



Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 22nd November 2024

Value of the Month: Humility

Dear Parents/Friends,

As I have been writing this letter to everyone, I have enormously enjoyed a visit to my office by a group of children in Year 1 who were taking a tour of the school, as part of their geography learning, to understand the purpose of the different rooms around school. The children were able to identify so many items that make my workspace into an office – and of course, the important cuppa!



In addition, I can hear the Key Stage 2 children in the hall rehearsing for their performance of 'Matilda' which is taking place next week.

These are small but perfect examples of the wide range of learning opportunities that take place in this wonderful building every day! Just fabulous!

Welcome to our new staff

This half term we have welcomed Mrs Yee Fung Loh as a new member of our lunchtime supervisor team, to support in caring for our children during the lunchtime period in school. We are delighted to report that she is already a hit with the staff and children at the school. Wonderful!



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In addition, we are thrilled to have welcomed back into the Priory Rise family the fabulous Miss Rachel Ashby, who is replacing Mrs Goode as a part-time teacher for Pullman Class. She is delighted to return to Priory Rise working as part of the Year 3 team.

Staffing News



In other news, many of you will know that our wonderful Mrs Goode, is expecting a baby very soon. She has now left 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 family prepare to welcome their new baby together. How exciting!

We are also delighted to share that Mrs Leigh Reynolds, last week, welcomed her new bundle of joy into the world. Reports are that both mum and baby are doing really well, and we wish the family the very best in this exciting new phase.

Fantastic Fireworks Event



Many, many thanks to all of our school community who came to support or attend our annual firework spectacular event that was held at school on the 7th November. Once again, this event was a wonderful family celebration, where children and adults came together to enjoy the truly amazing spectacle of the fireworks.

Huge thanks also to our newly formed 'Friends' team, who did a truly wonderful job in organising this event for all our families to enjoy. We are so pleased to announce that this event raised an incredible £4016.23 profit – which is an absolutely amazing amount, which we will be able to direct

towards buying valuable resources for the children to access in school.



We are so grateful to everyone for all their support, especially our volunteers, staff and families who all came together to support this excellent event. Thank you all so much.

Keeping Up with School Events

We all appreciate that as busy families it is often tough to keep up with the many events and activities that are taking place in school. We have listened to your responses in the parent survey about ensuring that everyone is informed in plenty of time. Some told us that if we send information too early it is often missed or forgotten – and conversely, some parents told us that they like to have all the information lots in advance.

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With both views in mind, we have worked hard to ensure that all events (as much as possible) in school are on the school calendar, which everyone can find on the school website. In addition, to try to support everyone, we are working with Mrs Baxter in the school office who will be sending regular reminders about upcoming events to our families. In this way we think that we can support ensuring that all families are as informed as possible. We welcome your feedback as to whether this is working or not.

Odd Socks Day – Anti-Bullying Week

As part of our work for Anti-Bullying Week, on Tuesday last week, children came into school wearing ‘odd socks’ in support of us celebrating differences.



At Priory Rise we define bullying as:

- behaviour by an individual or a group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another group or person, either physically or emotionally.

Any behaviour of this type is absolutely unacceptable and will be dealt with swiftly according to our school behaviour policy. We encourage all our children to demonstrate the greatest of care and consideration for each other, but should they witness or be subject to any behaviour of this nature, we encourage children to tell a trusted adult, so that we can quickly address any such unpleasant behaviours and ensure that our children are safe and happy at school.

At Priory Rise, we are extremely proud of the excellent conduct of our wonderful children which we see demonstrated across the school daily. However, we recognise that children are on a learning journey and sometimes do make wrong choices in their words and actions. In this instance, we welcome working in partnership with our families to encourage children to inform us of any such behaviours, so that we can take appropriate action, in accordance with our school policy. This vigilance and openness in working together supports our excellent conduct at Priory Rise.

Children in Need



Pudsey Bear arrived, once again, at Priory Rise on Friday last week, where we all joined together in the Children in Need fun. Our children (and staff!) were a sea of spots, as we all participated in the ‘Spotacular’ theme for Children in Need.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we managed to raise £690.73 for this amazing charity. Many thanks to everyone for your very generous donations.

