



Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 16 February 2024

Value of the Month: Loyalty

Dear Parents/Friends,

Wow! It has been such a busy and purposeful half term in school – and seems to have flown by! It has been such a pleasure to see our children thriving and making such good progress in school.

5 Dimensions Trust – Partnership with Walton High: Update for Parents and Students

You may be aware from our Trust news letters that 5D has been working alongside MKET since August, supporting its schools with executive leadership and central services. The partnership has also been hugely beneficial to 5D with our staff growing through the experience of working with and helping others.

I am pleased to inform you that the MKET board of Trustees have made a decision to **further explore Walton High joining the 5 Dimensions Trust**. I must, however, emphasise that this proposal is subject to due diligence. It is also subject to the Regional Director's final decision to progress the transfers in-principle to the preferred trusts.

Of course, you will be updated as the proposals progress over the next few months, and if you have any questions in the interim then please email LMercer@mket.org.uk

As always, we will remain true to our vision and values, aiming to “grow a vibrant community of exceptional people”, encouraging our schools, staff, and students to be distinctive individuals within a cohesive community.

Best regards
Mr Nelson



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Headteacher: Ruth Seagar

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Parents' Evening Success

This week we have enjoyed hosting and welcoming families back into school for the first of our face-to-face Parent Consultation Evenings that are taking place this term. It is important to us to share with parents and carers the many successes, achievements, and progress that the children have made since the last parent meeting in October – which took place remotely. Many families commented to us that they were delighted to be able to speak to the teachers in person and actually see the children's work, as well as the children's classes.



In these meetings with parents, it is also important to share the next steps for the children to be working towards. We welcome working in partnership with our parents and carers to support children in achieving these important targets. In these meetings, teachers will have been referring to terminology around our new assessment system. Please see the attached letter from Mrs Benham-Smith and Mrs Dobson which informs everyone about the assessments that we are using in school and the language that we use for these assessments.

Later in the term, on Monday 4th March and Thursday 7th March, Nursery, Beetles, Honeybees, Fireflies and Fletcher Classes will be hosting parent consultations for the children in their classes. We look forward to welcoming the families of these children then.

Music Mark Success



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL

We are delighted to inform everyone that Priory Rise has recently been awarded the Music Mark accreditation for the significant music work that takes place across the whole school.

Huge congratulations to Mrs Tanya Horwood who has led and driven this wonderful initiative – and worked with the Music Hub to complete all the relevant tasks. We are delighted with this wonderful outcome and are certainly proud to be a Music Mark school.

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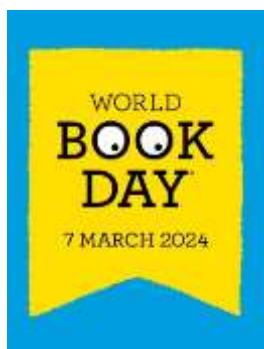
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World Book Day 2024



World Book Day is almost upon us! It is always a special time in school where we celebrate books, authors and reading.

WE LOVE READING!

This year for World Book Day – Thursday 7th March - we are having a day where children can choose to come to school as a book title, a book character, a word – or not! We recognise that dressing up as anything ‘booky’ may not be fun for some children, and that dressing up is great fun for others. So this year everyone has the choice – and if children don’t choose to dress up as anything booky – then that may wear their school uniform. Make your choice!

Staff will be dressing up as book characters and teams have worked together to plan exciting activities for the whole day around books – along with our traditional World Book Day assembly.

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. 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.

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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 - Keeping Safe around the School Site



Please can we ask all our families to be mindful when dropping your children off and collecting them in the vicinity of our lovely school. To support us all keeping everyone safe, we ask our families to:

 Park in designated areas and avoid blocking driveways, double parking, or impeding traffic flow around school.

 Plan your journey and arrive on time for drop-off and collection.

 Avoid rushing or unsafe driving. We understand mornings can be hectic, but patience is key when keeping everyone safe.

Everyone is trying to get somewhere, at the same time, on time. We can help contribute to calmer journeys with some consideration and care.

Thank you to all our wonderful families for your support and co-operation!



Reminders to Parents from the Business Support Team

Many thanks to many of our parents in the Priory Rise School Community for keeping us informed and up to date. We really welcome your support with this.

In addition, here are some gentle reminders of some of the important housekeeping aspects of school life:

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- Please collect your child/ren from the designated gates on time. We seem to be having an increasing number of children in the school reception at the end of the school day. For the safeguarding of these children, if children are regularly late, we will send them to our Night Owls after school provision, at a cost of £8.75 per session.
- Unless an emergency - You **MUST** call the school office **before** lunch for a change to children's pick-up arrangements.
- Please accompany your child/ren to reception when they are late to school in the morning to sign them into the building, children are too young to sign themselves in.
- Please try to make GP/dental appointments outside of school time where possible.
- Please provide at least 2 weeks' notice when submitting a leave of absence in term time request, and bear in mind leave this will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and with physical evidence attached.
- If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea they must stay at home for 48 hours.
- It is important to book lunches on Arbor and ensure the account is regularly topped up.
- If using any of our extended services, please keep the Arbor account in a positive balance to avoid us contacting you to chase.



Thank you so much to all our families for supporting us in following these guidelines. This really supports the smooth and efficient running of the school.

Staffing News – babies on the way



We are delighted to inform everyone that Mrs Hannah Jank, one of our teachers in Paver Class in Year 6, is expecting baby number three! Mrs Jank is feeling very well and baby is due later this year – towards the middle of the summer term.

In addition, we are thrilled to inform everyone that Mrs Shannon Willison, Year 6 Year Leader and teacher of Rundell Class in Year 6, is expecting her first baby, who is due to arrive sometime in the summer holidays! What wonderful news for these teachers in school!

I am sure that you will join with us and wish both Mrs Jank and Mrs Willison all the very best as they prepare for the arrival of their new bundles of joy.

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Sporting Updates from Mr Neal and Mr Smyth

The Years 5/6 boys' football team finished their league campaign with a couple of defeats, meaning we finished in 4th place overall. A positive season for the boys in which they played some fantastic football.



Many congratulations to the squad of Dexter, Grayson, Ariel, Finley G, Ollie E, Kailen, Mason, Jamillio, and Evan.

The Years 3/4 boys' football team kicked off their league campaign with 3 very narrow defeats. The team played superbly and showed great character in every game.

Squad: Harry B, Ethan C, Fletcher, Jenson, Maison, Robert, Anvith, and Matthew.

The Year 5/6 dodgeball team competed in a series of matches with our very own James winning the player of the tournament. Wonderful! Many congratulations to the whole team: James J, Liam, Lucas, Dylan, Aarrish, Niamh Q, Chana, Emilie, Rhea, and Lili-Mae.

And most recently, yesterday, our 5/6 swimming team came home with bronze medals from the MKSSP swimming competition. All 8 swimmers competed in 3 races as well as a relay race.

Huge congratulations to the squad: Vera, Taisa, Laura, Georgia, Jimmy, Jai, Liam, and Jacob.

And finally...

Wishing everyone the absolute best as we arrive at the half term break. Hoping that you all have a wonderful time together with your special people. We look forward to welcoming our children back into school on Monday 26th February.

Best regards as always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Seagar". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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