



Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning

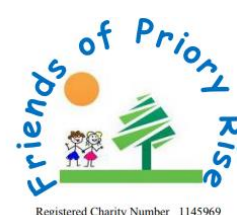


Friday 14th February 2025

Value of the Month: Equality

Dear Parents/Friends,

So, we have arrived at the end of another successful half term. Today, the children are in school enjoying the comfort of wearing their pyjamas in exchange for £1 donation towards Friends of Priory Rise - thank you to Maheera and the team for the brilliant work that you do.



The money that the Friends raise funds so many opportunities across the school to the great benefit of the children, so thank you to all our wonderful parents for your support with this event. Friends of Priory Rise are really short on volunteers at the moment, if you have space to offer some time or capacity it would be gratefully received. Please get in touch friendsofprioryrise@gmail.com.

Annual Evaluation



On Thursday 28th January we had our school annual evaluation which was provided by Mrs Gemma Williamson from the 5 Dimensions Trust. Mrs Williamson is a trained Ofsted inspector with current inspection experience. We are delighted to report that Priory Rise was judged as 'inspiring'. This is the top judgement that can be achieved which is described as – 'There

are clearly inspirational approaches to offering holistic education. These have a significant impact in adding exceptional value to young people's experience and outcomes in both conventional and other measures. The school models innovative and effective practice and is well-placed to influence the wider school, 5 Dimensions Trust and system transformation.'

Well done to the staff team – your talent, love, commitment and hard work shines out making the school a fabulous place for each and every child to learn and grow.

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Staffing News

Our wonderful Mrs Saffron Deeks has secured a new position as a Nursery Nurse at another school across Milton Keynes. We would like to thank Mrs Deeks for all her wonderful work at Priory Rise over the last 14 years, initially in the Early Years and latterly in Year 5. Mrs Deeks has supported hundreds of children as they have moved through the school and more recently has enjoyed coming to Irthlingborough with Year 5 on residential. We wish you all the best in your next adventure.



Mr Liam Smyth is leaving education to pursue a new career pathway, having taught PE across the school for the last 11+ years. Mr Smyth has been key in delivering a high-quality curriculum offer where children can and have excelled, as well as teaching children at clubs, taking teams to competitions matches, games, galas, events and many, many more enrichment opportunities. Priory Rise children have been able to compete, thrive and enjoy sport as a direct result of his dedication and passion for all sports. We wish him every success in his new career. We do hope that he will keep in touch and be back to visit us soon.

Mr Edward Ho is leaving catering moving into a different position at another school. Thank to Mr Ho for his excellent work during the lunchtime provision. We wish you every success for the future.

In addition, we have some new staff joining our teaching support team: Mrs Helen Cresswell who is an existing member of staff in the lunchtime team, Mrs Pippa Sadikaj and Mrs Deanna Stewart who are both new to Priory Rise. Mrs Cresswell has already made such a positive start to her new role, and we look forward to welcoming the new staff into their roles over the coming weeks.



Spring Activities and Food Programme

Milton Keynes will be offering a spring activities and food programme from 7th – 10th April. The programme will 'go live' for bookings on 9 March via the [online booking system](#). More information can be found via the HAF webpage www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/HAF

What are the Spring Activities and Food programme?

7,500 free activity 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 7th April at many locations across MK. They hope there is something for everyone with activities including everything from filmmaking, animal experiences and outdoor adventures to multi sports clubs and more.

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Parking Reminder



Over the last few weeks, we have observed a growing number of cars being unacceptably double parked, especially to the front of school, during pick up and drop off. Daily, this is causing great frustration to drivers who have parked in bays who then cannot get out. In addition, this causes congestion to the flow of traffic along Bronte Avenue, delaying vehicles leaving Priory Rise, as well as becoming obstacles for pedestrians to navigate around.

