



# Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 31st January 2025

## Value of the Month: Equality (February)

### Dear Parents/Friends,

Over the last four weeks we have continued to enjoy such a positive start to the term with so many wonderful things happening across the school. It is hard to believe we are heading into the last part of the first half term of the year. Time certainly flies when we are having fun!

### Staffing News

Our wonderful Miss Asha Raval welcomed beautiful baby Aurora earlier this month. Both mother and baby are doing well settling into a new way of family life, as a family of three. I know you will join me in sending her the warmest congratulations.



In other staffing news, Mrs Julia Carter has accepted a new post as chief medical officer at a secondary school. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Carter for her dedication, care and work during her time at Priory Rise which has included first aid, swimming, many residential visits and support with Bikeability, as well as working across the school with our wonderful children. We know she will be hugely successful in this new role.

### Class Photos

This year we will be working with a new company - Kittle Photographic - to take our class photographs. We have heard good reports about Kittle from parents at other schools and we love the look of their portfolio, so we are trialling them for the first time this year. We have opted to have our class photos on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, as it is earlier in the year and, because of this, we get a much better price point package - almost half the price of having the photos taken in the summer. We feel this will be a better offer to our families, without compromising on quality. Parents can have all their child's photos kept collectively together when you sign up to your Kittle account.

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## Come Dine with Us



Over the last 3 weeks we have loved hosting parents of our children from Beetles, Fireflies and Honeybees classes. Feedback from parents has been so positive, sharing with us that they are delighted to have been welcomed into school to share a mealtime with their child. The children have been beyond excited to become school ambassadors and relishing the opportunity to be in charge of their parent. Well done to all our wonderful children your hosting skills have been 10/10. Thank you to our amazing catering team for accommodating Come Dine with Us for another successful year.

## Lunar New Year

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January we celebrated the Lunar New Year. Our children looked amazing in their traditional dress. This has been a great opportunity to continue to develop our children's understanding of various faiths and cultures from around the world, local community and in our school. It is so important that children grow up respecting one another's choices and varying lifestyles. Years 3-6 had a wonderful visitor to assembly, Sin Yi, who came to talk about the significance of the New Year. For lunch the marvellous catering team served up delicious noodles, spring rolls and sweet chilli chicken with prawn crackers on the side, finished off with crowd pleasing jelly and ice cream. To all our families celebrating Lunar New Year we hope you have the best festive time together with your loved ones.



## Parents' Evening

In the last week of this half term, we are hosting our next round of parent/teacher meetings where parents will receive feedback about how your child is progressing at school. Bookings opened in Arbor last week so you will be able to select an appointment with your child's class teacher through the App. This time the meeting will be held in person at the school. Having conducted remote meetings during the Autumn term, we feel it is important that parents have the opportunity to meet in person. Your child's schoolbooks will be available for you to have a look at too. These will be held between 4-7pm Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and 3.40-5:40pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Teacher notes on your child will be made available in Arbor on Friday

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14<sup>th</sup> February. Please see the letter detailing information about our assessment language and system across the school which is sent out with this newsletter.

## **Milton Keynes Mental Health Support Team in Schools**

We are delighted to be receiving support from the Mental Health Support Team (MHST). This service has been established in some parts of Milton Keynes for a few years now. Following the success of this service in those areas they have expanded their service to the western flank of Milton Keynes, which now includes Priory Rise School.



MHST is an early intervention service that works in partnership with local schools to offer a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. MHST support children and young people, aged 5 to 18, and their families, with mild to moderate mental health difficulties. This includes anxiety and/or depression needs.

MHST work with children and young people, parents/carers, school staff, and external specialist services. They provide support through:

- Training and workshops for both schools and parents
- Group programmes
- 1:1 intervention where indicated by need

The service offers individual and group work through effective, low-intensity, interventions for children, young people, and their families, who are experiencing:

- Anxiety
- Low mood
- Behavioural difficulties

MHST will collaborate with schools to champion a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing, empowering us to continue to support the wellbeing of all our children and staff. Click the link to access their online information booklet for parents [Online Flipbook](#).

