



Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 10th January 2025

Value of the Month: Aspiration

Dear Parents/Friends,

I am delighted to be writing this - the very first of my newsletters to you all. It is my great privilege to have been appointed as headteacher of this wonderful school, Priory Rise. I already know many of you well since taking up my first role at the school in 2013, having taught nearly all the children across the school. It is obvious to me how special Priory Rise is having worked long term at five other schools previously, in London, Surrey and across Milton Keynes.

It is my priority to ensure that Priory Rise continues to be highly successful at providing an education that will serve our children for now and their future lives, enabling them to grow socially, emotionally and academically. This has been and will continue to be achieved through maintaining a culture which is filled with love, care and nurture, developing resilience towards striving for the highest standards alongside hard work ethic.

Throughout my time so far at Priory Rise, I have been fortunate enough to work alongside the brilliant Ms Seagar and our wonderful staff team, which is packed full of talent and dedication, committed to providing the very best outcomes for all children and support for their families. I wholeheartedly believe when home and school work together in partnership the children will thrive, and we will be able to work through any challenges together. Please know that I welcome your feedback, and I will make every effort to communicate with you effectively and efficiently.

So, as we begin this new term, I wish you all a Happy New Year, hoping that you enjoyed the best of holidays with your loved ones. The children have returned to school well rested and have settled back into their routines smoothly. As I have walked around the school this week, it has been my pleasure to observe a happy, busy and productive working atmosphere, where children and staff alike have been glad to get stuck into the new term.



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Staffing News



Since Miss Asha Raval began her maternity leave just before the Christmas break, we have been fortunate to have appointed a wonderful new teacher for Rowling class, Mrs Ami Richards. Mrs Richards has loved getting to know the children well this week, commenting 'what a wonderful class of children' and is settling into life at Priory Rise as if she has always been a part of our staffing team. She has not stopped smiling all week! Parents will have the opportunity to meet Mrs Richards properly during parents' evenings being held at the end of this half term. If you would like to get in touch with her before then, you can do so through the Year 5 email address year5@pr5d.com.

Congratulations to Miss Hannah Huish who, as you know already, been successfully appointed as the Year 5 leader, and has made such a strong start to her new role. She is incredibly organised and has many exciting plans for the children for the rest of the year.

Lunchtime Catering

As you know our head chef, Miss Beverley Atkinson, has moved into an exciting new role leaving Priory Rise after a successful 10 years of providing outstanding catering during lunchtime and at many special events. One of the many benefits of being part of the 5 Dimensions Trust has been the opportunity to draw on catering support from our other schools while we consider and explore our options for this provision. This temporary support ensures that we are able to continue our high standards of meal provision after Miss Atkinson has moved on. I will keep you posted on developments in our lunchtime offer as things progress. In the meantime, be reassured that the children are continuing to enjoy our usual tasty and varied menu each day.

Come Dine With Us

Over the next three weeks we are extending a warm invitation to parents of our children in the Reception year group; Beetles, Fireflies and Honeybees, to come join us for lunch. This is an opportunity for you to be able to see our wonderful lunchtime offer experiencing it firsthand. Parents will be able to book in to for lunch, subject to availability. This gives your child the opportunity to take the lead, by showing you what to do when collecting your meal, where to sit and the wonderful chance to share lunch with them and their peers. There are still spaces available if you would like to book in, get in touch with the office team if you are unsure about how to snap up a space. Each class has a



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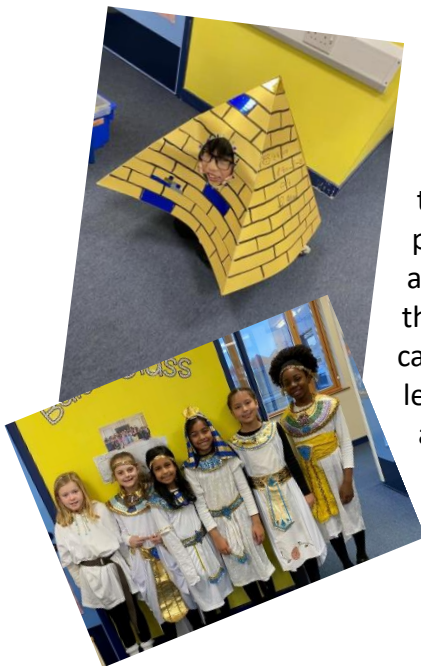
dedicated week. Beetles Class 13-17th January, Honeybees Class 20-24th January and Fireflies Class 28th – 31st January.

Chinese New Year

On Wednesday 29th January we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year. We invite our children to come to school dressed in red, yellow or gold colours, or traditional dress for the day. We welcome traditional dress from all faiths/cultures across our vibrant and diverse school community.