We have received a complaint from a representative of the local residents about the way that parents are parking. The local residents' parking bays are being blocked or private spaces taken, as well as damage caused to grass verges where vehicles are repeatedly parking illegally on these. **Please can I urge parents to park with due consideration for others, in line with many of the values that we teach the children in school.** If a space is not available directly to the front or side of the school building, please park further away then walk the rest of the way. Priory Rise has much more parking available than many others school across Milton Keynes which should help with parking matters. We are working with Councillor James Lancaster, who visited school earlier this week, to discuss potential pathways to implement measures to address the traffic problems. Recently, Councillor Lancaster kindly granted £100 to school for the purchase of the chains which are securing our new Parking Buddies in place, these are new additions to the area around the school site along with the banners. We would like to thank the Friends of Priory Rise for securing the £2000 grant to purchase these to act as a reminder to be considerate when parking at school.



Young Voices

Last week, 40 children from Years 5 and 6 attended the most spectacular event at the O2 arena as part of the Young Voices choir. They were among 8,900 other children singing in the world's biggest choir. This is the first time that Priory Rise has attended Young Voices and



everyone who went along would agree that it was a magical event which the children will remember forever - we all had a wonderful time! So many special memories were made and all the children behaved and sung brilliantly, they all did Priory Rise proud! We even met a famous YouTuber - Teacher Tommy T – whom many of the children recognised. Thank you to Mrs Horwood and Mrs Dobson for facilitating this event for our children. We hope to do something similar again next year.

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If anyone wishes to, you can purchase the video of the evening by following this link: yv25film.co.uk/purchase



School Entry Changes at the Start of the School Day

After the half term holiday, we are making small changes to the way the children enter the school building. There will be no change for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 procedures, however, Years 2-6 will be able to free flow into the school building, via their usual route, rather than lining up at the front of school. This means children will not be kept waiting in the cold or poor weather, and this will help with congestion in the corridors and cloakrooms. Should parents wish to pass any messages to class teachers, staff will be available at the gates in the morning to pass these on. Year 2 children should enter the building at 8.30am and Years 4, 5 and 6 at 8.40pm. If you arrive late with your child you will need to take them into the school office to sign in, thank you.

India Day for Year 2



The children in Year 2 had a fantastic enrichment day learning about 'Incredible India'. During the day, there were so many activities for the children to enjoy and there were many opportunities for our children to share their experiences of India. They learned about important buildings such as the Golden



Temple - one of the seven wonders of the world. They also learned about clothing with our amazing Mrs Patel demonstrating how to put on a sari by dressing members of the staff team. The children also learned how to write their name in Hindi, about the importance of the peacock and were enthusiastic in their Bollywood dancing! The children dressed in the colours of the Indian flag and many of our children wore their cultural dress. All children looked amazing!



Thank you to our Year 2 parents for your support and contributions.

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World Book Day – Thursday 6th March



This wonderful celebration of books, characters, settings, authors, poetry and the written word is scheduled for Thursday 6th March this year. We would like children to celebrate this day by bringing their favourite books into school to share with their teachers and friends. If children would like to dress up as a book character or famous author, we welcome this, otherwise, this is a day to wear uniform as usual. Children will be given £1 book voucher to put towards the cost of a book or to purchase from this year's £1 selection, click [2025s-1-books](#) for more details.

Class Photos - Kittle Photographic

On Tuesday, children looked smart and wore their biggest smiles for their class photos. I'm sure you will be delighted with the results - what a wonderful keepsake!

We have been particularly excited to use Kittle as we like their offer to you - our parents/carers. We hope you agree that the pricing of the photos is more attractive, you will also be able to view images of your children that attend other schools in our Trust under the same account.

After half term, children will come home with a slip that has a unique photo ID and password that is exclusive to your child's class photo, and a QR code for your convenience - please see image below. You will have 3 weeks to order photos that gives you free delivery to school, and after that, there is no deadline to order photos to your home, but note, there will be a cost for delivery.

A screenshot of the Kittle Photographic app interface. At the top, there is a QR code with the text 'Scan QR Code' next to it. Below the QR code is a section titled 'Add a Photo / Login'. Under this title, there are two options: 'Add a Photo' with a checked checkbox and a question mark icon, and 'Login' with an unchecked checkbox and a question mark icon. Below these options is a text input field labeled 'Enter your photo ID' with a question mark icon. Underneath the input field are two more input fields: 'Photo ID' and 'Password'. At the bottom of the form is an orange button labeled 'Click To Proceed'.

