



Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 21st June 2024

Value of the Month: Hope

Dear Parents/Friends,

We are now hurtling headlong towards the end of term – only 4 weeks to go and so much to fit in. As usual, we have the usual round-up of news and updates for everyone!

What an amazing team!

For a recent unforeseen circumstance, I was not able to be in school for a couple of weeks. In my absence, the senior leadership team stepped in to take on additional responsibilities to ensure that the school was running smoothly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank this amazing team for their exceptional devotion and diligence in their work at Priory Rise, living and breathing the vision and values of our wonderful school.



I feel exceptionally privileged to work alongside a whole staff team who are so committed to delivering the best possible primary practice and are constantly supportive and caring for both children and staff, at every level.

Particular and heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Benham-Smith and Mrs Dobson at this time, who particularly picked up additional responsibilities. How very blessed we are to have such exceptional leaders in place to drive and lead the work of the school, such that the children receive the absolute best.

Many, many thanks to everyone for the extra work that was carried out in my absence. I am so extremely grateful.

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Staffing News



As reported at the end of last term, we have welcomed Mr Jack Elkington as a new sports coach at Priory Rise, who is working closely together with our wonderful Mr Smyth to deliver quality PE and sports across the school. We are delighted to report that Mr Elkington is fully embracing this new role and it has been delightful to welcome him into our happy team.

We are also delighted to share more baby news – that 2 of our Year 6 teachers - our recently married Mrs Leigh Reynolds (formally Miss Leigh Kent), and Mrs Alice Goode are both expecting new babies into their families. Both teachers are preparing to welcome their babies into the world later in the Autumn term – both babies are actually planned to be born with 10 days apart! We wish both of these wonderful teachers the absolute best at this special time.

And with all this talk of babies, we are pleased to report that Mrs Hannah Jank, one of the teachers in Paver Class in Year 6, has now begun her maternity leave, in anticipation of the birth of her new baby. We wish her the very best for when the baby arrives. How exciting! The wonderful Mrs Tanya Paterson has now returned from her maternity leave and is taking on the role of part-time class teacher for Paver Class for the rest of this term.

In addition, from the start of this half term, we have welcomed Mrs Emily Savage into the Higher Level Teaching Assistant team in school and has moved from her position as Teaching Assistant in the Foundation Stage to working as a HLTA across both Years 1 and 2. She has been a wonderful welcome addition to this team and has already made an excellent start to the work in this part of the school.

Value of the Month – Hope

This month we are exploring the value of ‘hope’ with the children in school. So far, we have been looking at stories where hope is a key element, including the true story of Captain Sir Tom Moore, who raised so much money for the NHS during the period of Covid. This week is Refugee Week, and on Monday we learnt about some of the challenges of being a refugee and what ‘small acts’ we could do to support anyone who may be a refugee, sharing the story ‘Wisp – a story of hope’, that tells the story of a refugee who is hoping to find a safe haven.



This morning in assembly, we explored the story of the Windrush generation (as it is Windrush Day tomorrow) with the children, raising awareness of this particular important event that we can all continually learn from together.

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No Nuts



May I take this opportunity to remind all our families that we are a NO NUTS school. We have a number of children and staff in school who suffer from nut allergies and are severely affected if they come into contact with nuts.

We ask all our families to support this and keeping all our children safe by ensuring that children do not bring nuts (in any form) into school. We have recently noticed that some children are having chocolate spread on their sandwiches at lunchtime, which contains nuts. Please do not send in sandwiches that contain chocolate spread for children at lunchtime – or any other related products that may contain nuts. This is so very important. Please can we all work together to ensure that our children are safe in this way.

Fundraising for Ronald McDonald House

You may remember that Mrs Deeks embarked on fundraising for Ronald McDonald House, last year, to support this worthy charity that is so very close to her heart.

This year, she and Mrs Benham Smith will be taking part in a tandem skydive on Sunday 14th July 2024 to continue to fundraise for this wonderful cause.



Ronald McDonald House Charities UK provides free 'home away from home' accommodation to families with children having treatment in hospital.

The Houses offer much more than just a place to stay; they provide family activities, peer support, respite, and many other services. This means that families can be by their child's bedside in a matter of moments, whilst maintaining a degree of normal life with reduced emotional and financial strain.

If you would be willing to make a donation, no matter how small, please go to either of the links below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/saffron-deeks-1705842818615>

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/corinne-benham-1711301300294>

Many, many thanks for your kind support.

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Artificial Intelligence Workshops – Thank you so much Mr Ridout!