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Successful Open Evening and Parent Tours for Prospective Parents

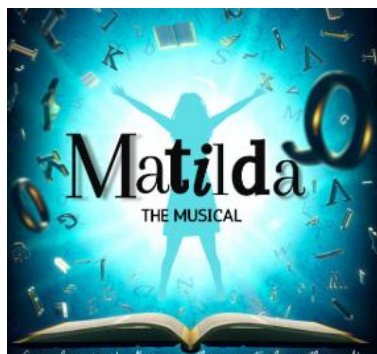
On Wednesday of last week, we were delighted to be able to host our annual open evening for prospective parents. For this event, we were supported by a wonderful selection of our Year 6 children, who acted as tour guides for visitors, conducting themselves brilliantly and showing off the school to prospective new families. Many thanks to our Year 6 tour guides, who were exemplary in their conduct and confident in talking about our wonderful school to our new visitors.

Mrs Dobson captured many of the overwhelmingly positive comments that were made from the prospective parents on the tours and has put this into a wonderful wordle image for everyone to enjoy. Thank you so much to our wonderful Year 6 ambassadors.

If any prospective families feel that they would like to come along to see the school 'in action' before making their school selection for their children, we are hosting an additional tour of the school on the afternoon of Friday 6th December from 1.30 onwards.



'Matilda' is almost here!



In the last few weeks, there has been a flurry of activity in school as many of our children and staff across Key Stage 2 have been preparing for our performance of 'Matilda'. Just like last year, the children will be performing in the Shenley Brook End School theatre. We are delighted to report that rehearsals have been very successful, and the children are eagerly ready to perform. As I write, I can hear the excellent singing from the performers though the walls from the school hall and into my office.

We look forward to welcoming families to watch the performances next Tuesday and Wednesday evening, as detailed in our 'dates for your diary' section below.

Many thanks to all the adults in school who have supported this production – particularly Mrs Horwood and Miss Huish – and, indeed, all the KS2 team, who have worked so hard to put this production together with the children. Brilliant work as always.

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Reviewing our Residential Visits Offer – please help us.

We have recently been conducting a review of our residential visits offer; these are the parts of the enrichment curriculum in school which offer children opportunities for children to have overnight stays away from home. As well as the exciting activities planned during the day at these stays, the residentials encourage children to experience time away from their families with their peers, and adults who know them very well, and encourage independence, whilst creating magical memories. This offer currently consists of:

- Year 3 - one night sleepover in school
- Year 4 - one night camping at Caldecotte
- Year 5 - two night stay at Irthlingborough Frontier Centre
- Year 6 - three night stay at YHA Hartington Hall in Derbyshire

This year, we are already trialling Year 4 going to Irthlingborough. We are thinking about moving this residential into Year 4 permanently then not having a residential visit in Year 5. Year 5 already includes some lovely enrichment for children to take part in such as bikeability and swimming. We are in the process of reconsidering the Year 6 residential offer too and would ideally like to take the children to a coastal location.

We are aware that the cost of these residential visits is significant to our families, at a time when the cost of living continues to rise, however, we want to ensure we continue to provide the best enrichment opportunities for our children.

With this in mind, we are seeking your views so we might consider the parent voice before we make changes to our visits offer - and would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the poll [here](#).

PACA Coffee Morning

On Friday 8th November, we held a SEND coffee morning at Priory Rise that was led by the Parents and Carers Association Milton Keynes (PACA MK). PACA MK is an independent and voluntary group of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs. For more information about PACA please have a look on their website [Home - PACA MK](#)



Thank you to those who attended we hope you found it a useful experience. Following on from its success PACA will be back with us after Christmas. Once we have a confirmed date we will share it with you via Arbor. The

next session is a parent only coffee morning which will allow you to freely discuss your child's needs both in and out of school. We do hope you can join them and make use of their wealth of knowledge and experience as well as information about support that is available to you in Milton Keynes.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Snell or Mrs Kalek office@pr5d.com

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Help for Free School Meals families during the Winter holidays

Milton Keynes Council run a Winter Activities and Food programme that will be taking place from 30 December. This programme is offering a range of 8,000 free activities and food sessions for children, young people and their families **who are in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals**.