Early Years Teacher Training

We have long-established relationships with Initial Teaching Training (ITT) providers who we work with to train any aspiring teachers. Several of our teachers are trained mentors hosting trainee teachers, who themselves have used ITT as a pathway into teaching. Please find an attachment in this email from Bedgrove Infant School which details how to get in touch should any friends or parents in our community want to select this as their rewarding career choice.

Parents' Evening

Thank you to all the parents who came into school over this last week to speak to class teachers about your child's progress. It was wonderful to see you! This has been so very well attended across the school. There is lots of research to support children's development being at its best when home and school work positively together. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity; to look through your child's work, to celebrate lots of achievements, to understand the progress your child has made and where they are working at with regard to year group expectations.

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During the second week back after the half term break it will be the turn of the EYFS, appointments will be available to book for Nursery and Reception classes through Arbor. All notes from the meetings written by teachers will be made available in Arbor, today, for Years 1-6, and Friday 7th March for Nursery and Reception.

Catering Update - Cucina

Cucina, from Food Impact Group, provide the catering at Hazeley Academy and Shenley Brook End School.



Following careful consideration of our options for provision at this time of the day, we have made the happy move for Cucina to provide lunch service at Priory Rise School. Over the last few weeks, we have been working closely with Cucina to ensure a smooth start to service for children from the week beginning Monday 3rd March. **This will involve a change for parents when ordering food for your child which will no longer be conducted through Arbor.**

Please find 4 attachments with this newsletter for:

- a welcome informative letter from Cucina;
- an introduction to the Cucina menu offer;
- the 3-week rolling menu choice;
- instructions about how to set up an account and make daily meal choices.

Children will no longer have the option to choose their meal at the service counter as parents will do this at the point of ordering. Please be assured that children with allergies will continue to be comprehensively catered for. **If you are registered for Free School Meals or have children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - whose lunches are funded by the government, you will still need to register your child's meal choices through the App.**

The Impact Food App makes it quick and easy to place lunch orders for your child. You will receive an email with a unique link asking you to sign-up to the Impact Food App. Once received, simply click the link and follow the instructions. When you are signed up you can begin to place meal orders for your child/children. Meals will need to be chosen for the coming week on the Saturday before. It really is that simple!

If you have any questions about Cucina's food or service, please do get in touch. Arrange an appointment to speak to the catering team or contact them at hello@impactfood.co.uk. Our supportive Priory Rise office team are happy to assist with anyone needing help to create an account or navigate the App to make meal choices.

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Whole Class Reading at Priory Rise

At the start of this half term, we implemented our new reading programme: Master Readers. Once children have completed the Little Wandle phonics programme, they will now take part in a daily, whole class guided reading session with their class teacher. The children will all read the same text and over the course of the week and they will complete different activities as set out in the Master Readers initiative.

On a Monday, children will hear their class teacher read a section of the shared text aloud with a focus on vocabulary. On a Tuesday, children will participate in a Book Club lesson, which has been designed to enable discussion to take place that either relates to clarifying the meaning of vocabulary, questioning, predicting or summarising. Wednesday and Thursday lessons are where children are given the opportunity to construct written responses to comprehension questions, demonstrating their deep understanding of the text, before the week's work is then reviewed. The Friday session is designed to review and respond to the week's learning and to read a further section of the text together.

We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the children about these new reading lessons and it has been a pleasure to see the children demonstrate a clear joy of reading. Teachers report that these lessons have been hugely enjoyed by their classes and that the children are very much enjoying working as a whole class, sharing the text together.

We will continue to work on the new Master Readers approach in school as we move through the year. We have been so encouraged by the positive response so far!



Communication for Parents

At Priory Rise, we are committed to fostering positive and open communication with all our parents and carers. The fourth Trust dimension is to create a supportive partnership with parents, carers and families as we believe that strong partnerships between home and school are essential for the success and wellbeing of our students.