We are so fortunate to have such wonderful families at Priory Rise and one excellent example of this is Mr Ridout, one of our committed parents, who came into school, across two days last week, to share his impressive expertise on artificial intelligence. Mr Ridout works for Microsoft and his current role is based on the use and improvement of artificial intelligence. He worked with all of our children across the school - from reception right through to Year 6 - and made the sessions vibrant, accessible and engaging.

Working alongside our Foundation and Key Stage 1 children, Mr Ridout focused on using AI to bring creative ideas to life and stories which were built on the children's ideas. All sessions were appropriate for the age of the children and reflected how even our youngest children can access this technology with the right guidance. In lower Key Stage 2, Mr Ridout built upon this and developed a class song which absolutely astounded us. Additionally, he touched on the ethics and its other uses. In Upper Key Stage 2, Mr Ridout's sessions were more in depth, regarding the ethics of using AI and how they can support people with additional needs.



Feedback from both children and adults following these sessions was extremely positive and everyone was buzzing with enthusiasm. We finished the enrichment sessions with our very own class mascot and class song, built on our ideas and constructed using an AI technology. What a fantastic time we had! Thank you so much Mr Ridout! We are so very grateful for your time, expertise and excellent delivery - just wonderful!

Congratulations to our Wonderful Catering Team

Last week in school, we had an unexpected visit from the environmental health team, to inspect our school kitchens. I am delighted to report that our kitchen was awarded with another 5 stars!



In addition, on Friday of last week, the catering team were subject to a catering audit that had been organised by the 5 Dimensions Trust, to review the catering provision in our school kitchen. We are very pleased to report that the auditor was very impressed by the provision

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and systems set up in the kitchen and the food provided. We are thrilled at this fabulous news and would like to commend Miss Bev Atkinson, our catering manager, and her team for their excellent work and diligence in both assessments. Fantastic work team – you are certainly five stars!

Lost Property



Please can we encourage parents and carers to ensure that items of clothing, lunchboxes and water bottles are clearly labelled. We have noticed that many of the items in the lost property cupboard are unnamed. We do try to return lost items to their owners, but sometimes this is beyond possible. Please encourage children to take responsibility for their own property and to check our lost property if items are missing.

Towards the end of term, we will put out a trolley out at the start and end of each day. Please take a look. We are often astounded at the amount of relatively new items that children do not seem to notice have gone missing! Any lost property left over the summer will be sent to the charity shop.

Have you heard of PACAMK?

PACA MK is an independent and voluntary group of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs. The group is open to parents and carers of children and young people aged 0–25 years old with disabilities or additional needs who live in the city of Milton Keynes.

This group is organised by a committee of parents and carers and has a steering group which meets regularly and works in collaboration with service providers in health, education, social care and leisure services in Milton Keynes. Their aim is to fully include parents and carers in the development and improvement of local services.

This weekend, PACAMK are hosting a coffee and chat session as detailed here, that may be useful to some of our families.



COFFEE AND CHAT
MEET UP FOR PACA MEMBERS
SAT 22ND JUNE
10-12

at: Oxley Park Community Centre, Redgrave Dr, Oxley Park, Milton Keynes MK4 4TA
No need to book, just drop in!

NOTE: This event is for parent/carers of children and young people with additional needs or a disability. Parents/carers are responsible for their children and young people at all times.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WELCOME

pacamk@gmail.com www.pacamk.org

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PINS Parent Carer Survey

Priory Rise is taking part in the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project. Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) is a national programme funded by the Shared Outcomes Fund and delivered between the Department for Education (DfE), NHS England (NHSE) and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC). This new initiative is being offered to schools to foster better outcomes for neuro diverse children in primary schools across Milton Keynes.

The purpose of the project is to improve the experience of mainstream school for children who may have an additional educational need. As part of this work, we are asking our families to complete the PINS parent carer survey as the information from the survey will be used to understand the current strengths and potential areas of improvement in a school. It will really help us adapt and refine our provision even more for our children. Please can we ask you to take the time to complete the survey here: The following link is to our website can also be shared which gives more information on the PINS project and PACA MK <https://pacamk.org/pins/>

Link access

[PINS MK - Parent Carer Survey](https://pacamk.org/pins/)

QR code access



Many thanks to those of you who do this for us. We are so very grateful.

HAF – Milton Keynes Summer Offer

The Milton Keynes Summer Activities and Food programme will be taking place **Monday 29 July to Thursday 22 August 2024** – providing over 24,200 free activity and food sessions for children, young people and their families who are **in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals**.



The programme will go live on Monday **1 July** via the [online booking system here](#). More information can be found via the [HAF webpage](#). The Summer offer will take place in 61 locations across Milton Keynes, including 10 locations

with dedicated support for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

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How do eligible families access provision – what do schools need to do?

