



Priory Rise School Newsletter

Inspiring a passion for learning



Friday 4th April 2025

Value of the Month: Pride

Dear Parents/Friends,

This week it has been just wonderful hearing about all the rich and exciting celebrations our children had whilst celebrating Eid-el-Fitr with their loved ones. We hope you all had the best time together with family and friends – we loved celebrating this in school on Wednesday too.

Sing Off

Over the last half term, there has been some serious effort put into rehearsing for this year's hotly contested Sing Off competitions. All across the school, a cacophony of pop, musical and Disney anthems have been blasting out of classrooms, along with choreography, and enthusiastic coaching from teachers.



What we love most about this event, is the way it brings our whole Priory Rise community together, spotlighting our values, working hard and taking part together. Well done, to each child for their performance as part of their class, whether they demonstrate natural performance flair or have pushed themselves out of their comfort zone to perform in front of an audience. Thank you to our panel of judges: Mrs Dobson, Mrs Terry, Mr Cooper, Mr Elkington, Mrs Horwood and special guest judge Mr Smyth, for giving up their time and for making the very difficult decisions about who to crown as winners.



Well done to our 2025 Sing Off champions:

Reception – Beetles

Key Stage 1 – Rosen

Lower Key Stage 2 – Pullman

Upper Key Stage 2 - Rowling

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Bikeability Goes to MK Dons

Last Saturday, we were filled with such pride seeing our newly qualified Bikeability riders cycling a lap of the MK Dons pitch, during half time. Such an amazing opportunity for 8 lucky Priory Risers who won their tickets in the draw during assembly, having successfully completed the 2-day training to achieve Level 2. The MK Mayor led the way, and although there were worries about the crowd and falling off or crashing it all went smoothly, in front of 6,273 spectators.

Well done to Armeen, Arinjay, Aris, Ephraim, Holly, Jenson, Kialah and Sulaiman – you were brave, and your parents are so proud of you!

This is the first year Mk Dons has teamed up with Bikeability and there are plans for this to continue in the future. Priory Rise was one of 3 schools across the whole of Milton Keynes to be privileged enough to take part.



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Sweet Treat Bakes for Comic Relief



A huge well done to Amaira, Dea, Doughose, Eva, Kayla, Kharissa, Olivia and Sameth (and their very supportive parents) who organised a bake sale in support of Comic Relief earlier this month. Their sale raised an incredible £305.97 which they have already dropped off at the Post Office to send onto the charity. All those lucky people who managed to bag themselves a sweet treat reported how delicious they were. The children took responsibility for organising the entire event – we love their entrepreneurial skills!

Cucina Update



After the half term holiday there will be a new seasonal menu available for the children to choose their meals from. Please see the Cucina website for more details of what will be on offer.

As this term draws to a close, the first in which Cucina has provided catering at Priory Rise, we want to thank our whole school community for your patience, kindness and willingness to adapt whilst we have worked with Cucina to ensure the lunchtime offer is of the highest quality. Thank you for all your feedback, this has been extremely useful for supporting the development of what to improve. Cucina and Priory Rise will continue to work positively together. Our amazing children have been thanked for their resilience, adaptability and maturity during this change too - we are so proud of them all.

The Importance of Good Attendance at School

On 14th March the DfE published a report called 'The Link Between Attendance and Attainment in an Assessment Year'. The report makes links between attendance data and children who achieved the expected levels in Reading, Writing and Maths.

Key facts include:

- Children who attend school 95-100% of the time are 1.3x more likely to achieve the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths than children who attend 90-95% of the time

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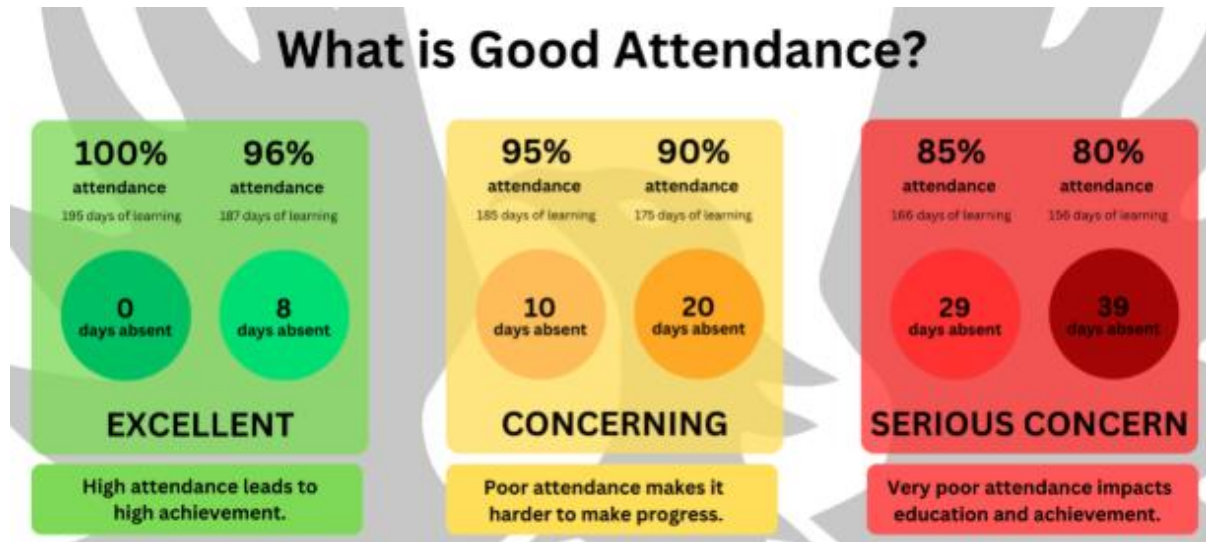
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- Children who attend 90-95% of the possible sessions are also 1.3x more likely to achieve the outcome than pupils who attend 85-90% of the time.