Contacting the School:

Should you need to get in touch with us, there are several ways you can do so:

- Phone: You can reach our main office at 01908 502572 during school hours.
- Email: For general enquiries, please email us at office@pr5d.com
- For specific concerns, you may contact teachers through the year group email, which are available on the website or within the year group half termly newsletters

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As sometimes happens within relationships there may be difficulties, concerns or complaints, in the first instance we would always wish to discuss these with you in person to find a solution. Please reach out to staff so we may address and work through any issues together. Our school is dedicated to addressing these matters promptly and fairly. Should you wish to raise a formal complaint, you can find the Complaints Policy here: [SDT Complaints Policy](#)

For details on how to contact governors, please visit [Priory Rise School - Local Governing Body](#).

Your feedback is valuable to us, and we are always here to support you and your child. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Safeguarding Snippet – How Safe is WhatsApp for Children? - NSPCC



WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps, used by over 2 billion people in 180 countries. It allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls. You can connect with people individually or join group chats where lots of people can contribute. All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number. However, children and young people can easily subvert the restrictions placed on its access. Although rated at 16+, all that is required is a phone number. All it takes is one child in a class to be on WhatsApp, and all the others will wish to join. This can lead to increased vulnerabilities for child users. The NSPCC has released its own analysis about the dangers of the app. If interested, please follow the link below:

nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety-blog/-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child

In addition, please find an additional attachment with this newsletter for the February edition of the 5DSafeguarding newsletter.

Sports Updates

A team of Year 5/6 Dodgeball players competed in a tournament and were victorious in every match. Well done!

Squad; Lucas, Freddie, Dylan, Aarrish, Kobi, Maria, Ria, Taisa, Betsy

Our Year 5/6 Tag Rugby team continued to improve their skills, game by game, finishing in 5th place in the shield event – huge skill development was seen with each passing week. A special mention goes to Isaac who was voted our MVP by our fellow schools.

Squad; Niamh Q, Izzah, Marnie, Kuhu, Vempa, Kiyana, Isaac, Mason C, Mason S, Jude, Jakob

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A group of children from Year 5/6 had an opportunity to attend a climbing event at Climb Quest. The children showed great courage and perseverance in attempting to climb the tricky walls.

Squad; Leo O, Betsy, Bella, Henry, Emma, Veer, Charlie B, George, Axel, Anna

The Year 3/4 swimming team competed to a very high standard in the recent swimming gala. The team swam in 2 races each - we are eagerly waiting for the results.

Well done!

Squad; Albert, Nathan, Leo, Sophia, Jessica, Dhriya, Annabella

Congratulations to the Year 3/4 football team who came in 2nd place in their football league ensuring they qualified for last night's football finals.

In the final, the team won one and drew one, but unfortunately the two narrow losses did not take us to qualify out of the group.

It's been a pleasure watching this team grow over the past 5 weeks. Well done boys!

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

Dates for your Diary

Friday 14th February – school closes for half term

Monday 24th February – school reopens for the second spring half term

Friday 28th February – Y6 WWII day

Tuesday 4th March - 3.30-7pm EYFS Parents' Evening in person at school

Thursday 6th March - 3.30-6pm EYFS Parents' Evening in person at school

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

w/b 10th March – Science Week

Monday 10th March - Y3 Geology Rocks AM Morpurgo/PM Ahlberg

Tuesday 11th March - Y3 Geology Rocks AM Pullman

Wednesday 12th March - Y5 Canal Walk – Rowling Class

Thursday 13th March - Y5 Canal Walk – Balen Class

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Wednesday 19th March - Y5 Canal Walk – Blackman Class

Friday 4th April – Sing Off Competition

Friday 4th April – School closes for Easter Break

Tuesday 22nd April – School opens for the Summer Term

And finally...

Thank you for reading this bumper edition newsletter! Whether you are celebrating today – St. Valentine’s Day - with big or small gestures, or not at all, I wish you an enjoyable evening and half term break with your loved ones. Thank you for all your ongoing support so far in 2025.



Corinne Benham-Smith

Corinne Benham-Smith

Headteacher

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