



# Priory Rise School Newsletter

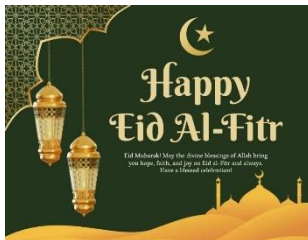
Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

## Value of the Month: Friendship

Dear Parents/Friends,



Next weekend, Ramadan comes to a close which is marked with the very special celebration of Eid ul-Fitr. Please let us know in advance if your child will be involved in celebrations and not be in school, this will avoid us needing to disturb your celebration on the day. We wish all our families celebrating a very happy Eid ul-Fitr - enjoy spending this precious time with your loved ones.

## Cucina Catering

We have completed the first 3 week cycle with Cucina providing the meal service, so children have now experienced the full menu. We just wanted to express how very proud we are of all our children for adjusting to the new system and menu, showing resilience, adaptability and maturity. We understand how huge this is for children, as smells, appearance and texture, as well as taste, can really have an impact on successful eating experiences. Now that the new system is fully embedded, children were delighted this week to return to sitting with their friends.

We have been collecting feedback from children about their preferences on a daily basis and will continue to do so. Thank you to all parents who have provided feedback, which we have added to the feedback from the children to relay to and discuss with Cucina. Please do continue to let us know where there is room for improvement and what is working well, so we can continue to develop the lunchtime offer. Parents can also provide feedback directly to Cucina at [primary@impactfood.co.uk](mailto:primary@impactfood.co.uk)

or: 0204 542 7211 (office hours - Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm).

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## Staffing Update



Congratulations to Miss Megan Fenables who is due to welcome a new baby in June to become a family of 4 – what wonderful news! Miss Fenables will begin her maternity leave at the May half term. After May half term, we will be welcoming Mrs Hannah Jank back from her maternity leave, who is excited about her return. Mrs Jank will be taking on responsibility for Pullman Class working in close partnership with Miss Ashby.



## Comic Relief



There is a happy and excited buzz across the school today as the children support the very worthy charity Comic Relief. Many have embraced this year's theme – Party Like It's 1985 – with some superb outfits – what fun! Thank you to our supportive parents for the outfits and generous donations. This is the first time we have collected donations through Arbor, as well as accepting cash on the day. We are very pleased to report that the Priory Rise School community has raised a magnificent total of £637.20. Well done everyone!

## Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair was a popular hit with the children last week organised by the brilliant Mrs Anne-Marie Bone and Mrs Libby Baxter – thank you! £1040.54 book sales were made which has resulted in school receiving £573.29 in scholastic vouchers. These vouchers will help with purchasing our new Master Readers class sets and provide much needed new stock into our school library.



## Mothers' Day Breakfast



This has always been one of our most popular events in the school calendar, often the tickets sell out quickly. Cucina will be providing the catering for this event, and tickets can be purchased through Arbor. We have 2 dates available Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 8-8.30am. This will be hosted in the main hall and gates will open just before 8am. We look forward to seeing you there. Tickets are £3.00 each.

## Parents' Evening

It was wonderful to welcome parents of our youngest little learners into school for parent-teacher meetings last week. Many of these conversations will have been that first special occasion of receiving feedback about how your child is progressing and getting on at school.

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Teachers have loved having the opportunity to discuss our wonderful children with you, even if this sometimes involves a trickier message. These meetings are so important, providing a key opportunity for home and school to form a positive relationship to support the development of our children. All notes from teachers are now available in the Arbor App and have been sent in an email too.

## Music Festivals

We had a wonderful time at the instrumental festivals run by the MK Music hub and the Music Co-operative recently. The children who went along to the woodwind, brass and string festivals all performed brilliantly and had a great time! We even won a presentation award for one of our woodwind groups, well done to Sophina, Ria and Sundy!



## Disco Time



Friends of Priory Rise have organised this year's school discos, which will be held in the last week before the end of term. Back by popular demand is Rag Dolly Anna's to provide the tunes and games for the children's enjoyment. Tickets for the discos are now on sale. Please see the planned dates for these below.

## Geology Rocks! – Year 3

Ahlberg, Morpurgo and Pullman Classes had the excellent opportunity to visit Great Linford Manor Park where they spent a half-day session facilitated by The Parks Trust bringing to life their science topic on Rocks and Soils. Children were able to learn about creatures who roamed Milton Keynes in the Jurassic era and take a journey through time to discover the prehistoric story of our new city.



Children got up close and personal with some ancient remains discovered right here in MK and looked closely at unique rock specimens from across the UK in this geological exploratory session. They looked at how rocks and landscapes are formed, and how to

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identify rocks we can find at our feet. Thank you so much to our parent helpers for giving up your time to join us. Your support makes it so much easier for us to run visits out of school.

## Canal Walks for Year 5



Again, through the amazing work that The Parks Trust does across Milton Keynes, Balen, Blackman and Rowling Classes enjoyed exploring the canal at beautiful Cosgrove. Children had the opportunity to see how canals transformed transportation for people and goods and were even treated to a lock demonstration. Through the study of the canal, children have understood the important of rivers and canals

for business, employment and lifestyle, whilst being able to see firsthand the difference between physical and human features in our local environment. Thanks again to generous parents who gave up their time to support us with these visits.