This shows that every single day at school really does make the difference, with as little as 10 days of absence having huge impact on a child's attainment. We encourage all our parents to make every effort in ensuring that their child(ren) attend school every day, as their future really does depend on good attendance.



School Discos



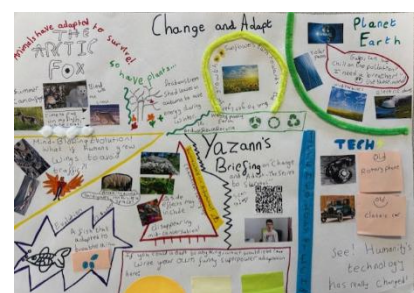
The children have enjoyed putting on their party outfits and dancing shoes this week for the discos organised by Maheera and The Friends of Priory Rise. With the music and games supplied by the lovely Rag Dolly Annas, a great time was had by all!

The discos have raised an incredible £800 for the school and will go straight to funding vital resources or equipment for the children to enjoy or to support learning. Thank you to the fabulous team of parents who contribute to the work of Friends of Priory Rise – selflessly giving up their time.

Science Competition Winners

During British Science Week, we invited every young person at our school to create a poster based on this year's theme: Change and Adapt. The posters will be judged by members of the British Science Association, based on the following criteria:

- Creativity in approach and an interesting 'take' or interpretation of the theme



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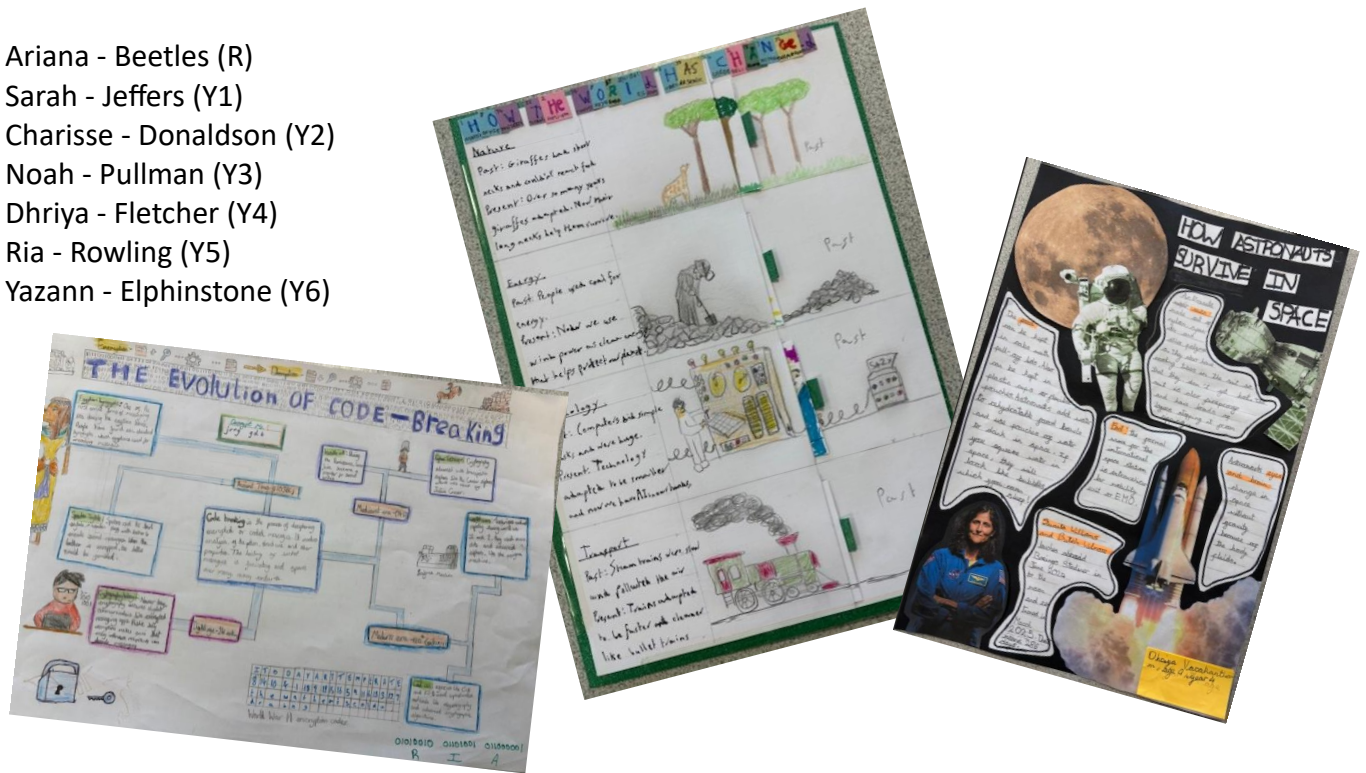
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- Clear, accurate information relating to a relevant STEM topic
- Effectively communicated ideas, presented in a clear, engaging way