Year 5 Enrichment Egyptian Day



Congratulations to our Year 5 children who looked fabulous dressed as Egyptians, where we were treated to one spectacular pyramid, to kick off their topic for this half term on Ancient Egypt. Children spent the day engrossed in a number of activities enabling them to begin learning about what life was like in this historic period, mummifying oranges, writing hieroglyphs on papyrus paper and researching significant pharaohs. Speaking to many children throughout the day, it was clear that this enrichment day has captured their curiosity and fired up their interest, eager to know and learn more about beliefs, practices and everyday life from this ancient slice of history.

Many thanks to our supportive parents for the wonderful effort with costumes – these were just incredible!

La Jolie Ronde

Recently we have been exploring the opportunity to offer French club to our children which could be facilitated by a company called La Jolie Ronde. Their award-winning classes use programmes which are centred around methodology based on real communication situations. Children will benefit from a structured and progressive programme and over time will begin to speak, read and write independently.



Initially, we are seeking responses from parents as to whether there is an interest for their children to take part in a French club of this nature. If you feel this is something that would like your child to participate in, please log this in our survey. This link to this can be accessed [here](#). Following your feedback we will make a decision whether to go ahead with this venture or not.

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Hot Water Bottles

As we continue through these Winter months with temperatures plummeting, I just wanted to take this opportunity to alert families to ensuring safety measures when using hot water bottles, this has been in the national news lately too. The general recommendation is to replace your hot water bottle **every two to three years**. Every hot water bottle sold in the UK should have a 'flower wheel' on the funnel somewhere, which shows the date it was made...

The number in the centre of the wheel shows you what year it was made. For example, if it says 18, it was made in 2018.



There are also 12 segments around the centre of the wheel. Usually, the number of these segments that have dots in show you what month it was made. So, if there are dots in six sections, the bottle was made in June.

Others with dots just in one segment. For example, if there are dots in the third segment from the top, going clockwise, it was made in March.

The number of dots in the final (or only) filled section shows which week of that month the bottle was made. So, three dots mean the third week of the month.

Assessment Throughout the Academic Year

On Monday 6 January, the Standards and Testing Agency updated parent information leaflets for assessments in the academic year 2024 to 2025.

Information for parents is available to read online or to download as a PDF leaflet, and explains:

- what parents need to know
- what each assessment involves
- when tests will take place
- how results will be shared and used

Click the link to access the collection of [national curriculum assessments: information for parents](#), which covers the:

- reception baseline assessment (RBA)
- phonics screening check
- optional key stage 1 (KS1) national curriculum tests and teacher assessment
- multiplication tables check (MTC)
- key stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum tests, teacher assessment and results

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- pre-key stage standards
- engagement model



PACA – Parents and Carers Alliance

Please see the attached flyer about a PACA event being held at school on Friday 17th January at 9:00am at Priory Rise School

As agreed at the last meeting, Priory Rise Staff will not be present at this Friday’s event to enable PACA to speak directly to parents.

Safeguarding Snippet - Screens in the Earliest Years - LGfL

We know that the early years is a time of phenomenal growth. Children are like sponges, soaking up stimuli around them and developing knowledge and new skills at an incredible rate. It is also a period that has a significant impact on the rest of an individual’s life, with the foundations being laid for lifelong habits. Therefore, as parents and professionals we must think carefully about the input children receive in the early years, and more so than ever before, consider the role that online activity plays. The London Grid for Learning (LGfL) has an article over on their site, examining the issue. If interested, please click the link below:



<https://safelog.lgfl.net/screensinearliestyears>

Message of thanks from Ms Seagar



Many, many thanks to the countless kind and thoughtful parents and families who, at the end of last term, took the time to wish me well, at the end of my tenure as headteacher at Priory Rise. I have been overwhelmed by so much kindness and so many good wishes and gifts. Thank you all so very much. I really cannot express my gratitude enough.

I look forward to working alongside Mrs Benham-Smith and the staff team, to continue to serve the needs of the children and families of Priory Rise – but in a different way. Continued best regards to everyone.

Ms Ruth Seagar

Dates for your Diary

13-17th January - Beetles Come Dine With Us

20-24th January – Honeybees Come Dine With Us

27-31st January – Fireflies Come Dine With Us

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14th January – KS2 SATs info evening for parents at 5.30pm in the main hall
16th & 17th January – Y6 Empowerment and Challenge Workshops
Friday 24th January – Blackman class last swimming
Wednesday 29th January - Chinese New Year dress up
Friday 31st January – Balen class first swimming
Wednesday 5th February – Young Voices at the O2 Arena
11th and 13th Feb – Years 1-6 Parents’ Evenings – in person at school
Friday 14th February – school closes for half term
Monday 24th February – school reopens for the second Spring half term
4th and 6th March – Nursery and Reception Parents’ Evening in person at school

And finally...

I would like to thank all our friends and families for your incredible support to our wonderful school. I hope that the start to 2025 has been positive for everyone.

Corinne Benham-Smith

Corinne Benham-Smith
Headteacher

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