice items that belong to your children, please take them. We want all the items to be returned to their owners. After a period of time we will send this clothing to the charity shop as we do not have the capacity to store these growing piles of lost property in school.

Some of our Year 6 ambassadors regularly go through the lost property items and return named items to their owners. It really does help to find owners of lost items if these have been named. Please can I urge all parents/carers to name **ALL** clothing items – and items such as water bottles and lunchboxes in an attempt to help us with this problem. Thank you.

Come Dine With Us!



We have been delighted to see so many of our parents and carers enjoying a delicious lunch in school with our Reception Year children across the half term. Thank you so much for your support – the children have thoroughly enjoyed having parents come to share lunch with them. Thank you to all our Foundation parents who have attended these sessions, which have been so very well received.

Appointments in school time

We have noticed an increase in the number of parents arriving in the school office to take children out of school for appointments that we have not been made aware of. In this term alone, so far, we have had 136 children leaving school during the school day for an appointment! Wow!

If children do have pre-arranged appointments, please can you email the school office to inform us of the appointment and share your documentation of the appointment when coming to collect the children. In addition, we welcome the support of families to do all that is possible to ensure that appointments, where possible, are made outside of the school day. Many thanks to everyone for your support with this.

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



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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. Once again, may I encourage everyone, 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 support and consideration.

Mother's Day Breakfast

In response to a number of comments shared by families, regarding the timing of the Mother's Day afternoon tea events that we have shared in school, as opposed to the Father's Day breakfast, this year our catering team will be trialling Mother's Day breakfasts for children to spend time with the special ladies in their lives. Look out for details about this in the next half term.



Term Dates for the Academic Year 2024-25

	Open on the morning of:	Close at the end of the afternoon session on:
Autumn Term 2024	Thursday 5 th September	Friday 25 th October
	Tuesday 5 th November	Friday 20 th December
Spring Term 2025	Monday 6 th January	Friday 14 th February
	Monday 24 th February	Friday 4 th April
Summer Term 2025	Tuesday 22 nd April	Friday 23 rd May
	Tuesday 3 rd June	Tuesday 22 nd July

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

INSET days will be Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th September 2024, Monday 4th November 2024 and Monday 2nd June 2025.

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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>

Safeguarding Snippet

This morning in assembly, we talked to the children about the PANTS rules, and how these can keep children safe. We used a video from the NSPCC:



What are the PANTS rules?

A banner with the word 'PANTS' written in large, colorful letters. Each letter is inside a different colored shape: P (orange), A (pink), N (blue), T (yellow), I (orange), S (green).

- Privates are private +
- Always remember your body belongs to you +
- No means no +
- Talk about secrets that upset you +
- Speak up, someone can help +

More information about the PANTS rules can be found at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

Take a look!

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Sporting Updates



The Year 3 and 4 badminton team have recently competed in a series of mini events showing off their fantastic skills. The team showed great team work on a very successful evening.

Squad: Ishaan U, Ishaan V, Leo O, Fatih, Alyssa, Meera, Srimayi, Vaishnavi.

A team of Year 6 children competed in a doubles badminton tournament with the boys' team bringing home bronze medals. Both teams competed really well on the night and their combined points ranked them in 5th place overall.

Squad: Tharun, Harigopal, Arush, Shannon, Tiya, Hope.

Many congratulations to all our badminton enthusiasts.

Priory Rise competed in the EFL Schools Football Cup, where the Grand Final is set to be played at Wembley.

After a long day in the wind, the boys finished 4th in their group which wasn't quite enough to make the next round. Attention now turns to our final round of league games in which we are currently the leaders.



Many congratulations to our football squad: Dexter, Finley, Ariel, Grayson, Kailen, Ollie E, Jamillio, Evan.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 2nd February – Number Day in school.

Week beginning 5th February – Children's Mental Health Week in school.

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

Friday 9th February - Chinese New Year in School – wear something red – or traditional Chinese dress.

Friday 16th February – Dress Down Day – in aid of the Friends of Priory Rise.

Friday 16th February – children finish for the half term break.

Monday 26th February – children return to school to commence the next half term – Spring 2



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And finally...

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

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 'R' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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