The quality of all the posters were extremely high and we want to congratulate each child that entered for their effort. These children were our brilliant school winners in each year group, so their posters will be sent off to the national competition.

- Ariana - Beetles (R)
- Sarah - Jeffers (Y1)
- Charisse - Donaldson (Y2)
- Noah - Pullman (Y3)
- Dhriya - Fletcher (Y4)
- Ria - Rowling (Y5)
- Yazann - Elphinstone (Y6)



Sports Updates

Gymnastics:

On Tuesday 4th March, we took a group of girls to the gymnastics competition at Kingston Gymnastics Centre, where all the girls performed at a very high standard. The girls performed in a mix of floor, body management and vault routines, which were all executed very well. Well done to all the girls involved!

Students: Rachel, Kiyana, Marnie, Kuhu, Izzah, Maddie, Fran, Emilia, Sophia, Emma, Brielle.

5/6 Girls Football:

The Year 5 and 6 girls football team competed in a league for 4 weeks running, where they played 18 games, won 13 of those games, drew 3 and lost 2. We came 3rd overall in our group. In the final's week, we had 4 group games, where we won 2 and drew 2 of the games. We narrowly came second in our group, due to goals scored, which we then went through to the final games, and came 4th overall.

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Well done again to all the girls for 5 weeks of hard work and for coming 4th place out of 30 schools in Milton Keynes!

Students: Rachel, Neriah, Daniella, Valeria, Savannah, Taisa, Sophia, Maria.

Safeguarding Snippet – Children Dealing with Loneliness - NSPCC

Loneliness is a difficult feeling for anyone, so it's not surprising that children can really struggle when they feel lonely. By learning more about loneliness, you can work with your child to combat it. The Campaign to End Loneliness defines this feeling as: 'a subjective, unwelcome feeling of lack or loss of companionship. It happens when there is a mismatch between the quantity and quality of the social relationships that we have, and those that we want'. While loneliness can be caused by being physically alone, being alone doesn't necessarily lead to feeling lonely. Sometimes children can feel lonely even if they're often with other people. They might be feeling this way if they don't feel properly seen or understood. Loneliness can look and feel different for everyone, but if you're worried about your child, it's good to talk to them about what they might be feeling and experiencing.



The NSPCC's new guidance on this issue is well worth a read, and you can find it by following the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/how-help-child-feels-lonely>

Dates for your diary for this half term

Please see below the dates in your diaries for this term:

- Monday 21st April – Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 22nd April – school reopens for the Summer Term
- Wednesday 23rd April – Year 1 to Whipsnade Zoo
- Thursday 24th April – Year 6 to Bletchley Park
- Friday 25th April – Blackman Class Swimming – owed lesson
- Monday 28th March – Wednesday 30th April – Year 4 to Irthlingborough
- Wednesday 30th April – Friday 2nd May – Year 5 to Irthlingborough
- Monday 12th May – all week - Year 6 SATs
- Friday 16th May – Year 3 Sleepover
- Friday 23rd May – School closes for half term
- Monday 3rd June – INSET day - school closed to children
- Tuesday 4th – June – School opens for the last half term
- Friday 4th July – P Fest

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And finally...

that concludes the Spring Term!

What a fabulous half term it has been! It is difficult to comprehend how much we have managed to pack into the last 6 weeks. Our talented staff team have worked so very hard to create an amazing and inspiring curriculum offer for our children who continue to thrive: emotionally, socially and academically.

Thank you to our parents and friends for your unwavering support. Have the very best holiday together. We look forward to seeing you for the Summer Term, when we hope we will be treated to some weather worthy of its name.

Best regards as always to you all,

Corinne Benham-Smith

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Headteacher

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