## Bikeability



74 of our Year 5 children took part in Bikeability this year – a record number for Priory Rise! Children took part in Level 1 followed by Level 2 training. Level 1 was carried out around the school site, where children became confident with emergency stops, changing gear and navigating obstacles; they also learnt how to mount and safely handle their bikes when stationary. Level

2 went out on the residential streets around Tattenhoe Park and across the road into Tattenhoe. Children had plenty of opportunity to gain confidence with riding on the road with other traffic, what do at a range of different junctions, how to use signals and navigate parked cars. Well done to all the participating young riders – it was an absolute pleasure to see their confidence and skill grow. Some lucky children had their names drawn for the opportunity to ride their bikes around the MK Dons pitch at half term during the match on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March, along with MK Mayor, Marie Bradburn, who is a very keen cyclist herself. We were given this opportunity because Priory Rise was one of the top ten schools across Milton Keynes to engage with Bikeability – how amazing!

## Science Week 2025 – Change and Adapt

Last half-term, Mrs Brazeley, our Science lead, put out a call asking for parents and carers who work in STEM roles to help make our British Science Week go off with a bang! A massive thank you to everyone who raised their hand and said “Yes!” to spending time with our gorgeous young people and bringing their awareness to such a broad raise of careers in STEM. Special thanks go to:



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- Raj Thilak and his colleague Audrey Cameron from Network Rail
- Jo Summers, Police Controller
- Arvind Gopal, Consultant in Emergency Medicine
- Lindsay McInnis, Chiropractor
- Khadija Tahera, Lecturer in School of Engineering at The Open University
- Alfonso Villanueva, Aeronautical Engineer from Safran
- Maheen Siddiqui, Neurologist at Birkbeck, University of London
- Veena Nallahalli, Dentist
- Dhouha Kbaier, Associate Professor in Computing and Communications at The Open University
- Hebah Nashat, Cardiologist

We also had a special guest, Tushar Pai from The Open University, who came to talk to us all about a way of transforming single plastic into eco-bricks - more to follow on this is future!

Don't forget about our poster competition! Children have until the end of the day on Tuesday 25th March to submit their entries based on this year's theme, Change & Adapt. Prizes will be awarded in assembly on Friday 28th March!

## The Kings and Queens of Year One

Year 1 children absolutely loved Kings and Queens Day. Their costumes and outfits were brilliant, and we had such variety too, thank you parents!

The children took part in a range of royal activities. They designed underwear, taking inspiration from the stories 'The Queens Knickers' and 'The Kings Pants'. We learnt about King Charles III and created our own crowns which we used to reenact his coronation. We ended the day making our own cucumber sandwiches and eating them whilst having a royal tea party!

Well done to all the children for embracing dressing up to make this day incredibly special and unforgettable. We are proud of your enthusiasm, and it has certainly embedded our passion for history and monarchs!



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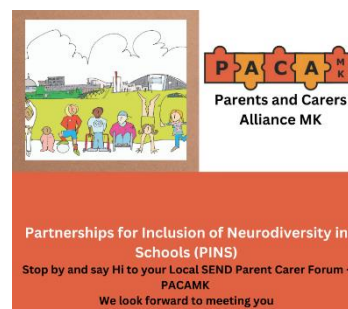
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## PACA Coffee Morning – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9am

This is the coffee morning run by Parents and Carers Alliance MK (PACA) as part of the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) scheme Priory Rise is enrolled on. This is the rescheduled second meeting and this time staff from school are asked not to attend. PACA want to provide an opportunity for parents to speak freely without our presence.



## Safeguarding Snippet – Cybercrime and Harms - Russell Webster

Advanced technology has increased the breadth, scale and sophistication of cybercrime. The question of how can cyber security evolve to counter this advance, has now become mainstream. In Autumn last year, the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology published their report on cybercrime and online harms. The report was based on a horizon scan consultation of researchers, which revealed significant expansion in the landscape of cyber-crime.



Concern has come to centre around: online bullying, assault, cyberstalking, coercive control, the spread of disinformation and radicalisation. More entities than ever have been gaining unauthorised access to digital devices or networks. As a result, the potential to commit fraud or collect and leverage confidential data to extort money has increased. Entities working in this sphere include organised crime, foreign states and foreign aligned groups. Russell Webster has published a summary of the report's findings. If interested in the key findings of the report, please click on the link below:

<https://www.russellwebster.com/cyber-crime-and-harm/>

## Dates for your Diary

Friends of Priory Rise - Easter Discos - Rag Dolly Anna

- Tuesday 1st April – Years 1&2 - 4.15-5.15pm
- Tuesday 1st April – Years 5&6 - 5.30-7pm
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Years 3&4 - 4.30-6

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Sing Off Competition

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Final day of the Spring Term

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Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Back to School

**And finally...**

Phew! It has been an incredibly busy few weeks in school, with trips, events, guest speakers and theme days, in addition, to the change in catering provision. Thank you, parents and friends, for all the support that you provide to school in every way, it is much appreciated.

*Corinne Benham-Smith*

Corinne Benham-Smith

Headteacher

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