All activities will take place over 4 days from 30 December at locations across MK. From fun activities to the theatre, film making, gymnastics, arts, and crafts, multi sports clubs and more, there is something for everyone.

The programme will 'go live' for bookings on **Sunday 01 December** via the [online booking system](#).

More information can be found via the HAF webpage www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/HAF

New Saturday Morning Theatre School at Priory Rise School



For all our budding thespians out there, we are delighted to announce that in the New Year, Mrs Horwood is starting a new theatre school called Stage Masters, which will be taking place at Priory Rise School on Saturdays. Everyone who is interested is being offered the opportunity of a free trial, to try out this exciting and high-quality provision.

If you are interested in securing a place for your child/children, please see attached flyers for more information and complete the following Google forms to apply:

Form for 3 hour school, 6-18 yr olds (in groups):

<https://forms.gle/3XumrTEk3H9X2aGNA>

Form for mini school, 4 and 5 years olds:

<https://forms.gle/cMdfFRN5bsLdKhr18>

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Safeguarding Snippet – Safeguarding Awareness for Parents & Carers (Football Association)



We are acutely aware that many of our families support their children in after-school football – in fact every week millions of children play football, many of them in organised clubs and organisations. As part of the Football Association's response to this, they have created a safeguarding course for parents.

The course is designed to help parents make informed choices about the football settings where they enrol their children. The course helps parents recognise best practice and see where there may be concerns, so that they can report them quickly and effectively.

This free course can be found here:

<https://learn.englishfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

Sporting Updates

Our Year 5/6 basketball team have been successful in the newly formed Basketball League. After losing their opening match, the team are now on a 7-match winning streak scoring some amazing baskets along the way. Well done boys and keep up the good work!

Squad: Jacob S, Yazaan, Matthew, Neriah, Nerea, Valeria.



Our Year 5/6 boys football teams completed their league seasons with the Panthers team winning their league only losing 1 match along the way. They qualified for the cup event with the other league winners and runners-up but came up just short on the night.

The Pumas team entered the Shield event after the League campaign. Winning 2 and losing 2 of their matches on the evening. Huge congratulations to our team!

Squad: Jacob S, Dexter, Grayson, Freddie, Jamilio, Ariel, Matthew, Vivaan, Sulaiman, Blake, Jenson, Ethan C, Ahmet, Mason C, Mason S, Ayden.

And, hot off the press, a squad of Year 6 boys played 4 football matches at Tattenhoe last night and came away with a win, a draw and 2 narrow defeats. The boys played some terrific football at times, culminating in one of the best team goals scored for the school! Brilliant boys!

Squad: Satvik, Dylan, Isaac, Vivaan, Sameth, Methindu, Lucas, Rishi, Aahil, William K.

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Dates for your diary for the next few weeks:

- Tuesday 26th November - KS2 Performance - Matilda
- Wednesday 27th November - KS2 Performance – Matilda
- Tuesday 3rd December – Nursery Christmas Songs – Small Hall – 9am and 2.30pm
- Tuesday 3rd December – Fantastic Mr Fox Day in Year 3
- Wednesday 4th December - FS Christmas songs - 8.45am and 2.30pm – Large Hall
- Friday 6th December – 1.30pm - Parent tour in school for prospective parents
- Wednesday 11th December – Year 2 Christmas performances – 9am and 2.30pm - Large Hall
- Friday 13th December - Outdoor Christmas Carols – after school in courtyard
- Tuesday 17th December - Year 1 Christmas performance – 9am and 2:15pm - Large Hall
- Wednesday 18th December - Year 1 Christmas performance – 9am Large Hall
- Thursday 19th December – Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch and party afternoon
- Friday 20th December – Children break for the Christmas holiday

And finally...

As always – thank you all so much for your wonderful support and ongoing commitment to the school as the term progresses.

Best regards as always,



Ruth Seagar

Headteacher

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