



Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



5 DIMENSIONS
TRUST

Friday 25th October 2024

Value of the Month: Co-operation

Dear Parents/Friends,

We are already at the end of our first half-term for this academic year and it has been a half-term filled with a whole host of special activities, including school visits, special assemblies and visitors. We are delighted that the children have settled into their new classes so well and are enjoying working in their new year groups this term. Many congratulations to all the children.

Parking Safely Around our School Site

As a result of some significant work by our Friends of Priory Rise, supported by our very own Mr Dickens, a £2,000 parish council grant has been awarded to the Friends to purchase a number of 'parking buddies' in a bid to improve road safety around the school.

Despite being open for 16 years, the roads around Priory Rise School remain unadopted as building work continues on the site. Sadly, we continue to have issues with dangerous driving and parking and there have been a number of 'near-miss' accidents involving children and vehicles.



As the new build properties around the school area have become occupied, the parking spaces around school have become even more limited, leading to further congestion and a number of resident complaints. We regularly send messages out to remind families to park safely and thoughtfully and to be aware of blocking driveways and avoid parking on the verges and redways around the school area. Previous bids for road safety measures to be implemented have fallen foul as the roads are still unadopted. We recognise that there are a lack of road signage when approaching the school and no traditional yellow zigzags to deter

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illegal parking. It means roads are tricky and unsafe to cross and with almost 670 pupils at the school, we acknowledge that drop off and pick up times are extremely busy times.

Kerry Shephard, the outgoing Chair of our Friends of Priory Rise has commented:

“We are very grateful to be awarded this grant from the parish council as we have had several officials come out and express their concerns about the road safety around the school. Parking enforcement officers gave tickets to drivers parked illegally but these have been short-lived solutions. We have previously borrowed the parish’s parking buddies for a few weeks at a time and it has made a real difference. By having our own set of buddies, branded with the school logo and some reflective, we can place these in clearer spots nearer to the roads, create crossing areas and leave them out for longer periods. We hope they will act as a deterrent and warning for road users around the school, especially during the busiest times.”

We hope that our new, personalised parking buddies will serve as reminders to everyone to park safely to keep everyone in our school community safe. Thank you.

IT Maintenance Work

During the half term break we are having extensive IT work taking place in school. This means that the whole of the staff team is relinquishing their laptops for our IT team to work on during the break (gulp!). This is part of significant plans at the school to update our IT systems and to ensure that we are working on systems that are in line with those of the Trust.

Please note that during this time, the year group emails will not be in action and so messages will not be responded to until we are back in school at the other side of half term. Thank you to everyone for your understanding about this issue.

School Photos Reminder - Tuesday 5th November



All children will be having their school photograph taken on Tuesday 5th November. Sibling photographs will also be taking place this day. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform in this day. Thank you.

Staffing News



Miss Lucy Ashby, one of our wonderful learning mentors at the school, left us last Friday as she has secured a new position at a Children’s Centre across the city working as a children’s practitioner. We know she will be truly wonderful in her new position and will be able to draw on her wealth of experience in her roles at Priory Rise and beyond to support many more children and

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families. Whilst we have been so very sad to see Miss Ashby leave our Priory Rise family, we are delighted that she is going onto an exciting new responsibility.

Miss Ashby leaving us has created the opportunity for a new learning mentor at Priory Rise and I am pleased to share with everyone that Miss Victoria Stanton, currently teaching assistant at Priory Rise in Year 2, will be taking up the role of learning mentor for our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children from after half term.



Many of you will know that Miss Stanton already and know that her many excellent skills and attributes are perfect for the role of learning mentor at the school, and we are so very confident that she will execute her responsibilities in this role brilliantly.



In other news, many of you will know that our wonderful Mrs Reynolds (Miss Kent, as was), is expecting a baby very soon. Today she is leaving us to take up her maternity leave, in anticipation of her new arrival. I know that you all join with us in wishing her the very best as she and her lovely new husband prepare to welcome their new baby together. How exciting!

In addition, Mrs Fanny Rebello, one of our catering assistants, who has been working in the school kitchen and previously has worked as a lunchtime supervisor at the school, is leaving us today to take up a new role at another school across the city. We wish her the very best in her new role and know that she will be a wonderful addition to their lunchtime team.

Friends of Priory Rise News – Fireworks Event – Tickets on sale now



Tickets for our Annual Fireworks event – to take place after school on Thursday 7th November – are on sale now. Please see the flyer that our Friends of Priory Rise have sent out to all families, and we have attached with this newsletter, and use the QR code to access the booking system for this event. This is always a very popular event for our school community, so book early to avoid disappointment!