## **Pupil Premium**

With the increasing cost of living, we want to make sure as many eligible pupils as possible are claiming their Free School Meals. Free School Meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- income support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance

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- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think your child is eligible for Free School Meals, an application can be made to the school via this link: [Online FSM Application](https://cloudforedu.org.uk) (cloudforedu.org.uk).

When a child receives Free School Meals, the school is provided with financial funding that is used in 3 main areas to further support these children. Our strategy focuses on the following:

- High-quality teaching ensuring our staff have the most relevant training and guidance to deliver the best possible curriculum
- Targeted academic support such as provision of resources within subjects to improve engagement and outcomes
- Wider strategies such as supporting extracurricular activities and educational visits

Once your application is successful, you will receive notification directly from the application provider. It may take a few days for this to be reflected on your child's account. To enquire further about Free School Meals, please contact our Office Team on 01908 502572 or [office@pr5d.com](mailto:office@pr5d.com).

## PACA – Parents and Carers Alliance

Our recent PACA event was a huge success and really well attended. At the last minute, the ladies from PACA could not make the meeting due to illness, so our wonderful Mrs Claire Kalek stepped in to host the meeting. It was a perfect opportunity for our parents to make new connections and share experiences. Lots of valuable information was shared about support that is available in our local community and how to access it.



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## Safeguarding Snippet – NSPCC Have you talked PANTS yet?

Since 2013, Pantosaurus has helped **over six million parents** to Talk PANTS and help keep children safe from sexual abuse.



Developed with children, parents, carers and teachers, Talk PANTS is here to help children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

Talk PANTS is here to help children understand that they have a right to say no and if they need to speak out about something, someone will listen.

We know that a simple conversation can make a BIG difference, and that's what Talk PANTS is all about. To help you get the conversation started, NSPCC will send you helpful tips, advice and materials by email. Click the link to sign up and find out more [Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC](#)

## Sports Updates

A team of year 3-4 Badminton players competed in a series of skill games and came away gaining lots of experience and had lots of fun.

Squad: Dhriya, Aanvi, Orla, Jessica, Bryan, Jacko, Gabriel

Our year 5 Badminton team had a different experience and played in 2 different games, Around the World and Player of the Court. We did extremely well and won 6 matches.

Squad: Ishaan, Aadith, Advik, Vivaan, Leo O, Paavan, Jade, Meera, Vaishnavi, Anagha, Ritisha

As a school we had a fantastic opportunity to attend the EFL mixed football event.

The team won 3, drew 1 and lost 1 of their group matches but unfortunately narrowly missed out on qualifying for the knockout stage. The team showed great togetherness the whole day.

Squad: Jacob S, Dexter, Grayson, Ariel, Jamilio, Freddie, Valeria, Neriah, Daniella, Rachel

Our Tag Rugby League matches have started over the past few weeks and the team have been superb. The improvement they have shown is fantastic, with 4 wins to their name.

Squad: Niamh Q, Izzah, Marnie, Kuhu, Venpa, Kiyana, Isaac, Mason C, Mason S, Jude, Jakob

And finally, the year 3-4 boys have been playing some wonderful football and have scored some lovely team and individual goals so far. After 11 matches we've won 6, drawn 2 and lost 3.

Squad: Tanush, Rohan, Saxon, Leo, Fletcher, Robert, Faizaan, Anvith, Zilaan

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## **Dates for your Diary**

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Y5 Balen Class first swimming session

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Young Voices at the O2 Arena

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Class photos

11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Years 1-6 Parents' Evenings – in person at school

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Friends of Priory Rise - Pyjama Day (*donation of £1.00 please*)

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – school closes for half term

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – school reopens for the second spring half term

4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March – Nursery and Reception Parents' Evening in person at school

## **And finally...**

Thank for supporting us with such a positive start in school in 2025. Over the month of January, I have enjoyed speaking with children about their aspirations they have for themselves and listening to their dreams about what they would like to do with their futures – I can say with confidence – watch out world, Priory Rise children are on their way!

*Corinne Benham-Smith*

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Headteacher

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