The scheme will be accessed using vouchers through Wonde [Holiday Activities platform](#) to enable families on benefit related free school meals to access the HAF programme.

Most Schools are on the automated system provided by the [Holiday Activities platform](#), this means you can automatically distribute HAF vouchers, free, to your eligible families with no further ordering process required. All other schools will have been directly contacted by support@holidayactivities.com to confirm automation or order vouchers.

Evouchers will be sent to eligible families from hello@holidayactivities.com by **1 July** and will include a link directly to the booking system where eligible families will be able to view the HAF programme and exchange their voucher for up to 16 days of activities and food through their online booking system.

If you have any questions, please do contact the HAF team HAF@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Latest Sporting News – from Mr Smyth and Mr Elkington

The Year 3 and 4 girls football team have had an amazing time over the past few weeks competing in the league. Playing some fantastic football the girls have won 8 out of 9 so far going into the last 2 matches and are currently 2nd in the league table.

A massive well done to the squad of: Alyssa, Miami, Sofia W, Aariya, Maria, Dot, Bea, Akshaya, Olivia and Cameron.

A team of Year 5 and 6 boys competed in a cricket competition last week and came away with 2 wins and 2 defeats. The boys showed fantastic cricket skills as well as brilliant sportsmanship on the day.

Squad: Charlie O, Rishi, Kailen, Tharun, Jenson, Ibrahim, Venkat, Harigopal, Zohan, Henry.



Well done to all our sporting teams.

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Upcoming Sports Days

During the week beginning 1st July we are pleased to be hosting our annual sports events for the children across the school.



The sports events will take place on the main school field which can be accessed via the gate to the right of the school through the lower playground. Events will include a variety of different activities that the children will rotate around, taking a turn at each skill, and/or some races.

For this activity your child will need to wear their school PE shorts and T-shirt, or if in Nursery any suitable shorts and T-shirt, including a pair of suitable shoes such as trainers and a named water bottle. If we are lucky enough to have some sunny weather on the day a sun hat and sun cream will be necessary too.

If your child does not usually attend nursery in the morning, they are welcome into school for this extra session, please let your child's key worker know if you intend to bring your child along so we can plan for the correct number of participants.

Parents are warmly welcome to come along to support their children and to offer any encouragement. Details of the events are:

Year Group(s)	Date	Timings
Nursery	Wednesday 3 rd July	9-10am
Reception	Friday 5 th July	9-10.30am
Years 1 & 2	Thursday 4 th July	9-10.30am
Years 3 & 4	Friday 5 th July	1.30-3.20pm
Years 5 & 6	Thursday 4 th July	1.30-3.20pm

We look forward to seeing you there for these exciting events.

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Safeguarding Snippet – Keeping Safe in the Sun

As we are entering the summer period, this week we have a reminder to everyone around sun safety. The damage done to young skin can lead to significant skin problems developing in later life, so it is vital to help our young people protect themselves in the sun.



5 Sun Safe Tips to Block the Blaze:



Here are a couple of extra websites for extra information on this subject:

Tips for Staying Safe in the Sun (CBeebies)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/sun-safety-for-kids>

Sun safety in schools (Skcin)

<http://www.skcin.org/sunSafetyAndPrevention/sunSafetyInSchools.htm>

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Dates for your Diary for the End of the School Year

Tuesday 25th June – 5pm – Nursery Induction

Wednesday 26th June – 5pm – Foundation Induction

Thursday 27th – Friday 28th June – Year 4 Residential

Thursday 27th June - Data due

Friday 28th June – dress down day for P-Fest / P-Fest from 3:15pm

Tuesday 2nd July 9am and 2.30pm – Year 2 showcase

Wednesday 3rd July – 9am – Nursery Sports

Thursday 4th July – Year 1 and 2 Sports Day - 9am

Thursday 4th July - Year 5 and 6 Sports Day - 1.30pm

Friday 5th July – Foundation Sports Day 9am

Friday 5th July – Year 3 and 4 Sports Day - 1.30pm

Monday 8th July – KS1 reports out

Tuesday 9th July – Years 3, 4 and 5 reports out

Wednesday 10th July - Open evening and Class Swap

Wednesday 10th July - Year 6 reports out

Friday 12th July - Bastille Day.

Tuesday 16th July – am awards assemblies

Thursday 18th July – 9am – leavers assembly

Thursday 18th July – evening – leavers pizza party

Friday 19th July – pm – end of year assembly and end of the school year



And finally...

Wishing everyone in our wonderful school community all the very best.

Best regards as always to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ruth Seagar'.

Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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