Open Evening Reminder – Wednesday 13th November - and Parent Tours for Prospective Parents

As already mentioned in our last newsletters, on Wednesday 13th November, we are holding an Open Evening in school for prospective new families who are exploring whether they would like their children to join our wonderful school community and for any families of new children who have joined the school in September. During the evening, I will be delivering an information presentation in the school hall for prospective families, at 5.15pm, and there will be tours around the school, conducted by our Year 6 students.



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Mrs Dobson, Mrs Benham-Smith and I have already begun conducting parent tours for prospective families. The next ones will take place on the following dates and times:

- Thursday 7th November – 1.30pm
- Monday 11th November – 9.30am
- Monday 11th November – 1.30pm

Throughout the duration of these tours, we will be sharing our school vision, ethos and available to answer questions and queries about the workings of our wonderful school.

If you know of any prospective parents who may be interested in attending these tours, please let them know or ask them to call in to the school office for details.

We welcome any new families to come along and see what we are all about.

Diwali Day



Today in school we have been celebrating Diwali - the fabulous Hindu festival of light. Children came to school dressed in bright colours or their traditional dress costumes and took part in a wonderful Diwali assembly, visited by our own Mrs



Satheesh, who shared with the children some of the history of Diwali and how she will be celebrating this festival with her family this year. Mr Green was also wearing his own traditional costume and sharing how he will be celebrating Diwali with his family in Leicester next week.



Happy Diwali to everyone who is celebrating this joyous festival this year! Wishing peace and prosperity to everyone!

Punctuality



We have noticed that recently, several children are repeatedly arriving at school late at the start of the school day. This can be very unsettling for the children as they enter their classes when their classmates are already engaged in an activity, and can cause children embarrassment or anxiety as they have missed vital teaching or instructions and not sure what is required of them. Every minute of learning counts and supports positive progress for the children. It is useful to note that a **pupil who is 10 minutes late for school every day, will miss 30 hours of teaching during the year.** This equates to a large amount of essential learning that cannot be replaced.

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In addition, if children are late to school, they must sign in at the school reception, which causes further disruption in the school office.

We all know that good punctuality at school is essential for pupils to achieve their full educational potential and ensuring punctuality when the children are young forms good habits for later life.

Please can I ask all our families to work with us to ensure positive punctuality for our children. Many thanks to everyone in advance of your support with this.

Safeguarding Snippet - Building Emotional Resilience and Road Safety

Please see that attached to this newsletter are 2 other documents – one is a flyer that shares strategies for supporting our children into building emotional resilience – including:



- Encouraging open communication
- Modelling positive responses
- Teaching problem solving skills
- Fostering a growth mindset
- Building healthy relationships
- Supporting emotional awareness
- Encouraging independence
- Developing coping strategies
- Celebrating small wins.



Take a look at this flyer – it is incredibly informative and useful.

In addition, we have also attached the latest 5 Dimensions Trust Safeguarding Newsletter, which has a particular focus this time on road safety. So many top tips and information about keeping ourselves safe while out and about near busy roads. Please take a look at both of these informative documents.

Lost Property

Our lost property cupboard has been overflowing with multiple items that we have not been able to be return to their owners as items are unnamed. In addition, we often have parents come to us to discuss the loss of items that have been lost by the children that are unnamed. As you will all appreciate, it is very difficult to re-unite items to children in school when they are unnamed.



Please can I urge parents to ensure that **ALL** your child's uniform items, coats, hats, gloves and water bottles etc **ARE NAMED** so that these can easily be returned to their owners. Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

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Dates for your diary for the next few weeks after the half term:

Monday 4th November- INSET day.

Tuesday 5th November – Welcome children back into school

Tuesday 5th November- Family and individual photos

Wednesday 6th November- Parent Pop In – Years 1 and 2 - 8:40-9:00

Thursday 7th November- Parent Pop In – Years 3 and 4 - 8:40-9:00

Thursday 7th November- Friends Fireworks Spectacular

Monday 11th November- Anti-bullying Odd Socks and the start of Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 12th November- Parent Pop In – Years 5 and 6 - 8:40-9:00

Wednesday 13th November - Open Evening for prospective parents – 5 – 6.15pm

Friday 15th November - Children in Need Day - and spots.

Tuesday 26th November - KS2 Performance - Matilda

Wednesday 27th November - KS2 Performance - Matilda



And finally...

Wishing everyone a truly wonderful half term and we look forward to welcoming all our children back into school on the morning of **Tuesday 5th November**.

Best regards as always,

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

Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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